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Agenda item 110

Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women

Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”

Note by the Secretariat

By its resolution 1999/50, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution entitled “Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly entitled ‘Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century’”. The text of the draft resolution is reproduced below.

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/100 of 12 December 1997, 52/231 of 4 June 1998 and 53/120 of 9 December 1998 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/6 of 22 July 1996,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on review and appraisal¹ and on further actions and initiatives,²

Taking note with appreciation of the report³ of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on progress in the implementation of the Platform for Action⁴ by the States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,⁵

¹ E/CN.6/1999/PC/3.

² E/CN.6/1999/PC/2.

³ E/CN.6/1999/PC/4, annex.

⁴ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

⁵ General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

1. *Reiterates* its invitation to Governments that have not yet done so to prepare national action plans and reports on the implementation of the Platform for Action, and underlines the importance of involving relevant actors of civil society especially non-governmental organizations;

2. *Invites* Member States, in preparing implementation plans and reports and responding to the questionnaire of the Secretary-General, to report on good practices, positive actions, lessons learned, the use of qualitative and quantitative indicators for measuring progress, wherever possible, key challenges remaining in the critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action and obstacles encountered;

3. *Encourages* all the regional commissions and other intergovernmental regional organizations to carry out activities in support of the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”, *inter alia*, through holding preparatory meetings, to ensure a regional perspective on implementation and on further actions and initiatives, as well as on a vision for gender equality, development and peace in the twenty-first century, and to make their reports available in the year 2000 to the Commission on the Status of Women acting as preparatory committee;

4. *Encourages* all entities of the United Nations system, including the programmes, funds and specialized agencies, and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, to be involved actively in preparatory activities and to participate at the highest level in the special session, including through presentations on best practices, obstacles encountered and a vision for the future to accelerate implementation of the Platform for Action and address new and emerging trends;

5. *Decides* that the special session shall have a plenary and an ad hoc committee of the whole;

6. *Reaffirms* that the special session will be undertaken on the basis of and with full respect for the Platform for Action, and that there will be no renegotiation of the existing agreements contained therein;

7. *Decides* that the provisional agenda shall include the following items:

(a) Review and appraisal of progress made in the implementation of the twelve critical areas of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action;

(b) Further actions and initiatives for overcoming obstacles to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, in time for the next session of the preparatory committee in the year 2000, comprehensive reports on progress made in the implementation of the Platform for Action nationally, regionally and internationally, taking into account all relevant information and inputs available to the United Nations system, on the following:

(a) A review and appraisal of the implementation of the Platform for Action based on, *inter alia*, national action plans, reports of the States parties to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women under article 18 of the Convention, replies of Member States to the questionnaire, statements made by delegations at relevant forums of the United Nations, reports of regional commissions and other entities of the United Nations system and follow-up to recent global United Nations conferences;

(b) Good practices, positive actions, lessons learned, examples of the use of any qualitative and quantitative indicators for measuring progress, successful strategies and promising initiatives for the implementation of the Platform for Action;

(c) Obstacles encountered and strategies for overcoming them;

(d) Further actions and initiatives, within the overall goals of gender equality, development and peace, to accelerate implementation of the twelve critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action beyond the year 2000, recognizing the need for analytical tools and strategies for implementation, taking into account inputs, as well as comments of Member States on the report of the Secretary-General on further actions and initiatives; and, in this regard, invites Member States to provide inputs and comments thereon;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make available all necessary documentation in a timely manner for the special session, keeping in mind General Assembly resolutions 52/231 and 53/120;

10. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to hold discussions with relevant actors of civil society, especially non-governmental organizations, in the exchange of views for the review and appraisal process on the implementation of the Platform for Action, including, wherever available, the use of electronic networking;

11. *Urges* Member States and observers to ensure their representation at the special session at a high political level;

12. *Confirms* that the special session will be open to the participation of all States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and observers, in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly;⁶

13. *Calls* for the participation of associate members of the regional commissions in the special session, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and in the preparatory process thereof, in the same capacity of observer that held for their participation in the Fourth World Conference on Women;

14. *Encourages* Member States to include relevant actors of civil society, especially non-governmental organizations and representatives of women's organizations, in their national preparatory processes as well as in their delegations to the Preparatory Committee and the special session;

15. *Emphasizes* the important role of non-governmental organizations in implementing the Platform for Action and the need for their active involvement in the preparations for the special session, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements for their contributions to the special session;

16. *Decides* that non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as well as the non-governmental organizations that were accredited to the Fourth World Conference on Women, may participate in the special session without creating a precedent for future sessions of the General Assembly;⁶

17. *Also decides* to defer consideration of all the modalities for participation of non-governmental organizations in the special session until the next session of the Preparatory Committee;

⁶ See General Assembly resolution 52/100, para. 46.

18. *Invites* the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as preparatory committee to convene informal open-ended consultations, as appropriate, to consider preparations for the special session;

19. *Recommends* that the major share of the three-week forty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2000 be allocated to the Commission acting as preparatory committee.
