

Mindful of recommendation 46 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations,³¹

Referring to the report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations Secretariat,³²

Sharing the concern of the Secretary-General expressed in that report that the interests of women in the Secretariat should not suffer disproportionately from the impact of the restructuring and retrenchment measures being applied in the Secretariat,

1. *Requests* each organization of the United Nations system to designate, within existing resource allocations for personnel services, a high-level coordinator for the improvement of the status of women within that organization;

2. *Recommends* that each organization adopt specific action programmes and work plans outlining the measures to be taken to improve the status of women in its secretariat;

3. *Also recommends* that the Secretary-General take the necessary measures to ensure that current financial restraints and retrenchment measures do not have disproportionately negative consequences for women;

4. *Further recommends* that all organizations of the United Nations system take measures to ensure a greater proportion of women in the Professional category and above, especially at higher levels, in accordance with paragraph 358 of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, General Assembly resolution 40/258 B of 18 December 1985 and paragraph 8 of Assembly resolution 41/111 of 4 December 1986;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to report biennially in even-numbered years, within existing resources, to the Commission on the Status of Women on progress made by the organizations of the United Nations system in improving the level of recruitment, conditions of service, career development and promotion opportunities of women;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report to the General Assembly on the situation of women in the United Nations Secretariat and to transmit to the Commission on the Status of Women on a regular basis:

(a) The report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations Secretariat;

(b) Relevant sections of the annual report of the Secretary-General on the composition of the United Nations Secretariat;

(c) Relevant sections of background reports to the International Civil Service Commission;

³¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/41/49)*, chap. IV, sect. B.

³² A/C.5/42/24.

(d) Relevant resolutions, decisions, reports and employment guidelines of the organizations of the United Nations common system, including information on the distribution of female staff members by nationality and by level.

*15th plenary meeting
26 May 1988*

1988/18. Programme planning and activities to advance the status of women

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming the high priority that Member States attach to activities to advance the status of women,

Welcoming the priority given by the Secretary-General to the advancement of women in the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989,

Noting the important roles played by the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in achieving the global equality of women,

Concerned that activities to advance the status of women should not suffer disproportionately from the impact of restructuring and retrenchment measures,

Stressing the need to ensure that budgetary resources allocated to activities for the advancement of women are commensurate with the priorities of Governments,

Referring to the reports of the Secretary-General on programme planning matters pertaining to the status of women,³³

I. MEDIUM-TERM PLANNING MATTERS

1. *Reiterates* the recommendation made by the Commission on the Status of Women³⁴ that the Secretary-General should identify the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women³⁰ and the status of women in general as a global priority for the period 1990-1995 in the introduction to the next medium-term plan;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in preparing his proposals for the next medium-term plan, to formulate a separate major programme on the advancement of women, which should include the four existing or proposed subprogrammes of the global social development issues programme which relate to women and incorporate the intersectoral presentation of activities called for by the General Assembly in resolution 40/108 of 13 December 1985;

II. PROGRAMME BUDGET MATTERS

1. *Decides* that the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 and subsequent programme budgets should provide for full funding from the regular budget for the implementation of all aspects of legislative mandates for the advancement of women;

³³ A/42/273-E/1987/74 and Add.1, A/42/512, E/CN.6/1988/10, E/CN.6/1988/CRP.1 and E/CN.6/1988/CRP.4.

³⁴ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1987, Supplement No. 2 (E/1987/15)*, chap. I, sect. C, resolution 4.

2. *Also decides* that the Trust Fund for the Preparatory Activities for the 1985 World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, established by the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 1983/132 of 26 May 1983, should be continued on an interim basis for the biennium 1988-1989 as a special trust fund for the monitoring, review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, for the purpose of facilitating global exchange of information, enhancing the preparation of the work of the Commission on the Status of Women regarding priority themes, and disseminating the results of its discussions of those themes and on monitoring, review and appraisal to a wider audience, in conformity with paragraph 1 of section I above;

3. *Recommends* that the Trust Fund maintain a close and continuous relationship with other United Nations organs, in particular the United Nations Development Fund for Women, with a view to avoiding duplication;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the future of the Trust Fund to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-third session;

5. *Reiterates* the recommendation made by the Commission³⁵ that the Secretary-General should accord the highest priority in the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 to the programme elements concerned with policy development in support of the Commission and include activities to that end in the subprogramme on the participation of women in promoting international peace and co-operation;

6. *Reaffirms* the view of the Commission, as expressed in its resolution 32/1 of 16 March 1988, on the level of resources necessary to implement its mandates effectively and efficiently, expressed in its submission to the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields;³⁶

7. *Recommends* that the Branch for the Advancement of Women be renamed the Division for the Advancement of Women, such a change to be carried out without financial implications.

*15th plenary meeting
26 May 1988*

1988/19. Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in 1990 to review and appraise progress in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1987/20 of 26 May 1987, in which it recommended that an extended session of the Commission on the Status of Women be held in

1990, at which Member States would be represented at a high level, in order to review and appraise progress in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;³⁰

Bearing in mind its resolution 1987/24 of 26 May 1987, in which it endorsed the priority themes to be considered at the next five sessions of the Commission, regardless of any process of review and appraisal that might take place,

Considering the importance of the review and appraisal process to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/108 of 13 December 1985, and of the role of non-governmental organizations in that process,

Recalling its resolution 1987/18 of 26 May 1987, in which it established a five-year cycle of review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies,

Recognizing the role of non-governmental organizations in contributing to the preparations for the session of the Commission in 1990,

Bearing in mind its resolution 1988/22 of 26 May 1988 on the establishment of a comprehensive reporting system to monitor, review and appraise the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies,

Concerned about the limited time and resources available to the Commission and Governments to prepare for the session in 1990,

1. *Decides* that the duration of the thirty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, to be held in 1990, shall be ten days, in order that the Commission may review and appraise progress made by Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide additional interpretation facilities, within available resources, so that the Commission may establish a subsidiary body during its thirty-fourth session, in order to make maximum use of the time available;

3. *Decides* that the Commission should review preparations for the 1990 review and appraisal at its thirty-third session, under the agenda item entitled "Monitoring and implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women";

4. *Also decides* that the documentation for the 1990 review and appraisal should be prepared according to the requirements of the comprehensive reporting system set out in Council resolution 1988/22 and according to the provisional agenda outlined in the annex to the present resolution;

5. *Encourages* Governments to provide responses of high quality to the questionnaire on which the review and appraisal will be based;

6. *Proposes* that assistance be made available to Governments, on request, for the preparation of their responses to the questionnaire;

³⁵ *Ibid.*, resolution 3.

³⁶ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1988, Supplement No. 5 (E/1988/15/Rev.1)*, chap. I.