



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/L.48
23 August 1996

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 11

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN

Ms. Daes, Mr. El-Hajjé, Mr. Guissé, Mrs. Gwanmesia, Mr. Ibarra,
Mr. Joinet, Mr. Khalil, Mr. Lindgren, Mr. Maxim, Mrs. Mbonu,
Mr. Mehedi, Ms. Palley, Mr. Park, Ms. Warzazi, Mr. Weissbrodt,
Mr. Yimer and Mr. Yokota: draft resolution

1996/... Implementation of the human rights of women and the girl child

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of
Minorities,

Recalling its resolutions 1994/43 of 26 August 1994 and 1992/4 of
14 August 1992,

Recalling in particular that in its resolution 1995/26 of 24 August 1995
the Sub-Commission decided to consider the human rights of women and the girl
child under every item of its agenda, as well as in all relevant studies
undertaken by the Sub-Commission,

Reaffirming that the full and effective implementation of United Nations
human rights instruments is of major importance to the efforts of the
United Nations, pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations and the

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without discrimination based, inter alia, on gender,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, which states that the human rights of women and of the girl child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights and that the human rights of women should form an integral part of the United Nations human rights activities (A/CONF.157/23, para. I.18),

Bearing in mind that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action calls for action to integrate the equal status and human rights of women into the mainstream of United Nations system-wide activity, stresses the importance of working towards the elimination of violence against women in public and private life and urges the eradication of all forms of discrimination against women,

Recalling the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, held at Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994, (see A/CONF.171/13), in which the rights of women received strong support and clarification, being understood as an essential element in all policies concerned with health and population programmes, and which called upon all countries to take full measures to eliminate all forms of exploitation, abuse, harassment and violence against women,

Recalling also the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, (see A/CONF.166/9), in which the goal of achieving equality and equity between women and men was identified as a key element in all steps taken towards enhancing social development and ensuring human well-being,

Welcoming the call in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, held from 4 to 15 September 1995 (see A/CONF.177/20), for intensified efforts to integrate the equal status and the human rights of all women and girls into the mainstream of United Nations system-wide activities and to address these issues regularly and systematically throughout relevant bodies and mechanisms, and for related actions to be taken by, inter alia, the human rights treaty monitoring bodies,

Reiterating the importance of steps aimed at preventing and eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and girls, and particularly steps focusing on the need to eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls,

Emphasizing the need for full implementation by Governments and community organizations, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, and the public and private sectors, as appropriate, of the measures set out in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 48/104 of 20 December 1993, proclaiming the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, in which the Assembly recognized that violence against women violated and impaired or nullified the enjoyment by women of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recognizing the importance of the effective implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

Noting the importance for women of the full implementation of all the human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,

Welcoming Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1993/46 of 8 March 1993, 1994/45 of 4 March 1994, 1995/86 of 8 March 1995 and 1996/48 of 19 April 1996 regarding the integration of the equal status of women and the human rights of women into the mainstream of United Nations system-wide activity;

Noting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and its consequences, Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy (E/CN.4/1996/53 and Add.1 and 2);

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women: review of mainstreaming in organizations of the United Nations system: extent to which violations of women's human rights have been addressed by human rights mechanisms (E/CN.6/1996/90),

Recognizing the continued importance of a focal point for the human rights of women within the Centre for Human Rights,

Welcoming the appointment of an adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on gender issues to help ensure system-wide implementation of the Platform for Action,

Welcoming also the final report of the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission, Ms. Halima Embarek Warzazi, on harmful traditional practices affecting the health of women and children (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/6) and the preliminary report prepared by Ms. Linda Chavez on systematic rape, sexual slavery and slavery-like practices during periods of armed conflict, including internal armed conflict (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/26),

Convinced of the need to eliminate all forms of sexual violence and sexual exploitation, including trafficking for the purposes of prostitution, other forms of commercial sex, domestic labour and servile forms of marriage, which are violations of the human rights of women and girl children and are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person,

Concerned by the continuing reports of grave abuses and acts of violence committed against women migrant workers,

Reiterating that acts of violence directed against women impair or nullify their enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Convinced that global development cannot be achieved without the full participation of women,

Noting with deep concern that the economic and financial crises in many countries have severely affected the socio-economic status of women, especially in rural areas, and the continuing rise in the number of rural women living in poverty,

Recognizing, however, that some progress has been made to advance women's human rights, but that much more effort is needed to mainstream women's human rights throughout the United Nations system, including the war crimes tribunals;

1. Requests that all studies submitted at its forty-ninth session include gender-disaggregated statistics and discuss ways in which gender affects the various forms of abuse to which women are subjected, the consequences of those abuses, the availability and accessibility of remedies, the relationship between the abuses suffered by women and the subordinate status of women in public and private life, any gaps in existing international standards of protection, and gender-specific recommendations to remedy these violations;

2. Appeals to all Governments that have not yet done so to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women without resort to reservations;

3. Expresses the hope that the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women will be integrated as soon as possible with the other human rights treaty monitoring mechanisms;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that United Nations human rights and humanitarian relief personnel receive training to enable them adequately to recognize and address human rights violations directed at women and to carry out their work without gender bias;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to seek to ensure the reinforcement and further development of the integration of the human rights of women into the mainstream of United Nations system-wide activity, following the framework set out at the Fourth World Conference on Women;

6. Decides to consider more fully the implications of the Beijing Platform for Action for the work of the Sub-Commission in such areas as women and poverty, the role of women in global development and the promotion of human rights, as well as additional measures to combat violence against women, including trafficking, at its forty-ninth session under the same agenda item;

7. Urges Member States, in order to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, to adopt measures for the effective implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, taking into special consideration women who are at high risk of violence, such as women migrant workers, refugee women and women in conflict situations;

8. Encourages Member States to enact and/or reinforce penal, civil, labour and administrative sanctions in domestic legislation to punish and redress the wrongs done to women and girls who are subjected to any form of violence, whether in the home, the workplace, the community or society;

9. Fully supports the amendments adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to the guidelines for the preparation of the periodic reports submitted to the Committee seeking that States parties report on reservations to the Convention and include in their reports information on measures taken to implement the Beijing Platform for Action, in order to facilitate the work of the Committee;

10. Proposes that the Secretary-General take steps to enhance the focal point on women in the Centre for Human Rights and to ensure that women's human rights are effectively supported at all levels in the United Nations system, in cooperation with the Division for the Advancement of Women;

11. Calls upon the Secretary-General to fulfil his target, reaffirmed by the Fourth World Conference on Women, of having women hold 50 per cent of managerial and decision-making positions by the year 2000;

12. Requests Governments to support initiatives of women's organizations and non-governmental organizations all over the world to raise awareness on the issue of equality of women and men and to contribute to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women;

13. Supports the decision of the Commission on the Status of Women, at its fortieth session, to renew the open-ended working group established to develop an optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

14. Decides to give full attention to these issues at its forty-ninth session under the same agenda item.
