In July 1985, the end of the United Nations Decade for Women (1975-1985) was marked by a World Conference at Nairobi, Kenya. Following a review of the activities of the previous 10 years in implementing the World Plan of Action and the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the Women’s Decade, the deliberations of the Conference culminated in the adoption of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women—a set of measures to overcome the obstacles to the Decade’s goals and objectives of equality, development and peace during the remainder of the century. In December, the General Assembly endorsed the Forward-looking Strategies and affirmed that their implementation should result in eliminating inequality between women and men and in integrating women into the development process (resolution 40/108). The Assembly also expressed its appreciation to the Government and people of Kenya for hosting the World Conference (40/107).

The Commission on the Status of Women held its third session as the preparatory body for the Conference (Vienna, 4-13 March), made recommendations on preparations and considered the rules of procedure and other organizational aspects of the Conference. Pursuant to a decision by the Assembly at its resumed session in April (decision 39/459), the Commission met again in New York from 19 April to 7 May to complete its work. In May, the Economic and Social Council authorized its Bureau to assist delegations to resolve outstanding issues relating to the Conference’s rules of procedure (1985/158) and, on 20 June, transmitted to the Conference its recommendations on two outstanding rules (1985/164).

A major document before the Conference was the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, which gave an overview of the interrelations between key developmental issues concerning the role of women in relation to agriculture, industry, money and finance, science and technology, trade, energy, and self-reliance and the integration of women in development. Having taken note of the Survey, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to update it on a regular basis, with the first update to be submitted to the Assembly in 1989 (resolution 40/204). With regard to women in rural areas, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report on their current status and perspectives for improving their situation and submit it to its 1989 session (40/106). A report by the Secretary-General reviewing the situation of women and development in the medium-term plans of United Nations organizations was submitted to the Economic and Social Council in May 1985. The Council requested the Secretary-General to formulate a system-wide medium-term plan on women and development, taking into account the recommendations of the Nairobi Conference, and requested the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) to undertake in 1989 a cross-organizational programme analysis (COPA) of activities and resources for the advancement of women (resolution 1985/46).

In 1985, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, formerly the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, became a separate entity in autonomous association with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It continued to assist grass-roots initiatives, particularly those of women’s and community groups at local levels and, by December 1985, had funded 473 projects valued at more than $30 million. Governments were urged by the Assembly to increase their contributions to the Fund (resolution 40/104).

The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) continued to undertake research and establish training programmes for the integration and mobilization of women in development. Its Board of Trustees held its fifth session at Havana, Cuba, from 28 January to 1 February. In May, the Economic and Social Council appealed to Governments and other potential donors to contribute to the INSTRAW Trust Fund in view of the increasing importance of research and training for women’s participation in the development process (resolution 1985/45). The General Assembly reiterated in November the call for contributions and requested INSTRAW to strengthen its research and training activities, especially those in statistics, indicators and data relevant to women, and to emphasize innovative methodological approaches related to women and development in its programmes (resolution 40/38). In April, the Assembly endorsed INSTRAW’s statute, as approved by the Economic and Social Council in 1984 (resolution 39/249).

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), at its
fourth session (Vienna, 21 January-1 February), considered initial reports of live States parties on their implementation of the Convention. The Economic and Social Council in May (resolution 1985/18) and the General Assembly in December (resolution 40/39) emphasized the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties with their obligations under the Convention and urged them to submit their initial reports in accordance with the Convention.

In May, the Economic and Social Council urged all Governments participating in the 1985 World Conference on Women to incorporate into the Forward-looking Strategies aspects of the 1984 Mexico City Declaration on Population and Development and those recommendations of the 1984 World Population Plan of Action relating to the status and role of women in the context of population (resolution 1985/6).

In other action in December, the General Assembly: appealed to Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to recognize the importance of the role of women in society—as mothers, as participants in economic development and in public life (resolution 40/101); pledged its determination to encourage participation of women in the economic, social, cultural, civil and political affairs of society and in the endeavour to promote international peace and co-operation (40/102); and invited the Economic and Social Council to consider the question of the suppression of traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others (40/103).


*Conference on the Decade for Women*

The World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, was held at Nairobi, Kenya, from 15 to 26 July. The Conference assessed progress made towards improving the situation of women during the Decade (1975-1985) which was proclaimed by the General Assembly in 1975-International Women’s Year. The Conference was preceded on 13 and 14 July by consultations, open to all Conference participants, on procedural and organizational matters, while activities in preparation for the Conference were organized earlier in 1985 throughout the United Nations system (see below).

Convened 10 years after the International Women’s Year, the Nairobi meeting was the third international conference on the status of women sponsored by the United Nations. The first, the World Conference of the International Women’s Year, met at Mexico City in 1975; the second, the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, was held at mid-Decade in 1980 at Copenhagen, Denmark. The Conference was attended by representatives of 157 States, as well as by representatives of the Secretariat, regional commissions, other United Nations organizations and programmes and eight specialized agencies. Also represented were 17 intergovernmental organizations and a large number of NGOs. Four national liberation movements attended as or were represented by observers: the African National Congress of South Africa, the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania and the South West Africa People’s Organization. The United Nations Council for Namibia and the Special Committee against Apartheid were also represented.

At its first meeting, on 15 July, the Conference elected as its President Margaret Kenyatta (Kenya), and, at its second meeting, elected a Rapporteur-General and 30 Vice-Presidents. (For Conference participants and officers, see APPENDIX III.) Addressing the Conference’s inaugural ceremony, the United Nations Secretary-General said that the positive trends of the Decade were encouraging. However, efforts to ensure equality of women’s rights with those of men must not flag. He was confident that the international community would respond to the challenges of the promotion of peace, the fostering of economic and social development and the universal observance of human rights, but stressed that, without the full partnership of women and men, goals would remain elusive.

