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The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2010 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Abulkalam Abdul Momen (Bangladesh), on the basis of informal consultations

The role of the United Nations system in implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration¹ and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,²

Recalling also the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of its 2010 substantive session³ and its resolution 2008/29,

Reaffirming that the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action⁴ and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,⁵ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁶ by States parties, Member States' commitments under the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,⁷ the outcomes of other relevant United Nations summits and

¹ See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

² See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/65/3/Rev.1), chap. III, sect. F, para. 125.*

⁴ *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.

⁵ General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁷ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.



conferences, and relevant resolutions, is part of an interconnected framework that underpins the work undertaken to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and produces essential contributions to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Welcoming the establishment of UN-Women by the General Assembly in resolution 64/289,

Reaffirming its agreed conclusions 1997/2 of 18 July 1997 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system⁸ and subsequent resolutions adopted on the same topic,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General⁹ on the theme of the coordination segment;

2. *Recognizes* efforts made by the United Nations system to promote more robust and better coordinated efforts to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women, and encourages further efforts in that regard;

3. *Stresses* that the establishment of UN-Women creates an opportunity and a responsibility for the whole United Nations system to scale up its efforts aimed at promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, and to increase the attention paid to gender issues throughout the work of the United Nations system, and urges UN-Women to leverage effectively on its unique role as a United Nations entity that supports both normative processes and operational activities;

4. *Calls upon* UN-Women to fully assume, in accordance with the principle of universality, its role of leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women, and of ensuring more effective coordination, coherence and gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system, and to continue to follow up on and support United Nations entities to advance effectively their work in that regard;

5. *Urges* all Member States and other stakeholders to enhance UN-Women and other United Nations system-wide efforts to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women through predictable, stable and sustainable financial support, and encourages them to increase such financial support, as well as encouraging UN-Women to seek to expand its financial support base;

6. *Encourages* UN-Women to use existing mechanisms, including the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, in a proactive and effective way in order to ensure the mainstreaming of a gender perspective across all areas of the United Nations work and, especially, to promote system-wide accountability on gender equality and the empowerment of women at the global, regional and country levels;

7. *Urges* the United Nations system, including agencies, funds and programmes, to recognize gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as essential for achieving all the internationally agreed development goals, including

⁸ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, sect. A, para. 4.

⁹ E/2011/85.

the Millennium Development Goals, and to support action to address the cross-cutting issues identified in the ministerial declaration at the high-level segment of the 2010 substantive session of the Council, so as to close implementation gaps that still persist in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women in that respect;

8. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to give priority to the economic empowerment of women, with UN-Women to play a coordinating role in accordance with its mandate, including through promoting economic and social policies that uphold the rights of women and provide them with opportunities to fully participate in the formal labour force, to receive equal pay for equal work or work of equal value and to benefit from social protections on a non-discriminatory basis, and that promote the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men;

9. *Also calls upon* the United Nations system to give priority to programmes that support girls' and women's transition from school to work by, inter alia, promoting their equal access to education at all levels, including technical and vocational training, expanding employment opportunities, including in new and non-traditional fields, supporting women's opportunities in business, trade, information and communication technology and entrepreneurial areas, and facilitating access to job search support services;

10. *Further calls upon* the United Nations entities, in their respective areas of competence and in accordance with their mandates, to strengthen women's participation in international trade, and to promote the contribution that Aid for Trade, including the Enhanced Integrated Framework, can make to that end;

11. *Encourages* all relevant United Nations entities to contribute towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women in the agricultural sector in order to enhance agricultural productivity, rural and agricultural development, improve food security and eradicate poverty, by promoting full employment and decent work for rural women and men, supporting rural women's equal access to land and other productive resources, including credit and technology, strengthening rural institutions and women's groups and enhancing rural women's and girls' productive capacities, as well as supporting rural women's, including indigenous women's, participation in planning and decision-making, so that they can realize their full potential;

12. *Encourages* the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, in accordance with their mandates, to include a gender perspective in all responses to the financial and economic crisis, including recovery and stimulus packages, and to put in place appropriate mechanisms to ensure that resources and support reach women;

13. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme, to ensure that responses to volatile food prices and ongoing concerns over food security consistently integrate a gender perspective, so as to prevent and mitigate any disproportionate negative impact on women;

14. *Urges* the United Nations system to work towards the active involvement of men and boys in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and

the elimination of violence against women, and to make efforts to engage civil society organizations to that end;

15. *Requests* the World Health Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and other relevant United Nations entities to invest in and enhance national capacities to ensure well-functioning health systems that fully address the needs of women and girls and empower women, girls and communities to access them, and to scale up maternal and child mortality reduction strategies and strengthen family planning programmes, which are key to achieving the Millennium Development Goals; and, in that regard, welcomes the Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health;

16. *Encourages* United Nations entities, including the World Health Organization, to pay increased attention to the gender dimension in responses to HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, and non-communicable diseases, including through supporting national multisectoral initiatives that increase the capacity of women and girls to protect themselves from contracting these diseases;

17. *Urges* UN-Women and all United Nations entities to promote the full and equal participation of women in decision-making processes at all levels, including in political and economic decision-making processes, and to ensure that programmes and activities carried out by the United Nations system take into account the needs of women and girls, and men and boys;

18. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, upon request by Member States to support their efforts, including through national machineries for the advancement of women, to eliminate gender stereotypes in all spheres of life, including in public and political life, to foster the positive portrayal of women and girls as leaders and decision makers at all levels and in all areas and to promote the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men;

19. *Calls upon* UN-Women and all other relevant United Nations entities, in their respective areas of competence and in accordance with their mandates, to strengthen efforts at all levels to end all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, including through an increased focus on prevention and the training of public officials, in particular those in law enforcement and judicial systems and health service providers, and effective support for victims and survivors, while addressing the linkages between violence against women and other issues;

20. *Urges* the United Nations system, including all its entities, to take further measures, in accordance with their agreed mandates, to improve women's participation during all stages of peace processes, and to support Member States' efforts in that regard, with their agreement and consent, in post-conflict planning and peacebuilding, including by enhancing women's engagement in political and economic decision-making, including at early stages of recovery processes, and in that regard, to strengthen efforts to increase the number of women special representatives and special envoys;

21. *Urges* UN-Women and other United Nations entities to continue to promote the collection and analysis of relevant, accurate and reliable data, disaggregated by sex and age, to ensure that public policies are effectively grounded and targeted to reach all women, including women living in poverty, older women,

migrant women, indigenous women, women with disabilities, women affected by HIV/AIDS, women living in rural or remote areas and women living in urban slums;

22. *Requests* the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Women to include information on the implementation of the present resolution in future presentations to be made to the Council or in relevant documentation to be submitted to the Council, including at its substantive session of 2012.
