

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.

on an equal footing with men in national decision-making and in the construction of their countries,

Considering that decisions taken in society, if they are to reflect universal views, need to be based on the experience of women as well as men,

Also considering that women at all levels of society should be aware of the importance of political and other decisions to their everyday life and the potential impact of their participation in those decisions,

Aware of the need to create more flexible structures in decision-making and open practices in recruiting processes,

Noting the importance of the contribution of women's organizations and other non-governmental organizations to the work of increasing women's participation in decision-making at all levels of society,

Affirming that increasing the number of women in decision-making, in Member States as well as in the organizations of the United Nations system, is of paramount importance for the fulfilment and implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies,

1. *Welcomes* the recommendations of the Expert Group on Equality in Political Participation and Decision-making;

2. *Urges* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to ensure strict implementation of the Convention and to facilitate the wide publication of its provisions;

3. *Urges* Governments to increase their efforts to make women full partners in national decision-making;

4. *Recommends* that, in order to accelerate the pace of progress towards the full participation of women in national decision-making, Governments introduce the following measures:

(a) The regular compilation and dissemination of gender-specific data on the composition of relevant bodies at various levels of national decision-making, including central and regional levels;

(b) The design of programmes and campaigns to inform women of their legal political rights, including the introduction of temporary positive action measures and the facilitation of the training of women for leadership and participation in political organizations and trade unions;

(c) The review of educational material with the aim of removing gender bias;

(d) The facilitation of research on women's opportunities to exert influence and on structural and other obstacles to women's participation in decision-making;

(e) The setting of concrete targets for the number of women in bodies whose composition is the responsibility of the Government;

5. *Urges* political organizations, trade unions and other relevant bodies to take appropriate measures to increase substantially the number of women who participate in decision-making in their organizations;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as part of the regular work for the advancement of women carried out by the Organization, to disseminate on a regular basis

information on the composition of the highest decision-making bodies at the national, regional and international levels, disaggregated by sex, to assist national machinery for the advancement of women in developing similar information at the central, regional and local levels, and to promote the exchange of experience between national machinery;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General urgently to intensify his efforts to increase the number of women employees throughout the United Nations system, particularly in senior policy-level and decision-making posts.

*13th plenary meeting
24 May 1990*

1990/5. Physical violence against detained women that is specific to their sex

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting with grave concern the continuing pattern of physical violence against women, cases of rape, sexual abuse and other instances of violent treatment while detained, to which the Commission on the Status of Women drew attention at its thirty-fourth session,

Considering that women are especially vulnerable to sexual violence,

Recalling its resolutions 76 (V) of 5 August 1947, 304 I (XI) of 14 and 17 July 1950, 1984/19 of 24 May 1984 and 1986/29 of 23 May 1986,

Recalling also its resolutions 1980/39 of 2 May 1980 and 1983/27 of 26 May 1983, by which it reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission to consider communications relating to the status of women, including the replies of Governments thereon, if any, and to draw to the attention of the Council emerging trends and patterns so that the Council might decide what action to take,

1. *Calls upon* all Member States that have not yet done so to take appropriate measures urgently, as necessary, to eradicate acts of physical violence against detained women;

2. *Invites* Member States that have not yet done so to submit to the Secretary-General a report on legislative and other measures they have taken, as applicable, to prevent physical violence against detained women that is specific to their sex, so as to enable him to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-sixth session, in 1992;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Commission at its thirty-sixth session prepared on the basis of reports received from Member States;

4. *Requests* the Commission to continue to consider communications relating to the status of women and to make recommendations thereon to the Council, if necessary.

*13th plenary meeting
24 May 1990*