The ceremony was also addressed by the President of Kenya, who stated that the success of the Conference would depend crucially on the will of Governments to implement its recommendations, but the onus remained on women to unite and take full advantage of the opportunities created.

On 26 July, the Conference adopted by consensus the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. Following adoption of the Strategies, statements in explanation of vote on paragraphs or expressing reservations were made or submitted by Albania, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Holy See, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Luxembourg (on behalf of the European Community, Portugal
and Spain), Malaysia, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States and Uruguay.

The Strategies comprised 372 paragraphs organized into five chapters. The introduction described the historical background of the Conference and analysed economic, social and political factors and trends expected to have a bearing on the advancement of women over the next 15 years. It stated that the measures proposed were designed for immediate action, with monitoring and evaluation every five years. Each country would have the option to set its own priorities, based on its own development policies and resource capacities. The mode of implementation would vary according to each country’s political process and administrative capabilities.

The next three chapters approached the themes of the Decade: equality, development and peace—in terms of obstacles encountered in efforts to reach those objectives, basic strategies for overcoming the obstacles, and steps to be taken at the national level to put the strategies into effect. Measures for implementing the basic strategies for equality at the national level were recommended in the following areas: constitutional and legal steps; equality in social participation; and equality in political participation and decision-making. Specific measures with regard to development were recommended in the fields of: employment; health; education; food, water and agriculture; industry; trade and commercial services; science and technology; communications; housing, settlement, community development and transport; energy; environment; and social services. The chapter on strategies for peace made particular reference to women and children under apartheid, Palestinian women and children, and women in areas affected by armed conflicts, foreign intervention and threats to peace. National measures with regard to peace were recommended under the headings of women’s participation in efforts for peace and education for peace.

The fourth chapter, which dealt with areas of special concern, addressed: the situation of women in areas affected by drought; urban poor women; elderly women; young women; abused women; destitute women; women victims of trafficking and involuntary prostitution; women deprived of traditional means of livelihood; women as sole supporters of families; physically and mentally disabled women; women in detention and subject to penal law; refugee and displaced women and children; migrant women; and minority and indigenous women.

The final chapter recommended measures of international and regional co-operation to advance the status of women in such areas as monitoring the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies; technical co-operation, training and advisory services; institutional co-ordination; research and policy analysis; participation of women in activities at the international and regional levels and in decision-making; and information dissemination.

In other action, the Conference adopted a resolution expressing its gratitude to the host country and deciding that the Conference’s final documents would be known as “The Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women”.

On 26 July, the Conference decided that the texts of 85 draft resolutions and a draft declaration on which it had not taken any action owing to lack of time would be reproduced in an annex to its report and brought to the attention of the General Assembly for consideration and action as appropriate.

The role of women in development was the subject of the majority of the resolutions: women and development priorities; future perspectives and equal opportunities; principles and priorities of women in development; Governments’ responsibilities for the advancement of women; contribution to food security; women and industrialization; women, population and development; participation in restructuring international economic relations; women and new technologies; implementation and evaluation of the Decade’s objectives; a programme to the year 2000; integration in development projects; strengthening women’s machineries at all levels to ensure implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies; and establishment and support of national and regional bodies for women’s development.

Several drafts dealt with women’s contribution to peace: the role of women in preparing societies for life in peace; women and peace; increased participation in United Nations activities in peace, disarmament and arms limitation; contribution to realizing the right of people to peace; women’s role in promoting peace and international co-operation for the removal of obstacles to peace and social progress; and disarmament, development and women.

Others considered the situation of women in areas of conflict: assistance to refugees from Afghanistan; women and children living in armed conflict zones; assistance to Sahrawi women; obstacles preventing women from realizing the aims of the Decade due to the Iran-Iraq conflict; obstacles preventing Syrian women in the occupied Golan Heights from realizing the aims of the Decade; Chadian women and children living in armed conflict areas; Palestinian women and children; global concerns for peace and the plight of women; Namibia; refugee and displaced women; apartheid, and front-line States.
A number of resolutions addressed questions of health: health and well-being (2); the health and well-being of women in the South Pacific; immunization; maternal mortality; collaboration with NGOs in health; improvement of the condition of physically and mentally disabled women; and improvement of the condition of those who have a person with a disability in their family.

The social advancement of women was dealt with in resolutions concerning: the right to education; women’s role in society; education, training and job promotion; the family code; educational perspectives for the year 2000; improving conditions of work and life; international human rights; and improved conditions and opportunities. Environmental concerns were the focus of three resolutions: women and the environment; women and water; and drought and desertification in Africa.

Other resolutions concerned: assistance from NGOs to women and children, particularly in drought-stricken countries; elimination of discrimination; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; the fortieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War; promotion of breast-feeding; women in island developing countries; the effects of the external debt of developing countries on women; commercial publicity harmful to dignity; classification in census documents; women and shelter; unemployment; genetic technology; sexual violence against women and children; domestic violence against women; Latin American and Caribbean women and the critical situation; a reporting system on the advancement of women; establishing a system of data and information networks; women and aging; participation of men in reaching the Decade’s objectives; migrant women; indigenous women; improving the situation of women in rural areas; technical assistance for women in rural and marginal urban areas; international kidnapping of children; a world conference on women in the year 2000; strengthening the Commission on the Status of Women; the United Nations Development Fund for Women; INSTRAW; the International Centre for Public Enterprises in Developing Countries; and women in the United Nations; and strengthening coordination and implementation of activities for advancement within the United Nations system.

