

**1982/21. Action to be taken to ensure the recovery abroad of maintenance**

*The Economic and Social Council.*

Noting that in many countries the number of divorces and separations has continually increased during recent years,

Taking note of the fact that judicial or administrative decisions taken on the occasion of divorces and separations often include the payment of maintenance intended to meet, at least partly, the needs of the spouse and the children, as issue of the union, for whom the spouse is responsible, taking into consideration existing legislation in the countries of the two spouses,

Considering that the recovery of such maintenance, which is already difficult within the national territory, becomes practically impossible when the debtor spouse resides abroad,

Emphasizing the extreme prejudicial situation of creditors in respect of maintenance due who are injured in this way,

Emphasizing also the important progress constituted, for the States that have ratified it, by the Convention on the Recovery Abroad of Maintenance, done at New York on 20 June 1956,<sup>32</sup>

1. Requests the Secretary-General to provide full information on the Convention on the Recovery Abroad of Maintenance, done at New York on 20 June 1956; in addition, States parties could study possible improvements in the light of their experience with regard to that Convention;

2. Expresses the wish that States which have not yet done so should ratify the Convention as soon as possible, in view of its undeniable humanitarian scope;

3. Invites the States parties to that Convention, in conformity with article 10 thereof, to accord the highest priority to the transfer of funds payable as maintenance or to cover expenses in respect of proceedings under that Convention.

*23rd plenary meeting  
4 May 1982*

**1982/22. Abuses against women and children**

*The Economic and Social Council.*

Taking note of the continued and consistent concern expressed by the international community at the blatant and inhuman abuses of women and children,

Recognizing the evils of such abuses as kidnapping, abduction, forced child labour, battered women and children, violence in the family, rape, prostitution, and the inevitable serious problems of mental and physical health,

Appalled by the resultant exploitation, oppression and violence to human dignity,

Believing that the abuse of women and children is an intolerable offence to the dignity of the human being and is a harsh indictment of any claim to be civilized,

1. Calls upon Member States to take immediate and energetic steps to combat these social evils and to inform the Secretary-General of the action taken;

<sup>32</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 268, No. 3850, p. 32.

2. Requests the Secretary-General to compile a study on the action taken by Member States for submission as a report to the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women to be held in 1985, if the Preparatory Committee for the Conference so decides.

*23rd plenary meeting  
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**1982/23. Elderly women and the World Assembly on Aging**

*The Economic and Social Council.*

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 32/131 of 16 December 1977, 33/52 of 14 December 1978, 34/153 of 17 December 1979 and 35/129 of 11 December 1980,

Recalling also resolution 13, entitled "Social security and family security for women, including the elderly and the handicapped", adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year,<sup>33</sup> and resolution 4, entitled "Elderly women and economic security", adopted by the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,<sup>34</sup>

Emphasizing the fact that, because the increasing life expectancy of women exceeds that of men in many developing and more developed societies, elderly women are a rapidly increasing segment of the national population,

Aware that elderly women have suffered from past discrimination and lack of opportunity and that in many countries the economic plight of elderly women is becoming more serious,

Concerned that this situation is further complicated by increased migration of family members and other cultural phenomena resulting in socio-economic hardships for the aging,

Bearing in mind the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>35</sup>

1. Urges that the special problems faced by elderly women, such as income security, education, employment, housing, health and community support services, should be given explicit and full attention by the World Assembly on Aging to be held at Vienna from 26 July to 6 August 1982, and should be dealt with in the plan of action to be adopted by the World Assembly;

2. Requests Member States to ensure that women are included in the preparations for the World Assembly on Aging and are appointed as members of their delegations to that Assembly;

3. Requests Member States and the relevant United Nations bodies to continue to collect data on the situation of elderly women to serve as a basis for formulating and implementing policies and programmes to define their special economic and social planning needs;

<sup>33</sup> Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, 19 June-2 July 1975 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. III.

<sup>34</sup> Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Copenhagen, 14-30 July 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.IV.3 and corrigendum), chap. I, sect. B.

<sup>35</sup> General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.