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Agenda item 9

PLATFORM FOR ACTION

Report of the Main Committee

Corrigendum

At the 5th meeting, on 14 September 1995, reservations were expressed by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Main Committee approved the following corrections to the text of chapter IV.E of the draft platform for action:

Paragraph 132. Delete the brackets and revise the text to read:

An environment which maintains world peace and promotes and protects human rights, democracy and the peaceful settlement of disputes, in accordance with the principles of non-threat or use of force against territorial integrity or political independence and of respect for sovereignty as set forth in the United Nations Charter, is an important factor for the advancement of women. Peace is inextricably linked with equality between women and men and development. Armed and other types of conflicts and terrorism and hostage-taking still persist in many parts of the world. Aggression, foreign occupation, ethnic and other types of conflicts are an ongoing reality affecting women and men in nearly every region. Gross and systematic violations and situations that constitute serious obstacles to the full enjoyment of human rights continue to occur in different parts of the world. Such violations and obstacles include, as well as torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, summary and arbitrary executions, disappearances, arbitrary detentions, all forms of racism and racial discrimination, foreign occupation and alien domination, xenophobia, poverty, hunger and other denials of economic, social and

cultural rights, religious intolerance, terrorism, discrimination against women and lack of the rule of law. International humanitarian law, prohibiting attacks on civilian populations, as such, is at times systematically ignored and human rights are often violated in connection with situations of armed conflicts, affecting the civilian population, especially women, children, the elderly and the disabled. Violations of the human rights of women in situations of armed conflicts are violations of the fundamental principles of international human rights and humanitarian law. Massive violations of human rights, especially in the form of genocide, "ethnic cleansing" as a strategy of war and its consequences, rape, including systematic rape of women in war situations, creating mass exodus of refugees and displaced persons, are abhorrent practices that are strongly condemned and must be immediately stopped, while perpetrators of such crimes must be punished. Some of these situations of armed conflict have their origin in the conquest or colonialization of a country by another State and the perpetuation of that colonization through state and military repression.

Paragraph 133. Insert a new third sentence, reading:

All violations of this kind, including in particular murder, rape, including systematic rape, sexual slavery and forced pregnancy require a particularly effective response.

Paragraph 135. Revise the text to read:

In a world of continuing instability and violence, the implementation of cooperative approaches to peace and security is urgently needed. The equal access and full participation of women in power structures and their full involvement in all efforts for the prevention and resolution of conflicts are essential for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. Although women have begun to play an important role in conflict resolution, peace-keeping and defence and foreign affairs mechanisms, they are still underrepresented in decision-making positions. If women are to play an equal part in securing and maintaining peace, they must be empowered politically and economically and represented adequately at all levels of decision-making.

Paragraph 136. Delete the brackets and revise the text to read:

While entire communities suffer the consequences of armed conflict and terrorism, women and girls are particularly affected because of their status in society and their sex. Parties to conflict often rape women with impunity, sometimes using systematic rape as a tactic of war and terrorism. The impact of violence against women and

violation of the human rights of women in such situations is experienced by women of all ages, who suffer displacement, loss of home and property, loss or involuntary disappearance of close relatives, poverty and family separation and disintegration, and who are victims of acts of murder, terrorism, torture, involuntary disappearance, sexual slavery, rape, sexual abuse and forced pregnancy in situations of armed conflict, especially as a result of policies of ethnic cleansing and other new and emerging forms of violence. This is compounded by the life-long social, economic and psychologically traumatic consequences of armed conflict and foreign occupation and alien domination.

Paragraph 140. Delete the paragraph.

Paragraph 144 (b). Delete the brackets and revise the text to read:

Strengthen the role of women and ensure equal representation of women at all decision-making levels in national and international institutions which may make or influence policy with regard to matters related to peace-keeping, preventive diplomacy and related activities and in all stages of peace mediation and negotiations, taking note of the specific recommendations of the Secretary-General in his strategic plan of action for the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (1995-2000) (A/49/587, sect. IV).

Insert the above paragraph as paragraph 146 (c).