By the draft declaration on which no action was taken, the World Conference would have declared that the objectives of the Decade remained valid and would have called on States to implement them with a view to eradicating all forms of discrimination against women. States and international organizations would have been urged to adopt special measures to overcome developing countries’ economic and social problems and the United Nations system would have been urged to give greater attention to developing countries, especially the least developed countries (LDCs), and mobilize resources to assist them in dealing with the crisis and its ramifications. The Conference would have appealed to States to channel relief and rehabilitation assistance to drought-affected African countries and called on States to continue integrating women fully in development processes, reaffirming that strengthening international peace, security and co-operation were the most important prerequisites for ensuring socioeconomic progress and equal rights for women. The Conference would have declared that only the total eradication of apartheid could lead to a just and lasting solution of the explosive situation in South Africa. It would have strongly condemned Israel for oppression and repression of the Palestinians and called on the international community to ensure their inalienable rights. Governments would have been urged to implement the Forward-looking Strategies, the United Nations system would have been called on to draw up programmes to implement them and the Secretary-General would have been asked to submit proposals to implement them. The Conference would have recommended that the 1985 General Assembly declare that the period to the year 2000 be dedicated to women for the advancement of the goals of equality, development and peace.

Basic documents submitted to the Conference included the report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of progress achieved and obstacles encountered at that level in the realization of the goals and objectives of the Decade. In addition to outlining key issues and constraints at the national level in improving the situation of women, the report summarized replies from 107 Governments to a United Nations questionnaire on general trends in equality, development and peace, the first part of which dealt with national development plans and policies, national machinery and programmes, legislation, political participation, international co-operation and strengthening international peace, and technical co-operation; the second part analysed development in sectoral areas.

Other documents included the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development (see below, under “Women and development”), the Secretary-General’s reports on the situation of women and children living in the occupied Arab territories and other occupied territories (see below, under “Palestinian women”), on a review and appraisal of the situation of women and children living under racist minority regimes (see below, under “Women under apartheid”), on a review and appraisal of progress achieved and obstacles encountered at the regional and international levels.
by the United Nations system in attaining the goals and objectives of the Decade for Women (9) (see below, under “Women in the UN Secretariat”), on recommendations of regional intergovernmental preparatory meetings, (10) on the activities and programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on behalf of refugee women (11) (see below, under “Refugee women”), on NGO participation in the Decade, (12) as well as a report (13) of CEDAW on the achievements of and obstacles encountered by States parties in implementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (14) (see below, under “Convention on Discrimination against Women”).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 13 December, on the recommendation of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee, the General Assembly adopted resolution 40/108 without vote.

Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3520(XXX) of 15 December 1975, in which it proclaimed the period from 1976 to 1985 the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

Bearing in mind the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which was adopted on 18 December 1979 and which came into force on 3 September 1981,

Recalling also the principles and objectives set forth in the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975, the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women’s Year and the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women,

Bearing in mind also its resolutions 3201(S-VI) and 3202(S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281(XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, 3362(S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation and 2542(XXIV) of 11 December 1969 proclaiming the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,

Bearing in mind further the consensus achieved in the text of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980, in particular regarding the implementation of the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women within the framework of the Strategy,

Recalling also its resolution 37/63 of 3 December 1982, by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace and Co-operation,

Recalling further its resolution 39/29 of 8 December 1984 on the critical economic situation in Africa,

Recalling its resolution 35/136 of 11 December 1980, in which it decided to convene in 1985, at the conclusion of the Decade, a World Conference: to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women,

Conscious of the considerable and constructive contribution made by the Commission on the Status of Women acting as preparatory body for the Conference, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and other organizations of the United Nations system, Member States and non-governmental organizations in the preparations for the Conference,

Aware of the continued contribution made by the Non-Governmental Organizations Forum to the advancement of women,

Convinced that the full integration of women in all aspects of political, economic and social life, at the international, regional and national levels, is essential if the obstacles to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Decade are to be overcome,

Having considered the report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

Convinced that the Conference, by adopting the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, has made an important and positive contribution to the attainment of the objectives of the Decade and provided a policy framework for advancing the status of women to the year 2000,

Further convinced that the Conference has made an important and constructive contribution by appraising the progress achieved and obstacles encountered in the implementation of the objectives of the Decade and by preparing and adopting strategies to advance the status of women for the next fifteen years,

Stressing that during the period 1986-2000 the primary responsibility for implementing the Forward-looking Strategies rests with individual countries, as they are intended to serve as guidelines for a process of continuous adaptation to diverse and changing situations at speeds and in modes determined by overall national priorities, within which the integration of women in development should rank high,

Reaffirming that the realization of equal rights for women at all levels and in all areas of life will contribute to the achievement of a just and lasting peace, to social progress and to respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and that the integration of women in the mainstream of the development process requires not only commitment at the national, regional and international levels, but also continuing financial and technical support, and also requires the establishment of the new international economic order,

Considering that the Forward-looking Strategies should immediately be translated into concrete action by Governments, as determined by overall national priorities, by to organizations of the United Nations system, specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including women’s organizations,

Persuaded of the importance of taking measures to ensure system-wide co-ordination within the United Nations in order to develop a comprehensive and integrated approach to the issues which are crucial to the advancement of women,

2. Endorses the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;

3. Affirms that the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies should result in the elimination of all forms of inequality between women and men and in the complete integration of women into the development process and that that should guarantee broad participation by women in efforts to strengthen peace and security in the world;

4. Declares that the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, with the subtheme “Employment, Health and Education”, 5. Calls upon Governments to allocate adequate resources and to take effective appropriate measures to implement the Forward-looking Strategies as a matter of high priority, including the establishment or reinforcement, as appropriate, of national machinery to promote the advancement of women, and to monitor the implementation of these strategies with a view to ensuring the full integration of women in the political, economic, social and cultural life of their countries;

6. Calls upon all Governments of Member States to appoint women to decision-making positions, bearing in mind their contribution to national development;

