

(a) Programmes to strengthen women's organizations that are demanding that women be granted their full rights as citizens;

(b) Activities or forums to broaden and deepen discussion of the problems of Central American women and solutions thereto, in which all social, political and cultural sectors of the countries of Central America may participate;

(c) Research to analyse the problems of Central American women in all their dimensions and to propose viable alternative solutions based on the opinions of all the women's sectors concerned;

(d) Publications and information and documentation systems relative to the results of the proposals for integration or practical action that will permit women's organizations in the Central American region to advance within the general context of society;

2. Urges the international community to publicize, and to support through international solidarity, the need for greater participation of women in the processes of change and in the bodies involved in negotiations and dialogue, which are designed to bring about a political solution to the problems and conflicts of the Central American region;

3. Urges national and international women's associations, both governmental and non-governmental, to develop education, training and self-help programmes aimed at improving the living conditions and the social and political participation of Central American women;

4. Requests the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies to pay particular attention to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women⁵⁹ and to the human rights of women in Central America, as a prerequisite for ensuring women's full participation in the building of their countries and in the creation of social and political systems that are just.

15th plenary meeting
24 May 1989

1989/40. Women living in absolute poverty

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/195 of 20 December 1988 on international co-operation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries,

Recalling also its resolution 1988/47 of 27 May 1988 on extreme poverty,

Noting with great concern the information on the population living in poverty in developing countries and on women's participation in the labour force contained in the 1989 report on the world social situation,⁷⁴

Convinced that absolute poverty limits the advancement of women in the social, political and economic development of their countries,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to take into account, in the report to be prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 43/195, the impact of absolute poverty on women;

2. Draws the attention of the Commission for Social Development to the need to discuss in depth, at its thirty-second and subsequent sessions, the

⁷⁴E/CN.5/1989/2. For the printed text, see 1989 Report on the World Social Situation (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.89.IV.1).

subject of absolute poverty and women, when considering reports of the Secretary-General concerning the world social situation;

3. Urges the Commission on the Status of Women to give due consideration to the subject of absolute poverty when considering its priority themes of equality, development and peace;

4. Appeals to all Member States to make efforts to overcome absolute poverty by increasing the level of integration of women in the economic and social development of their countries.

15th plenary meeting
24 May 1989

1989/41. Women and development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1987/24 of 26 May 1987, by which it endorsed the long-term programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Recognizing that developing countries are suffering the most severe economic and social crisis of recent decades and consequently a grave deterioration in their social situation, which has disproportionately affected women,

Considering, in particular, the severe effects of servicing external debt and the effects of ongoing structural adjustment programmes on the economies and economic development of the developing countries, which have led to a deterioration in the quality of life of large sections of the population, especially of women and children,

Emphasizing the vital importance of economic growth and development for the effective mobilization and integration of women in the economy,

Noting the link between education, employment and health, and also the negative impact that the lack of adequate social support measures has on the integration of women in development,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Women and education, eradication of illiteracy, employment, health and social services, including population issues and child care: the need for social support measures",⁷¹

1. Urges Governments to accord higher priority to programmes to promote the participation of women in the labour force and their access to education, health and social services, and to allow women access to decision-making on the design and implementation of such programmes;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with regional commissions, to include in the report to be submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-fourth session an evaluation of the effects of the debt crisis, including the effects of the structural adjustment programmes, on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;⁵⁹

3. Requests the organizations of the United Nations system concerned with development, when designing their relevant programmes, to pay special attention to the role of women, especially rural women and poor women, in the development process, particularly in the fields of education, health, employment, agriculture and social services;

4. Requests the organizations of the United Nations system to maintain and strengthen their institu-

tional support structures for women in developing countries;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-fourth session.

*15th plenary meeting
24 May 1989*

1989/42. Economic situation of women in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking account of the fact that the debtor countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are undergoing an economic crisis manifested, *inter alia*, by the stagnation of their economies and the unprecedented drop in their per capita income,

Considering the negative effect of the economic crisis on social indicators, particularly those relating to the status of women,

Taking account of the analysis of the difficult situation of Latin American and Caribbean women prepared by the Fourth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, held under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Taking account also of the need to face, at the national, regional and international levels, the problems in the debtor countries that are hampering the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,⁵⁹

Recommends that:

(a) The organizations of the United Nations system, in their programmes for the improvement of the status of women, take account of the problems facing women in the debtor countries of Latin America and the Caribbean;

(b) Documentation on priority themes of the Commission on the Status of Women prepared by the Secretary-General for submission to the Commission identify the differences between the various national and regional situations and highlight the specific problems affecting women in the context of the economic crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(c) In his report on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, to be submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-fourth session, the Secretary-General pay special attention to the obstacles originating in the economic stagnation caused, *inter alia*, by the burden of the external debt;

(d) The recommendations put forward by the Commission on the Status of Women for future action at the national and international levels include an appeal to the appropriate parties in the debtor and creditor countries to create better conditions for the effective implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies.

*15th plenary meeting
24 May 1989*

1989/43. International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1988/31 of 26 May 1988,

Having considered the report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its ninth session,⁷⁵

Convinced of the importance of research, training and information, the three main functions of the Institute, in questions relating to women and development, for bringing about mainstream developmental changes benefiting women and society,

Welcoming the fact that the Institute has intensified its training activities and is elaborating training methodologies, materials and programmes for defined target groups,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its ninth session⁷⁵ and the decisions contained therein;

2. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the fact that networking, the mode of operation of the Institute, has been strengthened by such activities as the consultative meeting between the regional commissions and the Institute, which contributed to programme development;

3. *Recommends* that the Institute give priority to co-operation with the regional commissions, other United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies in future programming of joint activities;

4. *Notes with interest* the International Consultative Meeting on Communications for Women in Development organized by the Institute in co-operation with other organizations of the United Nations system, and endorses the recommendation of the Board that the report of the meeting be circulated widely;

5. *Affirms* that the role of the Institute in the implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development, which places emphasis on analysis of the interrelationship of factors affecting women and development, is important for the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;⁵⁹

6. *Notes* that in 1990 the Institute will observe the tenth anniversary of its establishment;

7. *Renews its appeal* to Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other potential donors to contribute, to the extent possible, to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women;

8. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Governments and organizations that have contributed to the Trust Fund, thus ensuring the continuity of research, training and information programmes crucial for improved methodological approaches relating to women and development.

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24 May 1989*

⁷⁵E/1989/46. For the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development, referred to in paragraph 143 of the report and in paragraph 5 of the present resolution, see E/1989/16.