

including Jerusalem, and to respect the provisions of the Convention;

3. *Also demands* an end to the Israeli violation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory, including an immediate halt to the Israeli settlement activities that have harmful effects on Palestinian women and their families;

4. *Calls upon* governmental, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, including organizations of the United Nations system, to assist Palestinian women in the occupied Palestinian territory in developing small-scale industry and creating vocational training and legal consultation centres;

5. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to monitor the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning assistance to Palestinian women;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in monitoring the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the mission of experts to Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic to investigate the condition of Palestinian women and children³⁸ in order to improve the condition of Palestinian women and children;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to review the situation of Palestinian women and children in the occupied Palestinian territory and in the refugee camps, and to submit a report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-seventh session, using all available sources.

*40th plenary meeting
30 July 1992*

1992/17. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming the fact that there are now one hundred and twelve States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,³⁴

Noting the importance of the monitoring function of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, as demonstrated most recently in its general recommendation 19 on violence against women, adopted at its eleventh session,³⁹

Recalling its resolution 1991/25 of 30 May 1991 and other relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council relating to support for the Committee,

Concerned that the duration of the annual session of the Committee, which is considerably less than that of other treaty bodies, has prevented the timely consideration by the Committee of many of the reports submitted to it by States parties to the Convention,

Noting with concern that the Convention is the human rights instrument with the most reservations, and welcoming the decision by a number of States parties to withdraw their reservations,

1. *Supports* the request of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women for additional meeting time and also supports the proposal that the twelfth session of the Committee should be of three weeks' duration;⁴⁰

2. *Recommends* that three weeks be allocated for each subsequent session until the Committee removes the backlog of reports to be considered;

3. *Strongly supports* general recommendation 19 on violence against women, adopted by the Committee at its eleventh session, and calls on States parties to prepare their reports in accordance with this and other general recommendations of the Committee;

4. *Welcomes* other general recommendations adopted by the Committee at its previous sessions;

5. *Urges* the Secretary-General to continue to widely publicize the decisions and recommendations of the Committee.

*40th plenary meeting
30 July 1992*

1992/18. Violence against women in all its forms

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1991/18 of 30 May 1991, in which it requested that an expert group meeting be held to address the issue of violence against women and to discuss the possibilities of preparing an international instrument on this subject and the elements to be contained therein,

Bearing in mind that the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women³¹ identify violence against women as a major obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

Noting that, in general recommendation 19, adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its eleventh session,³⁹ the Committee recognized that gender-based violence was a form of discrimination that seriously inhibited the ability of women to enjoy rights and freedoms on a basis of equality with men,

Noting also the response of the Committee to the report of the Secretary-General on violence against women in all its forms,⁴¹ the annex to which contains the recommendations and a summary of the discussion of the Expert Group Meeting on Violence against Women, held at Vienna from 11 to 15 November 1991,

1. *Calls on* Governments to recognize that the elimination of violence against women is essential to the achievement of equality for women and is a requirement for the full respect of human rights;

2. *Urges* Member States to adopt, strengthen and enforce legislation prohibiting violence against women and to take all appropriate administrative, social and educational measures to protect women from all forms of physical and mental violence, in accordance with its resolution 1991/18;

3. *Calls on* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women³⁴ to take the steps necessary to implement general recommendation 19, adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its eleventh session;³⁹

4. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on violence against women in all its forms;⁴¹

5. *Decides* to convene an inter-sessional working group of the Commission on the Status of Women, open

to all Member States and observer States, to further develop a draft declaration on violence against women, taking into account the draft declaration contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General, and to report to the Commission, at its thirty-seventh session, with a view to recommending a draft declaration to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council;

6. *Requests* Governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, other relevant bodies and academics to continue to undertake research into the causes of violence against women;

7. *Urges* Governments to address the issue of violence against women at the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, to be held in 1995, as one of the major obstacles to women's advancement.

*40th plenary meeting
30 July 1992*

1992/19. Communications on the status of women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 76 (V) of 5 August 1947 and 304 I (XI) of 14 and 17 July 1950, which form the basis for the mandate of the Commission on the Status of Women to receive at each of its regular sessions a list of confidential and non-confidential communications relating to the status of women,

Taking into consideration its resolution 1983/27 of 26 May 1983, in which it reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission to consider confidential and non-confidential communications on the status of women and authorized the Commission to appoint a working group to consider communications, with a view to bringing to the attention of the Commission those communications, including the replies of Governments, which appear to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women,

Reaffirming that discrimination against women is incompatible with human dignity and that women and men should participate on the basis of equality, irrespective of race or creed, in the social, economic and political processes of their countries,

Recalling its resolution 1990/8 of 24 May 1990, in which it requested the Secretary-General to examine, in consultation with Governments, the existing mechanisms for communications on the status of women, in order to ensure that such communications receive effective and appropriately coordinated consideration in view of the role of communications in the work of the Commission, and to report thereon to the Commission at its thirty-fifth session,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on examining existing mechanisms for communications on the status of women,⁴² and the various views expressed by Governments,

Taking note also of the conclusion of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women, in its report to the Commission at its thirty-fifth session⁴³ that, while the communications procedure provided a valuable source of information on the effects of discrimination on the lives of women, it should be improved to make it more

efficient and useful, and that clear criteria for receiving communications should be given,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Commission on the Status of Women is empowered to make recommendations to the Economic and Social Council on what action should be taken on emerging trends and patterns of discrimination against women revealed by communications on the status of women;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to publicize widely among international and national organizations, in particular women's groups, the existence and scope of the communication mechanisms of the Commission;

3. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to support the activities of the Commission with regard to its consideration of communications and to ensure proper coordination of the activities of the Commission in this area and those of the other bodies of the Council, by taking the following action:

(a) Ensuring that the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat coordinate closely so that all communications received are sent as soon as possible to the appropriate United Nations bodies and to each concerned Member State, and that the respective offices are informed of the disposition of the communications;

(b) Encouraging the specialized agencies to provide to the Commission, through the Division for the Advancement of Women, communications or other information in their possession that is relevant to discrimination against women;

(c) Making available to authors of communications any recommendations by the Commission to the Council on situations brought to the attention of the Commission by the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women;

4. *Reaffirms* that the consideration by the Commission of the communications shall remain confidential until such time as the Commission may decide to make recommendations to the Council;

5. *Requests* the Commission, in order to avoid duplication of work, to determine whether a trend or pattern of discrimination against women revealed by communications should be brought to the attention of another United Nations body or specialized agency that might be better able to take appropriate action;

6. *Also requests* the Commission to consider, as appropriate, ways of making the existing procedure for receiving and considering communications, including the standard of admissibility, more transparent and efficient, taking into account the report of the Secretary-General on examining mechanisms for communications on the status of women,⁴² which was submitted to the Commission at its thirty-fifth session;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that any costs resulting from the activities set out in the present resolution are kept to a minimum and that the activities are carried out within existing resources.

*40th plenary meeting
30 July 1992*