7. Invites Governments, when preparing and evaluating national plans and programmes of action, to incorporate measurable targets for overcoming obstacles to the advancement of women and to include measures for the involvement of women in development, both as agents and beneficiaries, on an equal basis with men, and to review the impact of development policies and programmes on women;

8. Invites governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to give high priority to the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies and, in particular, to ensure that sectoral policies and programmes for development include strategies to promote the participation of women as agents and beneficiaries on an equal basis with men;

9. Urges all Governments to contribute to the strengthening of institutional co-ordination in their regions and subregions in order to establish collaborative arrangements and to develop approaches for the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies at those levels;

10. Urges all organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions and all specialized agencies, to take the necessary measures to ensure a concerted and sustained effort for the implementation of the provisions of the Forward-looking Strategies with a view to achieving a substantial improvement in the status of women by the year 2000 and to ensure that all projects and programmes take into account the need for the complete integration of women and women’s concerns;

11. Requests the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations system to establish, where they do not already exist, focal points on women’s issues in all sectors of the work of the organizations of the United Nations system;

12. Urges the Administrative Committee on Coordination to review periodically the system-wide implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies and to hold regular inter-agency meetings on women within the framework of the Administrative Committee on Coordination;

13. Emphasizes the central role of the Commission on the Status of Women in matters related to the advancement of the status of women and calls upon it to promote the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies to the year 2000 based on the goals of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, and the subtheme “Employment, Health and Education”, and urges all organizations of the United Nations system to co-operate with the Commission in this task;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Commission on the Status of Women receives the support services it requires to fulfil its central role effectively;

15. Also requests the Secretary-General to invite Governments, organizations of the United Nations system, including regional commissions and specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to report periodically through the Commission on the Status of Women to the Economic and Social Council on the activities undertaken at all levels to implement the Forward-looking Strategies;

16. Further requests the Secretary-General, in preparing the note on the integrated reporting system for periodic review and appraisal of progress in the advancement of women for submission to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-first session, as called for in Economic and Social Council decision 1984/123 of 24 May 1984, to include proposals for a reporting system to facilitate the monitoring of the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies as set out in paragraph 15 above, taking into account the experience gained during the Decade, the views of Governments and the need not to duplicate existing reporting obligations, bearing in mind the need to carry out periodical in-depth sectoral reviews of progress achieved and obstacles encountered in implementing the Forward-looking Strategies to the year 2000;

17. Recommends that the Secretary-General prepare and present to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-first session, bearing in mind the remarks and concrete recommendations made during the debate at the fortieth session, in particular the proposals about increasing the number of members and the frequency of meetings of the Commission, a report on alternative measures to strengthen the Commission in the discharge of its functions following the United Nations Decade for Women, and also recommends that the recommendations of the Commission on the matter be reported to the General Assembly at its forty-first session through the Economic and Social Council;

18. Reaffirms the role of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, in particular the Branch for the Advancement of Women, as the substantive secretariat of the Commission and as a focal point for matters on women, and requests the Secretariat to collect and disseminate information on system-wide activities related to the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies;

19. Takes note with satisfaction of the appointment of the Co-ordinator for the Improvement of the Status of Women in the Secretariat of the United Nations, in
accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/245 of 18 December 1984, and, in this context, of the fact that the Secretary-General should continue to plan and implement positive actions and programmes to improve the status of women in the Secretariat and to monitor the progress achieved;

20. Calls upon the Secretary-General and the heads of the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies to establish new five-year targets at each level for the percentage of women in Professional and decision-making positions, in accordance with the criteria established by the General Assembly, in particular that of equitable geographical distribution, in order that a definite upward trend in the application of Assembly resolution 33/143 of 20 December 1978 be registered in the number of Professional and decision-making positions held by women by 1990 and to set additional targets every five years;

21. Welcomes Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/46 of 31 May 1985 regarding women and development and, noting the particular importance of paragraph 4 of that resolution, recommends that immediate measures be taken to ensure that future medium-term plans of the United Nations and the specialized agencies should contain intersectoral presentations of the various programmes dealing with issues of concern to women and that revisions of current plans should be considered in the light of the results of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace;

22. Requests the Secretary-General to take into account the requirements of the Forward-looking Strategies in preparing the programme budget and programme of work for the biennium 1988-1989;

23. Urges all financial institutions and all international and subregional organizations, institutions, development banks and general funding agencies to ensure that their policies and programmes promote the full participation of women as agents and beneficiaries in the development process;

24. Invites the Secretary-General to circulate the report of the Conference among Member States, all organizations of the United Nations system and specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in order to ensure that the Forward-looking Strategies are publicized and disseminated as widely as possible, and encourages Governments to translate the Strategies into their national languages;

25. Requests the Secretary-General and the heads of all organizations within the United Nations system and of the specialized agencies to continue to give high priority in their public information programmes to disseminating information concerning women and, in particular, the Forward-looking Strategies and, in the light of the recommendations contained in the Strategies, further requests the Secretary-General to provide in the regular budget for the continuation of the existing weekly radio programmes on women, with adequate provision for distributing them in different languages;

26. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session on measures taken to implement the present resolution;

27. Decides to consider these questions further at its forty-first session under an item entitled “Forward-looking strategies for the advancement of women to the year 2000”.

General Assembly resolution 40/108

13 December 1985 Meeting 116 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/40/1008) without vote. 29 November (meeting 571; draft by Yugoslavia, for Group of 77 (A/C.3/40/L.47Rev.1), orally amended by Australia; agenda item 92 (b).


Meeting numbers: GA 40th session: 3rd Committee 24-34,46,48,55-57; 5th Committee 59; plenary 116.

Australia’s amendment expanded the last phrase in paragraph 25, which had previously requested the Secretary-General “to continue the United Nations weekly radio programmes on women”. The paragraph was then adopted separately in the Third Committee by 134 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions.

Also on 13 December, on the recommendation of the Third Committee, the Assembly adopted resolution 40/107 without vote.


General Assembly resolution 40/107

13 December 1995 Meeting 116 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/40/1008) unanimously. 27 November (meeting 561; 32-nation draft (A/C.3/40/L.29); agenda item 92 (b).

Sponsors: Argentina, Australia, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea, Indonesia, Jordan, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Meeting numbers, GA 40th session: 3rd Committee 24-34,46,48,55-57; plenary 116.

Preparations for the Conference

The Commission on the Status of Women, as the preparatory body for the 1985 World Conference, met in Vienna from 4 to 13 March 1985 for its third session and in New York from 29 April to 7 May in a resumed session. (15)

The Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council that the report (13) of CEDAW on the achievements of and obstacles encountered by States parties in implementing the 1979 Convention (14) be submitted to the Conference and that the Committee’s Chairperson be invited to introduce that report.

It was also recommended that the Council authorize the Secretary-General to accept special contributions to assist representatives of LDCs, Trust
Conference. With regard to documentation, the Commission recommended that the Secretary-General's report (16) on participation of NGOs in and apartheid in South Africa and Namibia, originally submitted to an African regional preparatory meeting, be submitted as a background document.

In other action, the Commission referred a note (18) by the Secretary-General-containing the draft provisional rules of procedure of the World Conference and three of his recommendations (19) on outstanding questions on organizational aspects and other activities related to the Conference-to the Economic and Social Council. It agreed that he would submit to the Conference, through the Council, a proposal (20) by the Group of 77 developing countries for the reformulation of the forward-looking strategies on which there was no consensus, with an explanatory note.

The Commission had before it for review the report of the Secretary-General on the forward-looking strategies and other of his reports which were subsequently submitted to the Conference. Following a General Assembly decision (see below), the Commission resumed its session on 19 April to consider the Conference's rules of procedure and organizational and other questions related to the Conference.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 12 April 1985, during its resumed thirty-ninth session, the General Assembly adopted decision 39/459 without vote.

Preparations for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace

At its 107th plenary meeting, on 12 April 1985, the General Assembly:

(a) Reaffirmed the need to ensure a successful outcome for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, to be held at Nairobi from 15 to 26 July 1985 in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 35/136 of 11 December 1980 and 39/129 of 14 December 1984;

(b) Decided to request the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory body for the Conference to resume its third session in New York for a period of no more than seven days starting from 29 April 1985, in order to complete successfully its preparatory work for the Conference;

(c) Decided to request the Economic and Social Council to consider, with priority, during its first regular session of 1985, the results of the deliberations of the preparatory body.

Preparations for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace

At its 26th plenary meeting, on 31 May 1985, the Council, having examined the reports of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the Preparatory Body for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace at its third and resumed third sessions,

(a) Took note of the reports and expressed its appreciation for the work done by the Preparatory Body;

(b) Endorsed the recommendation contained in paragraph 1 of the report on the third session and recommendations I and II contained in paragraph 1 of the report on the resumed third session;

(c) Decided to invite Mrs. Rosario Manalo, Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the Preparatory Body for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace at its third and resumed third sessions, to hold informal consultations in New York, prior to the Conference, with a view to facilitating, as far as possible, the deliberations at the Conference regarding the forward-looking strategies of implementation for the advancement of women and concrete measures to overcome obstacles to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development, Peace, for the period 1986 to the year 2000, and to make available the results of those consultations to the Conference, as appropriate;

(d) Authorized its Bureau to continue making every effort, through informal consultations, to assist delegations in resolving outstanding issues relating to the provisional rules of procedure for the Conference and to submit the results to the Council at a resumption of its first regular session of 1985, on 20 June 1985.

Adopted without vote

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION


Preparations for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace

On 20 June 1985, the Council adopted without vote decision 1985/164, by which it decided to transmit to the World Conference its recommendations concerning rules 6 and 15 of the provisional rules of procedure. By rule 6, the Conference would elect a President, one Vice-President for Co-ordination, 29 other Vice-Presidents, a Rapporteur-General and a Presiding Officer for each of the main committees. By rule 15, the Conference, at its first
meeting, would elect its officers and constitute its subsidiary organs, adopt its rules of procedure and agenda, and decide on the organization of its work. Recommendations resulting from pre-Conference consultations would, in principle, be acted on without further discussion.

ACC action. An inter-agency meeting on preparations for the Conference (Vienna, 15 March)\(^{(13)}\) recommended that the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters) (CCSQ(PROG)) of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) approve the holding of an inter-agency meeting immediately after the February/March 1986 session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The meeting should consider the Conference’s recommendations and discuss future inter-agency co-operation as follow-up action to the Conference. The meeting also agreed that it would be worth while to hold informal consultations among representatives of the various parts of the United Nations system during the Conference to enhance co-ordination.

CCSQ(PROG) considered the meeting’s report at a session held at Geneva from 1 to 4 April\(^{(22)}\). It endorsed the meeting’s recommendations and agreed that a further such meeting should be held after the Conference to discuss inter-agency co-ordination. It was suggested that use be made of existing inter-agency mechanisms which were already considering the issue of women under their sectoral concerns, such as the Task Force on Rural Development with regard to rural women.

UNEP action. In his introductory report\(^{(23)}\) to the thirteenth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (Nairobi, Kenya, 14-24 May 1985),\(^{(24)}\) the UNEP Executive Director stated that UNEP’s contribution to the 1985 World Conference on women would take into account views expressed by the Governing Council on the role women should play in stimulating environmental protection. He would be addressing the Conference on that role. Several events would be organized by UNEP during the Conference.

