

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 1956,³²

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;

³² 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
4 May 1982*

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,³³ 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,³⁴

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,³⁵

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;

³³ 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.

³⁴ 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.

³⁵ General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

4. *Urges* all Governments, national and international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, the mass media, educational bodies and all individuals concerned to strengthen their efforts to adopt or change national laws to ensure that elderly women have equal opportunities to live in health, dignity, self-reliance and self-fulfilment.

*23rd plenary meeting
4 May 1982*

1982/24. Women and children under apartheid

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 35/206 N of 16 December 1980 on women and children under apartheid,

Recalling also resolution 45 adopted by the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women,³⁶

Reaffirming that apartheid is a crime against humanity,

Noting with admiration the great sacrifices of the women and children in South Africa and Namibia in the struggle for their inalienable rights and their national liberation,

Recognizing that the so-called constitutional and other reforms by the racist minority régimes are no more than mere adjustments within the framework of apartheid,

Affirming its full solidarity with the women of South Africa and Namibia in the struggle for liberation under the leadership of their national liberation movements,

Considering that international efforts should be greatly intensified to publicize the plight of women and children in South Africa and Namibia and to promote greater solidarity with and assistance to them in the context of their heroic struggle for the liberation of South Africa and Namibia,

Appreciating the valuable contribution made by the various United Nations voluntary funds for southern Africa, including the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa,

Gravely concerned about the inhuman oppression of millions of women and children under apartheid, which manifests itself in the killing, detention and torture of school children protesting against discrimination, the enforced separation of women from their husbands and mass starvation in the reserves,

Commending the Special Committee against Apartheid and its Task Force on Women and Children for giving special attention to the plight of women and children under apartheid,

Noting with appreciation the establishment of the International Committee of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa and Namibia,

1. *Reaffirms* the commitment of the United Nations to the total eradication of apartheid and the promotion of the establishment of a democratic society in which all the people of South Africa as a whole, irre-

³⁶ *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.

spective of race, colour, sex or creed, will enjoy equal and full human rights and fundamental freedoms and will participate freely in the determination of their destiny;

2. *Invites* all Governments and organizations to observe 9 August annually as the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa and Namibia;

3. *Appeals* to all Governments and organizations to provide generous contributions to the projects of the national liberation movements and front-line States for assistance to refugee women and children from South Africa and Namibia;

4. *Further appeals* to all Governments to make generous contributions to the various trust funds for southern Africa, including the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa;

5. *Welcomes* the decision of the Special Committee against Apartheid to organize, in co-operation with the International Committee of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa and Namibia, an international conference on women and apartheid, to be held at Brussels from 17 to 19 May 1982;

6. *Invites* women's organizations all over the world to intensify their action in solidarity with the struggle for liberation in South Africa and Namibia and to consider a greater co-ordination of their efforts in co-operation with the Special Committee against Apartheid.

*23rd plenary meeting
4 May 1982*

1982/25. Women and children refugees

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering the agony and suffering of the Kampuchean refugees in South-East Asia,

Considering the special problems of women refugees, particularly with regard to physical safety,

1. *Expresses grave concern* at the plight of Kampuchean women and children, including the many thousands who have been forced to flee to other countries as refugees;

2. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to share the burden of assisting refugees and displaced persons from Kampuchea.

*23rd plenary meeting
4 May 1982*

1982/26. Preparations for the 1985 World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that the General Assembly, in its resolution 35/136 of 11 December 1980, decided to convene in 1985, at the conclusion of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, a world conference to review and appraise the achievements of the Decade,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 36/126 of 14 December 1981, in which the Commission on the