



# General Assembly

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## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2009

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/64/433)]

### 64/138. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 62/218 of 22 December 2007 and its previous resolutions on the elimination of discrimination against women,

*Bearing in mind* that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as stated in Articles 1 and 55 of the Charter, is to promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind, including distinction as to sex,

*Reiterating* the need to intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women throughout the world,

*Affirming* that women and men should participate equally in social, economic and political development, should contribute equally to such development and should share equally in improved conditions of life,

*Recalling* the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,<sup>1</sup> in which the Conference reaffirmed that the human rights of women and the girl child were an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights,

*Acknowledging* the need for a comprehensive and integrated approach to the promotion and protection of the human rights of women, which includes the integration of the human rights of women into the mainstream of United Nations activities system-wide,

*Reaffirming* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action<sup>2</sup> and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first

<sup>1</sup> A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

<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, annexes I and II.



century”,<sup>3</sup> in particular those paragraphs concerning the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>4</sup> and the Optional Protocol thereto,<sup>5</sup>

*Welcoming* the declaration of the Commission on the Status of Women on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women,<sup>6</sup> in which the Commission recognized that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations under the Convention are mutually reinforcing in respect of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women,

*Welcoming also* the decision of the Commission to commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in conjunction with the fifty-fourth session of the Commission, to be held from 1 to 12 March 2010,<sup>7</sup>

*Recalling* that, in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>8</sup> Heads of State and Government resolved to implement the Convention, and recalling also that the 2005 World Summit Outcome<sup>9</sup> reaffirmed that gender equality and the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all are essential to advance development and peace and security,

*Recognizing* that the equal enjoyment by women of all human rights and fundamental freedoms will promote the realization of the rights of the child, bearing in mind the special needs of girls, and acknowledging the mutual reinforcement of the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>10</sup> and the Optional Protocols thereto,<sup>11</sup>

*Noting* that 18 December 2009 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

*Noting also* that 6 October 2009 marked the tenth anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of the Optional Protocol to the Convention,

*Bearing in mind* the recommendation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women that national reports should contain information on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, in accordance with paragraph 323 of the Platform,

*Having considered* the reports of the Committee on its fortieth and forty-first<sup>12</sup> and forty-second and forty-third<sup>13</sup> sessions,

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<sup>3</sup> Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2131, No. 20378.

<sup>6</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/232.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, 2009, *Supplement No. 7* (E/2009/27), chap. I, sect. E, resolution 53/1, para. 3.

<sup>8</sup> See resolution 55/2.

<sup>9</sup> See resolution 60/1.

<sup>10</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531.

<sup>12</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/63/38).

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, *Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/64/38).

*Noting with appreciation* the elaboration and adoption by the Committee at its forty-second session of general recommendation No. 26, on women migrant workers,<sup>14</sup>

*Expressing deep concern* at the great number of reports that are still overdue, in particular initial reports, which constitutes an obstacle to the full implementation of the Convention,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;<sup>15</sup>

2. *Also welcomes* the growing number of States parties to the Convention,<sup>4</sup> which now stands at one hundred and eighty-six, while expressing disappointment that universal ratification of the Convention was not achieved by 2000, and urges all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so;

3. *Further welcomes* the growing number of States parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention,<sup>5</sup> which now stands at ninety-nine, and urges other States parties to the Convention to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

4. *Urges* States parties to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto and to take into consideration the concluding observations as well as the general recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

5. *Encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their mandates, as well as Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in particular women's organizations, as appropriate, to strengthen assistance to States parties, upon their request, in implementing the Convention;

6. *Notes* that some States parties have modified their reservations, expresses satisfaction that some reservations have been withdrawn, and urges States parties to limit the extent of any reservations that they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any such reservations as precisely and as narrowly as possible, to ensure that no reservations are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, to review their reservations regularly with a view to withdrawing them and to withdraw reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention;

7. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Committee of Convention-specific reporting guidelines,<sup>16</sup> which must be applied in conjunction with the harmonized reporting guidelines on a common core document;<sup>17</sup>

8. *Recalls* the great number of overdue reports, in particular initial reports, and urges States parties to the Convention to make every possible effort to submit their reports on the implementation of the Convention in a timely manner, in accordance with article 18 thereof;

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, part one, annex I, decision 42/I.

<sup>15</sup> A/64/342.

<sup>16</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/63/38)*, part one, annex I, decision 40/I.

<sup>17</sup> See HRI/GEN/2/Rev.6, chap. I.

9. *Also recalls* its resolution 50/202 of 22 December 1995, in which it took note with approval of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention, which has yet to enter into force, and urges States parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to accept the amendment;

10. *Strongly urges* States parties to the Convention to take appropriate measures so that acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention by a two-thirds majority of States parties can be reached as soon as possible and the amendment can enter into force;

11. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts made by the Committee to improve the efficiency of its working methods, and welcomes the decision of the Committee to introduce a procedure to enhance the follow-up of its recommendations;

12. *Welcomes* the gradual alleviation of the backlog of reports awaiting consideration by the Committee;

13. *Continues to encourage* the Secretariat to extend further technical assistance to States parties, upon their request, to strengthen their capacity in the preparation of reports, in particular initial reports, and urges Governments to contribute to those efforts;

14. *Invites* States parties to make use of the technical assistance provided by the Secretariat to facilitate the preparation of reports, in particular initial reports;

15. *Encourages* the continued participation of members of the Committee in inter-committee meetings and meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, including those on methods of work relating to the State reporting system;

16. *Encourages* the Committee, within its mandate, to continue to contribute to the efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the treaty bodies, and welcomes as a positive example the joint working group of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and in this regard invites the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to consider other informal cooperative initiatives maximizing existing resources;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/4 of 6 October 1999, to provide the resources, including staff and facilities, necessary for the effective functioning of the Committee within its full mandate, including as set out in the Optional Protocol to the Convention;

18. *Urges* Governments, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to disseminate the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto;

19. *Encourages* States parties to disseminate the concluding observations adopted in relation to the consideration of their reports, as well as the general recommendations of the Committee;

20. *Encourages* States parties and all relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue to build women's knowledge and understanding of and capacity to utilize human rights instruments, in particular the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto;

21. *Urges* the specialized agencies, at the invitation of the Committee, to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities;

22. *Welcomes* the contribution of non-governmental organizations, and national human rights institutions, where they exist, to the work of the Committee;

23. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to address and to engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth and sixty-sixth sessions under the item on the advancement of women;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a report on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the implementation of the present resolution.

*65th plenary meeting  
18 December 2009*