In a 23 May decision\(^{(25)}\) the Governing Council, considering that a major burden of the environmental crisis in most developing countries fell on women and that an improvement in their status would bring added emphasis to the environmental cause, endorsed the Executive Director’s proposals concerning UNEP’s role in the Conference.

Conference follow-up

CCSQ(PROG), at a meeting held in New York (10-16 October 1985),\(^{(26)}\) heard an oral report by the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs outlining the results of the World Conference. CCSQ(PROG) decided to consider at a subsequent session the implementation of the Conference’s decisions based on decisions taken by the General Assembly at its 1985 session. It decided to approve the convening of an inter-agency meeting in March 1986 at Vienna, immediately after the session of the Commission on the Status of Women, to consider the follow-up activities to the Conference and discuss the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development.

In resolution 40/164 A, the Assembly urged the Department of Public Information to disseminate in its programmes and information activities the positive results of the Conference.

REFERENCES


PUBLICATION


Women and development

The 1985 World Conference on the Decade for Women took note of the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development.\(^{(1)}\) In accordance with a 1984 General Assembly resolution\(^{(2)}\) the Survey in its final form was also submitted to the 1985 Assembly session.

The Survey comprised eight parts, starting with an overview assessing the role of women in economic development, the benefits accruing to women from development and the effects on them of economic trends. A main generalization emerging from the Survey was that women’s contribution to national production activities had increased steadily since 1950 and was projected to increase further to the year 2000. Their contribution to economic development was underestimated in national and international statistics. In agriculture, active women were sometimes counted as inactive and in industry were involved more often than men in the informal economy, so that neither their work nor their production was fully recorded.
Women were disproportionately active in services because employment in that area responded to supply pressures more than in other sectors of the economy and because household skills could be transferred to services sectors more readily than to industry.

The second main generalization was that women benefited on average less than men from their contribution to national production. In industry, women still belonged largely to the secondary labour force, taking jobs for which men were unavailable or which men were unwilling to take, resulting in lower average hourly wages. In addition, women were protected by social legislation less than men, even in countries with such legislation, and fixed and generally long working hours made it difficult for women's productive and domestic activities to be compatible. In agriculture, men tended to take higher paying jobs requiring technical skills, while women were generally confined to lower-paid manual labour. Also, in the sectors of services, science and technology, financial institutions, insurance, real estate and business, positions held by women and the benefits accruing to them were lower than men's. Women seldom held decision-making positions in any of those sectors or in the institutions that determined national policies affecting them.

The next six parts dealt with women's roles in agriculture, industrial development, money and finance, science and technology, trade, and the development, use and conservation of energy resources. Finally, the concept of self-reliance and the integration of women into development was discussed.

Pursuant to the 1984 Assembly resolution (2) on the World Survey, the Secretary-General submitted to the 1985 session a note (3) summarizing comments made on the Survey at the World Conference. It had been widely felt among delegations that the three goals of the Decade - equality, development and peace - were greatly interrelated and that the integration of women into development would have been greatly accelerated by favourable international economic and political relations. Although there was a broad consensus that during the Decade, and partly as a result of it, there had been much progress, it was felt that much remained to be done to take advantage of women's potential.

By a 3 June letter (4), India forwarded to the Secretary-General the report of the Ministerial Conference of Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries on the Role of Women in Development (New Delhi, 10 and 11 April 1985) and requested that it be circulated to the General Assembly.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 17 December, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee, the General Assembly adopted without vote resolution 40/204.

Effective mobilization and integration of women in development

The General Assembly,

Taking note with appreciation of the world survey on the role of women in development,

Recognising that although the survey was submitted to the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, it has yet to receive the detailed attention it deserves,

Noting with satisfaction the adoption by the Conference of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, which constitute an important and positive contribution to the attainment of the objectives of the Decade and provide a policy framework for the advancement of women to the year 2000,

1. Invites the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-first session to make specific action-oriented recommendations based on the world survey on the role of women in development as a part of the overall implementation of and follow-up to the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, which should be for action at the national and international levels, including co-operation among developing countries, within an economic context, and should address sectoral and cross-sectoral problems identified in the survey, and requests that the report of the Commission be made available, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1986, to the General Assembly at its forty-second session under the sub-item entitled "Effective mobilization and integration of women in economic development";

2. Requests the Secretary-General to take those recommendations into account when formulating the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development and to invite the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Training and Research Institute for the Advancement of Women, to take into account the implications of the world survey when preparing their contributions to that plan;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to update the survey on the role of women in development on a regular basis, focusing on selected emerging development issues that have an impact on the role of women in the economy at the local, national, regional and international levels;

4. Decides that the first update of the survey should be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, in 1989;

5. Invites the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-first session to make a recommendation on future updates of the survey after 1989, bearing in mind the need for effective co-ordination with the follow-up activities of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace;

6. Also invites the Commission on the Status of Women to suggest terms of reference for the first update of the survey, which should contain improved data and information on the role of women in development, including, inter alia, their role in the informal sector of the economy;
7. Urges the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to contribute to the preparation of the first update of the survey;
8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its forty-second session, a progress report on the preparation of the first regular update of the survey, including preliminary views on its scope and content, so that the Commission on the Status of Women, at its thirty-second session, can take that report into account, together with the comments on the subject made by delegations in the General Assembly;
9. Also requests the Secretary-General to utilize the input provided by the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-second session and by the Economic and Social Council in 1988 for the preparation of the first update of the survey.

