

15th plenary meeting
26 May 1988

1988/24. Women and children in Namibia

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1986/23 of 23 May 1986,

Recalling also the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,³⁰ in particular paragraph 259, which calls for the speedy and effective implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) of 29 September 1978 concerning the independence of Namibia,

Gravely concerned about the delay in the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) regarding the withdrawal of South Africa's illegal administration from Namibia and the holding of elections under the supervision of the United Nations,

Deeply concerned about the perpetual suffering of Namibian women under the illegal occupation of the racist South African régime, and further concerned about the use of Namibian territory as a springboard for attacking and destabilizing neighbouring States,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on new developments concerning the situation of women under apartheid in South Africa and Namibia and measures of assistance to women from South Africa and Namibia who have become refugees as a result of the practice of apartheid,⁴⁵

1. *Condemns, in no uncertain terms, the racist régime of South Africa for its installation of a so-called interim Government at Windhoek;*

2. *Denounces the forcible conscription of Namibian men and women between the ages of 17 and 55 years into the racist army, as well as the detention of children, practices which consolidate and facilitate widespread repression throughout the country;*

3. *Rejects South Africa's insistence on linking the independence of Namibia to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola;*

4. *Demands the release of all political prisoners, among whom are included women and children, and the lifting of the state of emergency imposed by South Africa for more than twelve years;*

5. *Demands that South Africa refrain from using Namibia as a base from which to infiltrate Angola and other independent neighbouring countries;*

6. *Calls upon all women of the world to support and assist all bodies struggling to put an end to colonialism in Namibia;*

7. *Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-third session a comprehensive report on monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women with regard to women and children in Namibia.*

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1988/25. Situation of Palestinian women

The Economic and Social Council,

Referring to the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of Palestinian women living within and outside the occupied Arab territories,⁴⁶

Mindful of the humanitarian principles and provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949,⁴⁷

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,³⁰ in particular paragraph 260 thereof,

Noting with deep concern the escalating Israeli oppression and ill-treatment of the Palestinian people, including women and children in the occupied Palestinian territories,

1. *Requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the situation of Palestinian women and children inside and outside the occupied Palestinian territories to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-third session;*

2. *Strongly condemns the application of an "iron-fist" policy by Israel, the occupying Power, against Palestinian women and their families in the occupied Palestinian territories;*

3. *Reaffirms that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War is applicable to territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem;*

4. *Requests the Secretary-General, as a matter of urgency, to send a mission composed of experts on the status of women to investigate the situation of Palestinian women and children, in the light of the recent tragic developments in the occupied Palestinian territories;*

5. *Requests the Commission on the Status of Women to monitor the implementation of the provisions of paragraph 260 of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women concerning assistance to Palestinian women inside and outside the occupied territories;*

6. *Reaffirms that Palestinian women, as part of a nation whose people are prevented from exercising their basic human and political rights, cannot participate in the attainment of the objectives of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, namely equality, development and peace, without the realization of their inalienable right to return to their homes, their right to self-determination and their right to establish an independent State in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions.*

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1988/26. Elimination of discrimination against women in accordance with the aims of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The Economic and Social Council,

⁴⁶ E/CN.6/1988/8 and Corr.1.

⁴⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 42/60 of 30 November 1987 and 42/105 of 7 December 1987 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/18 of 26 May 1987,

Taking note of the decisions of the Fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Taking note of resolution 32/1 of 16 March 1988³⁶ adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women in response to the request contained in Economic and Social Council decision 1987/112 of 6 February 1987,

Recalling the emphasis placed by the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, on ratification of or accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁴³

1. *Welcomes* the ratification of or accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by an increasing number of Member States;

2. *Urges* all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so as soon as possible;

3. *Urges* States parties to the Convention to make all possible efforts to submit their initial reports in accordance with article 18 thereof and the guidelines of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

4. *Recalls* the articles of the Convention that provide the mandate of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

5. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the Committee to rationalize its procedures and expedite the consideration of periodic reports submitted in accordance with article 18 of the Convention;

6. *Recalls* the role of the Committee pursuant to article 21, paragraph 1, of the Convention;

7. *Notes with considerable concern* the problems encountered by the Committee as a result of the shortage of resources, including resources for technical and substantive support;

8. *Reaffirms* that resources of the Branch for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat should be reinforced through various means, including redeployment, in order to enable it to keep pace with its increased work-load and to guarantee proper servicing of all bodies concerned with the advancement of the status of women that are assisted by the Branch;

9. *Recognizes* the special relevance of the periodic reports of States parties to the Convention to the efforts of the Commission on the Status of Women to review and appraise the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women³⁰ in those countries;

10. *Recognizes also* that all States Members of the United Nations should take into account all relevant documents when developing strategies to monitor and evaluate progress in the advancement of women

and when formulating policies and programmes concerning women at the national, regional and international levels;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to disseminate information on the Convention and its implementation, with a view to promoting additional ratifications of or accessions to the Convention;

12. *Recommends* that the Chairman of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Chairman of the Commission on the Status of Women each attend meetings of the other body;

13. *Recommends* that the meetings of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women be scheduled, whenever possible, to allow for the timely transmission of the results of its work for information to the Commission on the Status of Women during the same year as the Committee's session.

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1988/27. Efforts to eradicate violence against women within the family and society

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in which it was stated that violence against women was a major obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,⁴⁸

Cognizant of the fact that violence against women exists in various forms in everyday life in all kinds of societies and that concerted and continuous efforts are required for its eradication,

Recalling also the relevant recommendations of the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,⁴⁹ the relevant observations of the Seventh Congress⁵⁰ and Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/14 of 24 May 1984 on violence in the family, as well as section IV of Council resolution 1986/10 of 21 May 1986 and General Assembly resolution 40/36 of 29 November 1985 on domestic violence,

Recalling further the relevant provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights³ and the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,⁵¹

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on efforts to eradicate violence

⁴⁸ *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A, para. 258.

⁴⁹ See *Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Caracas, 25 August-5 September 1980: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.IV.4), chap. I.

⁵⁰ See *Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Milan, 26 August-6 September 1985: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IV.1).

⁵¹ General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV).