



# General Assembly

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**Fifty-sixth session**  
**Third Committee**  
Agenda item 112  
**Advancement of women**

**Benin, Cameroon, Chile, Costa Rica, Estonia, Ethiopia, Haiti, Kenya, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Uganda: draft resolution**

**Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 54/135 of 17 December 1999,

*Recalling also* the importance attached to the problems of rural women by the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,<sup>1</sup> the Beijing Declaration<sup>2</sup> and the Platform for Action<sup>3</sup> adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>4</sup>

*Welcoming* the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”, namely, the political declaration<sup>5</sup> and further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,<sup>6</sup>

*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration<sup>7</sup> of 8 September 2000 in which Member States resolved, inter alia, to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that was truly sustainable,

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<sup>1</sup> *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.

<sup>2</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>4</sup> Resolution 34/180, annex.

<sup>5</sup> Resolution S-23/2, annex.

<sup>6</sup> Resolution S-23/3, annex.

<sup>7</sup> See resolution 55/2.



*Recognizing* the critical role and contribution of rural women in eradicating food insecurity and rural poverty and enhancing agricultural and rural development,

*Noting* that some effects of the evolving globalization process may deepen the socio-economic marginalization of rural women,

*Emphasizing* the importance of the ten-year review of the implementation of Agenda 21<sup>8</sup> and the other Rio commitments which is to be undertaken at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in South Africa in September 2002, including the review of chapter 24 of Agenda 21 entitled "Global action for women towards sustainable and equitable development", entailing, inter alia, measures to improve the situation of women in rural areas,

*Mindful* of the fact that the available data and existing tools of measurement and analysis are insufficient for a full understanding of the gender implications of the processes of globalization and rural change, and their impact on rural women,

*Recognizing* the urgent need to take appropriate measures aimed at further improving the situation of women in rural areas,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas,<sup>9</sup> including the conclusions and recommendations of the expert group meeting on the situation of rural women within the context of globalization held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 4 to 8 June 2001;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a reader-friendly publication based on case studies presented by the experts and the outcome of the expert group meeting in order to raise awareness of the situation of rural women within the context of globalization;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the desirability of convening a high-level policy consultation at the governmental level with a view to setting priorities and developing critical strategies that would meet the needs and aspirations of rural women within the context of globalization;

4. *Invites* Member States, in collaboration with the United Nations organizations and civil society, to place a renewed focus on the issue of improving the situation of rural women in implementing at both national and international levels the Beijing Declaration<sup>2</sup> and Platform for Action<sup>3</sup> and the outcome document<sup>6</sup> adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session, taking into account also the conclusions and recommendations of the United Nations expert group meeting on the situation of rural women within the context of globalization, held in 2001, by, inter alia:

(a) Creating an enabling policy environment for improving the situation of rural women, including the design and implementation of a gender-sensitive macroeconomic policy framework and social support systems;

(b) Investing in and strengthening efforts to meet the basic needs of rural women through capacity-building and human resources development measures and the provision of a safe and reliable water supply, health services, including family

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<sup>8</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>9</sup> A/56/268.

planning services, and nutritional programmes as well as education and literacy programmes and social support measures;

(c) Designing and revising laws to ensure that, where private ownership of land and property exist, rural women are accorded full and equal rights to own land and other property, inter alia, through the right to inheritance, and undertaking administrative reforms and other necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies and access to markets and information;

(d) Integrating a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development policies and programmes;

(e) Developing specific assistance programmes and advisory services to promote economic skills of rural women, inter alia, in banking, modern trading and financial procedures, and providing microcredit and other financial and business services to a greater number of women in rural areas for generating self-employment among them and eradicating poverty;

(f) Pursuing the political and socio-economic empowerment of rural women by supporting their full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels, including in rural institutions through, inter alia, provision of training and capacity-building programmes;

(g) Taking steps towards ensuring that women's unpaid work and contributions to on-farm and off-farm production, including income generated in the informal sector, are visible and recorded in national economic surveys and statistics in order to take better-informed policy decisions;

5. *Invites* the Commission on the Status of Women to pay particular attention to the situation of rural women in the consideration of the priority themes identified in its multi-year programme of work for the period 2002-2006;

6. *Invites* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system dealing with issues of development to address in their programmes and strategies the specific needs of rural women in the context of globalization;

7. *Stresses* the need for specific studies to identify the best experiences and practices for ensuring that rural women have better access to and better integration in the field of information and communication technologies and invites the International Telecommunication Union to consider this matter in connection with the preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution with an emphasis on the impact of labour mobility and migration on the situation of rural women and to submit that report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.