

members of the population, shall be prohibited, and such acts shall be condemned.

"2. The use of chemical and bacteriological weapons in the course of military operations constitute one of the most flagrant violations of the 1925 Geneva Protocol, the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the principles of international humanitarian law and inflict heavy losses on civilian populations, including defenceless women and children, and shall be severely condemned.

"3. All States shall abide fully by their obligations under the 1925 Geneva Protocol and the 1949 Geneva Conventions, as well as other instruments of international law relative to respect for human rights in armed conflicts, which offer important guarantees for the protection of women and children.

"4. All efforts shall be made by States involved in armed conflicts, military operations in foreign territories and in territories still under colonial domination to spare women and children from the ravages of war. All the necessary steps shall be taken to ensure the prohibition of measures such as persecution, torture, punitive measures, degrading treatment and violence, particularly against that part of the civilian population that consists of women and children.

"5. All forms of repression and cruel and inhuman treatment of women and children, including imprisonment, torture, shooting, mass arrests, collective punishment, destruction of dwellings and forcible eviction, committed by belligerents in the course of military operations or in occupied territories shall be considered criminal.

"6. Women and children belonging to the civilian population and finding themselves in circumstances of emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence, or who live in occupied territories, shall not be deprived of shelter, food, medical aid or other inalienable rights, in accordance with the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Declaration of the Rights of the Child or other instruments of international law."

*1897th plenary meeting
16 May 1974*

1862 (LVI). Influence of mass communication media on the formation of new attitudes towards the roles of women in present-day society

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting that the preliminary report of the Secretary-General³⁷ on the influence of mass communication media substantiates the concern expressed by the Commission on the Status of Women in its resolution 1 (XXIV) of 18 February 1972³⁸ that in several countries the mass communication media perpetuate the traditional deep-rooted attitudes held by women and men about their respective roles in present-day society,

³⁷ E/CN.6/581.

³⁸ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 6 (E/5109), chap. VIII.*

and that the influence of the mass communication media in the determination of cultural patterns hinders efforts to promote equal rights of women and men and the integration of women in the development effort,

Bearing in mind that the majority of the Governments and non-governmental organizations which supplied information for the preparation of the preliminary report stated that additional research was needed on this subject,

Recalling that, in its resolution 1 (XXIV), the Commission on the Status of Women requested the Secretary-General to invite the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to consider the possibility of carrying out interdisciplinary studies on the subject,

1. *Expresses the hope* that this subject will be discussed at future seminars to be organized under the technical co-operation programme of the United Nations with the participation of experts in all the relevant fields;

2. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in co-operation with the United Nations, to consider the possibility some time in the future of carrying out pilot country studies on this question in conjunction with the interdisciplinary studies mentioned above;

3. *Invites* all the organizations of the United Nations system, and particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to make a special effort to increase their audio-visual material and to develop their programmes in such a way as to promote the integration of women in development;

4. *Invites* Governments to urge the mass media, while having due regard to freedom of expression, to adapt their programmes in order to provide for men as well as women a continuing education as to their economic and professional prospects and opportunities for leisure, family life and broadening horizons;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a progress report on the influence of mass communication media on attitudes towards the roles of women and men in present-day society, based on information available to him, and to submit it to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-sixth session.

*1897th plenary meeting
16 May 1974*

1863 (LVI). Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

The Economic and Social Council,

Having undertaken, in accordance with paragraphs 5 and 7 of General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII) of 2 November 1973, an examination of the activities undertaken or planned in connexion with the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination since the launching of the Decade, as contained in the Secretary-General's reports,³⁹

Conscious of the fact that the Decade was launched on 10 December 1973 and that the report of the Secretary-General, submitted in accordance with paragraph 18 (f) of the Programme for the Decade, was based upon information available only up to 27 March 1974,

³⁹ E/5474, E/5475.