

## RESOLUTIONS

### ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION FOR 1990

#### 1990/1. Emergency assistance to Samoa, American Samoa, Niue, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Wallis and Futuna

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Deeply concerned* at the devastation caused to Samoa, American Samoa, Niue, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Wallis and Futuna by cyclone "Ofa" from 2 to 6 February 1990, which resulted in loss of life, destruction of housing and extensive damage to economic and social infrastructure, as well as to agricultural, transport and industrial sectors,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 44/236 of 22 December 1989, by which the Assembly proclaimed the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, beginning on 1 January 1990,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 43/189 of 20 December 1988 on specific measures in favour of island developing countries,

*Recalling further* that Samoa and Tuvalu have been designated by the General Assembly as least developed countries,

*Conscious* of the efforts of the Governments concerned and of the peoples of Samoa, American Samoa, Niue, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Wallis and Futuna to save lives and alleviate the sufferings of the victims of cyclone "Ofa",

*Noting* the enormous effort that will be required to alleviate the grave situation caused by this natural disaster,

*Conscious* of the prompt response being made by Governments, the bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, international and regional agencies, non-governmental organizations and private individuals to provide relief to the affected countries and territories,

*Recognizing* that the magnitude of the disaster and its medium-term and long-term effects will require, as a

complement to the efforts being made by the Governments concerned and the peoples of the affected countries and territories, a demonstration of international solidarity and humanitarian concern to ensure broad multilateral co-operation in meeting the immediate emergency situation in the affected areas and to initiate the process of reconstruction,

1. *Expresses its solidarity and support* to the Governments concerned and the peoples of Samoa, American Samoa, Niue, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Wallis and Futuna;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to all members of the international community, international agencies and non-governmental organizations that are providing emergency relief to the affected countries and territories;

3. *Urges* all members of the international community to contribute generously to the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in the affected countries and territories;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the international financial institutions and the bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, to assist the Governments of the affected countries and territories in identifying the medium-term and long-term needs and in mobilizing resources, and to help with the task of reconstruction of the affected countries and territories being undertaken by their respective Governments;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1990, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*4th plenary meeting  
9 February 1990*

### FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF 1990

#### 1990/2. Revival of the ancient Library of Alexandria

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Bearing in mind* Articles 13, 55 and 57 of the Charter of the United Nations concerning the promotion of international co-operation in cultural and educational fields,

*Affirming* the vital importance of preserving the cultural heritage of societies,

*Aware* of the four main objectives of the World Decade for Cultural Development set out in General Assembly resolution 41/187 of 8 December 1986,

*Welcoming* the progress made by Member States and by international, regional, governmental and non-governmental organizations towards the development of activities within the framework of the Decade,

*Taking note* of the Aswan Declaration,<sup>1</sup> regarding the project undertaken by the Government of Egypt aimed at the revival of the ancient Library of Alexandria,

1. *Welcomes* the goals of the project, which are outlined in the Aswan Declaration;

<sup>1</sup> A/45/169-E/1990/45, annex.



2. *Expresses its deep appreciation* for the valuable support provided by the organs and organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Development Programme, as well as by donor countries, for the efforts of the Government of Egypt aimed at the revival of the historical heritage of the Library of Alexandria, which, owing to its multidisciplinary and international character, will serve Egypt as well as the world at large;

3. *Invites* the international community to continue to lend support for the efforts of the Government of Egypt to fulfil the various goals set out in the Aswan Declaration.

*9th plenary meeting  
11 May 1990*

**1990/3. Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,<sup>2</sup> in particular paragraphs 306, 315, 356 and 358, in which importance is attached to the appointment of women in the Secretariat at senior decision-making and managerial levels,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolutions 43/101 and 43/103 of 8 December 1988, 43/224 C and 43/226 of 21 December 1988, 44/75 of 8 December 1989 and 44/185 C of 19 December 1989, Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/29 of 24 May 1989 and other related resolutions and decisions and their relevant provisions,

*Recalling further* the report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat,<sup>3</sup>

*Noting* that the Steering Committee for the Improvement of the Status of Women in the Secretariat has resumed its mandated monitoring role,

*Noting also* the oral report made before the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-fourth session by the officer designated as the focal point for women in the Office of Human Resources Management of the Secretariat,<sup>4</sup> and noting with appreciation the measures taken by the Secretary-General to reach the goal of an overall participation rate for women of 30 per cent of the total by 1990, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 40/258 B, paragraph 3, of 18 December 1985,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the measures necessary to increase the number of women employed throughout the United Nations system in posts subject to geographical distribution, and to make a special effort to increase the number of women in senior policy-level and decision-making posts, in order to achieve an overall participation rate of 35 per cent of

<sup>2</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>3</sup> A/C.5/44/17.

<sup>4</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement No. 5 (E/1990/25)*, para. 6.

the total by 1995, without prejudice to the principle of equitable geographical distribution of posts;

2. *Requests* that Member States continue to support the efforts of the United Nations and its specialized agencies to increase the percentage of women in the Professional category and above, *inter alia*, by nominating more women candidates, especially for senior policy-level and decision-making posts, by encouraging women to apply for vacant posts and by creating national rosters of women candidates to be shared with the Secretariat and the governing bodies of the specialized agencies;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the information in his annual report on progress achieved and future strategies to implement action programmes on the status of women in the Secretariat and the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council is considered by the Assembly under the item concerning the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make available to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-fifth session the annual report referred to in paragraph 3 above, together with an update of the information contained therein.

*13th plenary meeting  
24 May 1990*

**1990/4. Equality in political participation and decision-making**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,<sup>2</sup> in particular paragraphs 86 to 92 thereof,

*Recalling also* the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>5</sup> in particular paragraph 7 thereof,

*Noting* the recommendation made by the Expert Group on Equality in Political Participation and Decision-making, held at Vienna from 18 to 22 September 1989, that the advancement of women should be considered a priority in national decision-making and that women should be full partners in those decisions,<sup>6</sup>

*Gravely concerned* that on average women represent a very low proportion of decision makers in all regions,

*Gravely concerned also* about the findings in the report of the Secretary-General concerning the low number of women throughout the United Nations system, particularly in senior policy-level and decision-making posts,<sup>7</sup>

*Bearing in mind* that key decisions in society are taken in a large number of bodies, such as Governments, parliaments, public boards and committees, trade and industry boards, trade unions and other organizations,

*Also bearing in mind* that women constitute approximately half the world's population and must participate

<sup>5</sup> General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

<sup>6</sup> See E/CN.6/1990/2 and Corr.1, annex.

<sup>7</sup> See E/CN.6/1990/2 and Corr.1, sect. C.