

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,² 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,³

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,⁴ 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

² *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.

³ A/C.5/44/17.

⁴ 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,² in particular paragraphs 86 to 92 thereof,

Recalling also the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁵ 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,⁶

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,⁷

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

⁵ General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

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

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