General Assembly resolution 40/204
17 December 1985  Meeting 119  Adopted without vote
Approved by Second Committee (A/40/989/Add.9) without vote. 25 November (meeting 43); draft by Vice-Chairman (A/C.2/40/L.71). based on informal consultations on draft by Algeria, Australia Bangladesh, Canada, Congo, Denmark, Finland, France, Gambia, Iceland, Jamaica, Kenya, Morocco, Netherlands, Niger, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Sweden (A/C.2/40/L.23/Rev.1); agenda item 84 (i).
Financial implications. SG, A/C.2/40/L.42.
Meeting numbers. GA 40th session: 2nd Committee 24, 43; plenary 119.

By decision 40/442 of 17 December 1985, the General Assembly took note of the Secretary-General’s note(3) on the World Survey. The decision was adopted without vote, as it had been in the Second Committee on 25 November, on an oral proposal by the Chairman.

During the mid-term global review of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, several conclusions and recommendations were made by the Intergovernmental Group on LDCs of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) regarding the position of women in those countries (see p. 434). Those findings were endorsed by the General Assembly when it adopted resolution 40/205.

UNIDO action. At its May 1985 session, the Industrial Development Board (IDB) of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) (see Chapter VI of this section), adopted a conclusion on the integration of women in industrial development. The Board thereby stressed the need for further progress in designing training programmes to increase the managerial competence of women in industry and the need to encourage national and regional training institutions to conduct such programmes. It also stressed the need for guidelines to ensure that the integration of women would be considered in designing, implementing and evaluating technical co-operation activities and in the studies programme, and requested a secretariat report on action in that regard. The Board stressed the need for intensified efforts to recruit more women to Professional posts, particularly at the policy, planning and decision-making level, and the importance of the Focal Point for the Integration of Women in Industrial Development within the Office of the Director, Division of Policy Coordination, as a means of collecting, analysing and disseminating information on women’s participation in different industrial sectors, both within and outside UNIDO. It noted with satisfaction the introduction in the proposed 1986-1987 budget of a programme element on integrating women in industrial development and expressed the hope that adequate staff and other resources would be made available.

During the second part of its first regular session (Vienna, 9-13 December 1985), the UNIDO General Conference adopted a decision(6) on the integration of women in industrial development. It took note of the Economic and Social Council recommendations on women and development (see below) and of the results of the World Conference as reflected in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, which contained sections on industry and science and technology. It considered that, in implementing UNIDO’s programme and budget for 1986-1987, account should be taken of the results of the World Conference as related to industrialization. The General Conference reaffirmed the content of its (1984) Fourth General Conference resolution(7) and IDB’s 1985 conclusion on the subject, stressed UNIDO’s essential role in both rural and urban areas in implementing the Nairobi Strategies as related to industrialization, and emphasized the importance of the UNIDO Focal Point in implementing the Strategies. The UNIDO Director-General was urged to ensure that: UNIDO pre-investment study programmes paid greater attention to the social, cultural and economic costs and benefits that investment projects had on the role of women in national economies; industrial research and study activities included socio-economic and human resource factors and paid greater attention to training, research and data collection; and headquarters and field staff were fully aware of and took into account the important role of women in industrial development. He was requested to implement United Nations decisions regarding employment of women in the United Nations system at all levels in the Professional categories.

UNDP action. By a March 1985 note,(8) the UNDP Administrator submitted a summary report of the interorganizational assessment of women’s participation in development to the UNDP Governing Council (New York, 3-29 June 1985). The study, co-ordinated and prepared by UNDP, involved all United Nations organizations with a significant interest in promoting women’s participation.

The report discussed the methodology of the assessment and went on to give the key findings and recommendations of country case-studies in
Democratic Yemen, Haiti, Indonesia and Rwanda. It then addressed the quantitative framework of the assessment and its implications. Finally, the Administrator recommended that the Governing Council endorse a series of recommendations for action by Governments, United Nations organizations and NGOs.

In a report to the Governing Council on women in development, prepared in response to a 1982 Council decision, the Administrator stated that the apparent downward trend in women’s participation in UNDP-supported projects in 1980 was reversed in 1981, and the level of participation in 1982 and 1983 remained well above that of earlier years. Women’s participation increased in such key sectors as development planning, agriculture, health, employment, and social conditions and equity.

The report also contained information on the response by field offices to ad hoc programming assistance to further women’s participation in development. It concluded that, with the possible exception of the African region, that type of assistance was not in high demand. Instead, continuation of a standing concern for women’s participation in all aspects of project design and planning was needed, as well as increased staff training. Those points were also among the recommendations in the report on interorganizational assessment.

By a 28 June decision, the Governing Council, having considered the Administrator’s reports, urged Governments to give more priority to using special programming assistance offered by the United Nations development system. That system, Governments and NGOs were strongly urged to implement the recommendations in the Administrator’s report on the interorganizational assessment. The Administrator was requested to develop, for presentation to the Council in 1986, an internal strategy to strengthen UNDP’s capacity to deal with women’s issues in development. Calling on the experience of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, verifiable objectives and a time-frame for implementation would be established. Special attention should also be given to improved staff training, monitoring existing guidelines, instructions and procedures for including the subject in programming missions and strengthening the focal point in UNDP headquarters for co-ordinating women’s programmes.

By a 29 June decision on the integration of issues relevant to women into promotional and operational activities for technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC), the Governing Council invited United Nations agencies and organizations to include reference to women in all promotional activities for TCDC and to elaborate and disseminate guidelines on incorporating issues relevant to advancement of women into TCDC programmes and projects. Developing countries were invited to elaborate proposals for such projects benefiting women. The Council reiterated the importance of networking and strengthening linkages between focal points for TCDC and women’s organizations and professional organizations having experience with women’s and development issues.

It requested the Administrator to strengthen cooperation with organizations, such as INSTRAW, which were active in the area of women and development.

