

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.

as for those who do not, in the most appropriate manner;

4. *Request* the Secretary-General to distribute to Member States the report of the Special Rapporteur as a background document for the World Population Conference, 1974;

5. *Urges* all Member States to provide equitable representation for women on their delegations to the World Population Conference, thus giving them a share in the formulation and adoption of a comprehensive and effective World Population Plan of Action;

6. *Requests* Governments to support and promote as much as possible, during the World Population Year and the International Women's Year, programmes and activities of the non-governmental organizations and action groups which will assist in creating a better understanding of the causes, nature, scope and consequences of the question of population growth and its relationship to the promotion of the status of women and the quality of life;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-sixth session the findings and recommendations of the World Population Conference and related meetings as they affect the status of women and their integration in development.

*1897th plenary meeting
16 May 1974*

1855 (LVI). Implementation of a programme of concerted international action to promote the advancement of women and their integration in development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 containing the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, which includes the encouragement of the total integration of women in development,

Recalling further the need to implement the programme for concerted international action for the advancement of women and their integration in development set forth in the annex to General Assembly resolution 2716 (XXV) of 15 December 1970,

Convinced that, as progress with regard to improving the status of women has been slow in many instances, special efforts should be made to review and appraise progress in implementing the programme of concerted international action in the context of the mid-term review and appraisal of progress made in the first half of the Second United Nations Development Decade to take place in 1975, which will also be celebrated as the International Women's Year,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 2801 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971, by which the Assembly requested competent secretariats at the sectoral and regional levels to co-operate with the Committee for Development Planning in the fulfilment of its task by collecting, processing and making available the necessary data and information, and noting also the machinery for review and appraisal provided for in that resolution and in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1621 C (LI) and 1625 (LI) of 30 July 1971,

Taking into account the discussion on the implementation of the International Development Strategy with respect to the advancement of women and their integration in development, at the twenty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,²⁴ and reaffirming that the Commission has an important role to perform in assisting the Council concerning review and appraisal of the Strategy with respect to matters within its competence, in preparing the mid-term review of the Second United Nations Development Decade in order that it will reflect accurately the extent to which goals established for the integration of women in development have been reached,

1. *Decides* that the role of the Commission on the Status of Women outlined above should be performed within the framework of the machinery for review and appraisal provided for in General Assembly resolution 2801 (XXVI) and Council resolutions 1621 C (LI) and 1625 (LI);

2. *Requests* the Committee for Development Planning and the Committee on Review and Appraisal, when preparing comments on the entire review process of the Second United Nations Development Decade to utilize the expertise available in the Secretariat in the field of women's integration in development and to take into account the recommendations and conclusions of the seminars organized under United Nations auspices in this field, including those of the Interregional Meeting of Experts on the Integration of Women in Development,²⁵ held at Headquarters from 19 to 28 June 1972;

3. *Calls upon* Governments of States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies to ensure that women are adequately represented on delegations in the entire review process of the Second United Nations Development Decade;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the preparation of the agenda of all sessions of the Committee on Review and Appraisal relating to the entire review process of the Second United Nations Development Decade, to give due attention to the integration of women in development, both in programme review and in subsequent recommendations for modifications in the United Nations programme;

5. *Urges* Governments of Member States to report on progress made to implement the objectives and targets contained in the programme of concerted international action to promote the advancement of women and their integration in development, under General Assembly resolution 2716 (XXV), in time for the major mid-term review of the Decade in 1975;

6. *Requests* the specialized agencies, the United Nations Development Programme, the regional economic commissions, other interested organizations in the United Nations system and competent non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to take into account, in connexion with the mid-term review and appraisal of the Second United Nations Development Decade, the extent to which programmes endorsed by them include projects aiming at the integration of women in the total development effort, also bearing in mind the deliberations of the Commission on the Status of Women at

²⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 4 (E/5451)*, chap. VI, sect. A.

²⁵ See ST/SOA/120 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.IV.12), chap. VII.