

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*