

5. *Calls on* the Secretary-General to provide all necessary substantive support for the international conference from within available resources, as indicated in his note;¹⁸

6. *Further recommends* that a separate item entitled "International Women's Year", including the proposals and recommendations of the international conference, should be examined by the General Assembly at its thirtieth session in 1975.

1897th plenary meeting
16 May 1974

1852 (LVI). Implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and of related instruments

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1677 (LII) of 2 June 1972 establishing a new cycle of reporting with respect to the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,¹⁹ and of certain other international instruments relating to women's rights,

Taking note with appreciation of the analytical report²⁰ prepared by the Secretary General in accordance with Council resolution 1677 (LII), and the findings and recommendations of the Commission on the Status of Women based on its consideration of that report at its twenty-fifth session,²¹

Considering that relatively few replies were received in the first series of reports submitted under the new cycle of consolidated reporting, and that consequently a very incomplete picture of the *de jure* and the *de facto* implementation of the Declaration and related instruments was available to the Commission on the Status of Women,

Recognizing at the same time that many Governments face difficulties in obtaining the necessary information for submission to the Secretary-General and in meeting other requests for information emanating from the Commission on the Status of Women and other United Nations bodies,

Believing, however, that adequate information on the implementation of the Declaration and related instruments is necessary and important in enabling the Commission on the Status of Women to evaluate the full impact of its work, and that the exchange of information and experience of different countries through the information furnished is highly valuable,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the thirty-four Governments and fourteen non-governmental organizations which have submitted reports in this first series of reports under the new cycle of reporting established by Council resolution 1677 (LII);

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the steps taken during the period under review, from June 1971 to June 1973:

(a) To give publicity to the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and to

create fuller awareness and understanding of its principles through the press and other mass media, published material, various forms of discussion groups, schools and educational institutions, and through the translation of the Declaration into national and local languages;

(b) To encourage compliance in law and in practice with the provisions of the Declaration through various measures, including the establishment of national commissions, advisory councils and similar bodies;

3. *Regrets*, however, that in many instances full compliance with the Declaration and related instruments has not yet been achieved, that wide discrepancies continue to exist between the *de jure* and *de facto* situations and that serious obstacles will have to be overcome, especially as regards prevailing attitudes towards stereotyped sex roles;

4. *Invites* Governments, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations that have not already done so to submit reports as soon as possible for the period from June 1971 to June 1973, and requests the Secretary-General to forward to them the analytical report submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-fifth session, as well as the guidelines prepared at the Commission's requests in its resolution 3 (XXIV);

5. *Urges* all Governments, as well as the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations concerned, to furnish information on the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and of related instruments, in the next series of reports, which will deal primarily with economic, social and cultural rights and cover the period from June 1971 to June 1975, on the basis of the guidelines provided by the Secretary-General;

6. *Further invites* Governments to consider, as part of their long-term programme for the International Women's Year, the desirability of appointing as soon as possible national correspondents to assist them in obtaining and compiling the necessary data on a regular basis, correspondents that could work in close collaboration with appropriate government agencies concerned, with national commissions or similar bodies where these exist and also, where appropriate, with interested national non-governmental organizations;

7. *Requests* Member States to inform the Secretary-General at the latest by the beginning of 1975 about action taken concerning the appointment of such national correspondents.

1897th plenary meeting
16 May 1974

1853 (LVI). Legal capacity of married women, including the capacity to engage in independent work

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that article 6 of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women²² provides, *inter alia*, for the equality of men and women in the field of private law, for the exercise by women of their legal capacity on equal terms with men and for the equal rights and responsibilities of husband and wife during marriage,

²² General Assembly resolution 2263 (XXII).

¹⁸ E/5487.

¹⁹ General Assembly resolution 2263 (XXII).

²⁰ E/CN.6/571 and Add.1 and 2.

²¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 4 (E/5451)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

Noting that:

(a) In a number of legal systems, married women do not enjoy the right to engage freely in independent work,

(b) In various legal systems, the exercise of such right by the wife and her capacity to manage and dispose of her earnings from independent work are subject to limitations which do not apply to the husband,

Taking into account that these situations do not conform to article 6 of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,

1. *Recommends* that Member States, where such is not yet the case, take all the necessary measures to ensure that the legal capacity of married women is equal with that of men, concerning:

(a) Gainful employment outside the home;

(b) The full capacity to administer their property and the revenue of their work;

(c) The administration of the joint property of the spouses;

(d) Parental authority over their children and their interest;

(e) Dissolution of marriage and its legal effects;

2. *Recommends* further that, in such cases, Member States provide adequate remedies, judicial or otherwise, to both spouses to help them solve their disagreements in respect of the questions mentioned above, particular emphasis being put on the necessity of mediation through competent authorities, with the assistance of personnel trained in all aspects of family relations.

1897th plenary meeting
16 May 1974

1854(LVI). Study on the interrelationship of the status of women and family planning

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Declaration on Social Progress and Development proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, by which it confirmed that parents have the right to determine freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children, and that families should be provided with the knowledge and the means necessary to enable them to exercise this right,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2683 (XXV) of 11 December 1970 designating the year 1974 as World Population Year, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1484 (XLVIII) of 3 April 1970, by which it was decided to convene a World Population Conference in 1974 to consider basic demographic problems, their relationship with economic and social development, and population policies and action programmes needed to promote human welfare and development,

Conscious of the fact that there are considerable differences in the population and demographic situations in each country and that each country should therefore adopt its own approach and solutions, free from any pressures,

Recognizing that the status of women, population change and over-all development are closely interrelated and that women have a crucial role to play in all of these areas,

Recognizing the importance of interdisciplinary and cross-national studies which take into account the conclusions and recommendations of the Seminars on the Status of Women and Family Planning held in 1972 and 1974 in Turkey, the Dominican Republic and Indonesia,

Recognizing also that for many countries the current and continuing rapid population growth has serious implications for the development and the advancement of women, while, on the other hand, for many other countries, with low demographic density, population growth is an important element for development and thus for the advancement of women,

Believing that the report of the Special Rapporteur on the interrelationship of the status of women and family planning²³ contains a number of principles and defines concepts which are relevant to the achievement of the social and economic goals of the Second United Nations Development Decade,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the study made by the Special Rapporteur, Helvi Sipilä;

2. *Affirms* that:

(a) Every nation has the sovereign right to determine its own population policies;

(b) The right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children is a fundamental right of individuals which facilitates the exercise of other human rights, especially by women;

(c) Adequate information, education and services enabling individuals to exercise this right are essential prerequisites for the promotion of the status of women and for ensuring their complete integration in social and economic development at all levels;

(d) Family planning, which should constitute an integrated and essential part of development plans and programmes in countries suffering from over-population, can only succeed in concert with other measures which also improve the status of women;

3. *Suggests* that Member States take into consideration, when appropriate, the report of the Special Rapporteur in the formulation of their population policies and in the promotion of full participation of women at all levels and in all sectors of social, economic and political life, including decision-making levels, in order to achieve equality of opportunity for men and women and, to that end:

(a) To take urgent positive measures to improve with all possible means, and especially during the World Population Year and the International Women's Year, the access of women to adequate maternity, child-health and child-care services, education, vocational training and employment;

(b) To include and fully utilize, when considering the establishment of national commissions on population, representatives of women's and other non-governmental organizations to assist with planning and implementing more effective health programmes for all women and children in rural and urban areas, with particular attention to progress in the reduction of maternal, infant and child mortality, and the promotion, when appropriate, of family planning and population programmes of action;

(c) To introduce population education in schools at all levels and for youth attending school as well

²³ E/CN.6/575 and Add.1-3.