Paragraph 144 (c). Delete the brackets and revise the text to read:

Integrate a gender perspective in the resolution of armed or other conflicts and foreign occupation and aim for gender balance when nominating or promoting candidates for judicial and other positions in all relevant international bodies, such as the United Nations International Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda and the International Court of Justice, as well as in other bodies related to the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Paragraph 144 (d). Delete the brackets and revise the text to read:

Ensure that these bodies are able to address gender issues properly by providing appropriate training to prosecutors and judges and other officials in handling cases involving rape, forced pregnancy in situations of armed conflict, indecent assault and other forms of violence against women in armed conflicts, including terrorism, and integrate a gender perspective into their work.

Paragraph 145 (c). Replace the paragraph with paragraph 147 (h) as amended (see below).

Paragraph 145 (e). Delete the brackets and revise the text to read:

Recognizing that women and children are particularly affected by the indiscriminate use of antipersonnel land-mines:

- (i) Undertake to work actively towards ratification, if they have not already done so, of the 1981 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, particularly the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II), with a view to universal ratification by the year 2000;
- (ii) Undertake to strongly consider strengthening the Convention to promote a reduction in the casualties and intense suffering caused to the civilian population by the indiscriminate use of land-mines;
- (iii) Undertake to promote assistance in mine clearance, notably by facilitating, in respect of the means of mine-clearing, the exchange of information, the transfer of technology and the promotion of scientific research;
- (iv) Within the United Nations context, undertake to support efforts to coordinate a common response programme of assistance in demining without unnecessary discrimination;
- (v) Adopt at the earliest possible date, if they have not already done so, a moratorium on the export of antipersonnel land-mines, including, to non-governmental entities, noting with satisfaction that many States have already declared moratoriums on the export, transfer or sale of such mines;
- (vi) Undertake to encourage further international efforts to seek solutions to the problems caused by antipersonnel land-mines, with a view to their eventual elimination, recognizing that States can move most effectively towards this goal as viable and humane alternatives are developed.

Paragraph 145 (f). Delete the brackets and revise the text to read:

Recognizing the leading role that women have played in the peace movement:

- (i) Work actively towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control;
- (ii) Support negotiations on the conclusion, without delay, of a universal and multilaterally and effectively verifiable comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty that contributes to nuclear disarmament and the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects;
- (iii) Pending the entry into force of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, exercise utmost restraint in respect of nuclear testing.

Paragraph 147 (b). Delete "[preventive diplomacy]".

Paragraph 147 (h). Delete the brackets and delete "[who violates the rights of women]"; insert the paragraph as paragraph 145 (c).

Paragraph 147 (j). Delete the brackets and revise the text to read:

Discourage the adoption of and refrain from any unilateral measure that is not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries, in particular women and children, that hinders their well-being and that creates obstacles to the full enjoyment of their human rights, including the right of everyone to a standard of living adequate for their health and well-being and their right to food, medical care and the necessary social services. This Conference reaffirms that food and medicine must not be used as a tool for political pressure.

Paragraph 149 (f). Delete the brackets and revise the text to read:

Ensure that the international community and its international organizations provide financial and other resources for emergency relief and other longer-term assistance that takes into account the specific needs, resources and potentials of refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women. In the provision of protection and assistance, take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women and girls in order to ensure equal access to appropriate and adequate food, water and shelter, education, and social and health services,

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including reproductive health care and maternity care and services to combat tropical diseases.

Paragraph 149 (l). Delete the bracketed text and revise the text to read:

Provide, as appropriate, women who have been determined refugees with access to vocational/professional training programmes, including language training, small-scale enterprise development training and planning and counselling on all forms of violence against women, which should include rehabilitation programmes for victims of torture and trauma; Governments and other donors should contribute adequately to assistance programmes for refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women, particularly taking into account the effects on the host countries of the increasing requirements of large refugee populations and the need to widen the donor base and to achieve greater burden-sharing.

Paragraph 149 (n). Delete the brackets.

Paragraph 151 (a). Delete the brackets and revise the text to read:

Support and promote the implementation of the right of self-determination of all peoples as enunciated, inter alia, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action by providing special programmes in leadership and in training for decision-making.

Paragraph 151 (b). Delete the brackets and revise the text to read:

Raise public awareness, as appropriate, through the mass media, education at all levels, and special programmes to create a better understanding of the situation of women of the colonies and non-self-governing territories.

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