Women in rural areas

In response to a 1984 General Assembly resolution, the Secretary General submitted to the 1985 Assembly a note compiling observations and comments made at the 1985 World Conference on a report of the 1984 Interregional Seminar on National Experience relating to the Improvement of the Situation of Women in Rural Areas. Several delegations had described the situation of rural women in their countries, reported on progress made during the Decade and outlined strategies and policies adopted to continue the advancement of rural women. Main obstacles cited were the lack of systematic and reliable information on rural women, particularly on the quantity and type of women’s production, which could eventually lead to incorporating women’s concerns in national and sectoral planning. Above all, emphasis was placed on the need to increase rural women’s productivity in economic activities: agriculture, handicrafts and small-scale industrial production. Delegations proposed several policies to that end, of which training was among the most often mentioned.

Other requirements were granting women access to the resources and factors of production, selecting and providing appropriate technology to women farmers, and credit. Social development also had to be strengthened: emphasis was placed on maternal and child health care, family planning, literacy and adult education.

To spread awareness of the needs and priorities of rural women among planners and decision-makers and increase the effectiveness of self-help initiatives, many delegations acknowledged the need to strengthen women’s national machineries, voluntary associations, co-operatives and the like.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 13 December, on the recommendation of the Third Committee, the General Assembly adopted resolution 40/106 without vote.

National experience relating to the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas

The General Assembly, referring to the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, adopted by the World Conference on Review and Appraise the Achievements

Recalling its resolutions 34/14 of 9 November 1979, 37/59 of 3 December 1982 and 39/126 of 14 December 1984, concerning the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas,

Reaffirming the importance attached in the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women and in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to the need to improve the status of women and ensure their full participation, both as agents and as beneficiaries, in the development process,

Recognizing the urgent need to take additional appropriate measures aimed at further improving the situation of women in rural areas,

Convinced that the eradication of apartheid, all forms of racial discrimination, colonialism, neo-colonialism, aggression, foreign occupation and domination is essential to the further improvement of the situation of rural women,

Considering that the strengthening of international peace and co-operation is one of the factors contributing to the further improvement of the situation of rural women,

1. Takes note of the report of the Interregional Seminar on National Experience Relating to the Improvement of the Situation of Women in Rural Areas, held at Vienna from 17 to 28 September 1984, as well as the compilation of observations and comments made by Member States;

2. Calls upon Governments to elaborate and implement, as a part of national development strategies, special comprehensive programmes for improving the situation of women in rural areas and to establish monitoring and evaluating mechanisms, involving women themselves, for these programmes;

3. Requests the organizations and funds concerned within the United Nations system to pay greater attention to the needs of rural women and to assist Member States, especially the developing countries, in the implementation of their national policies and programmes aimed at the advancement of rural women;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with the Member States, a comprehensive report on the present status and perspectives for the achievement of the situation of rural women, paying special attention, inter alia, to:

(a) Participation of rural women in socio-economic and political life;

(b) Questions of the exercise by rural women of their rights;

(c) Role of agricultural co-operatives in the improvement of the situation of women;

(d) Agrarian reform, particularly in favour of rural women, with a view to improving their situation;

(e) Elimination of illiteracy among rural women and upgrading of their educational level;

Assistance to rural women in the improvement of their situation.

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit the report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session through the Economic and Social Council.

General Assembly resolution 40/106
13 December 1985 Meeting 116 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/40/348 of 1985) in draft resolution VI, without vote, 27 November (meeting 56): 18-nation draft (A/C.3/40/L.34); agenda item 92.

Sponsors: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cuba, German Democratic Republic, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Rwanda, Viet Nam.

Meeting numbers: GA 40th session: 3rd Committee 24-46.48, 55, 56; plenary 116.

France and the United States said that they would join in the consensus, although they had reservations about other factors—such as the denial of basic civil and political rights—or introduced notions which were in no way connected to rural women.

Co-ordination

In 1984, when approving its basic programme of work, the Economic and Social Council decided to review in 1985, on a cross-organizational basis, the question of women and development. In accordance with that decision, the Secretary-General submitted to the Economic and Social Council in April a report reviewing selected major issues in the medium-term plans of the organizations of the United Nations system in that area.

The report outlined the common policies of the system, how well it addressed the pertinent issues relating to women and how those policies could be better translated into programmes. It also attempted to see whether existing plans, taken together, constituted a coherent whole in their approaches to the problems. It was noted that the report’s conclusions were somewhat tentative, since the July World Conference might call for changes in emphasis which could have important implications.

The report stated that the Council might wish to recommend priorities and approaches to be reflected in the system’s planning documents for 1984-1989, particularly in relation to women’s access to productive resources, income and employment, to participation in the decision-making process, and to the development of statistics and indicators. It could also recommend increased emphasis on the problems of poor urban women. Other recommendations might propose that inter-agency consultations be held to formulate programmes within a system-wide framework; that the COPA consider undertaking a COPA on the subject in 1988; that the medium-term plan of the United Nations, and those of the specialized agencies, should contain intersectoral presentations of the various programmes dealing with the issue; that ACC carry out joint thematic reviews on rural women and social indicators where inter-agency mechanisms were already in place, in order to...
define proposals for action to be incorporated into work programmes and operational policy statements; that linkage between programme and technical co-operation activities be explicitly identified in the planning and programming process; and that, where women constituted a significant proportion of the intended beneficiaries, it should be clearly indicated when formulating strategies and broad programme statements.

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION.**

On 31 May, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1985/46 without vote.

**Women and development**

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1982/50 of 28 July 1982 and 1983/78 of 29 July 1983, as well as its decision 1984/101 of 10 February 1984, by which it decided to review the question of women and development at its first regular session of 1985,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General reviewing the issue of women and development in the medium-term plans of the organizations of the United Nations system,

Confirming the importance of the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

Convinced of the importance of integrating women fully into all aspects of the development process both as agents and as beneficiaries,

Recognizing the need for greater coherence and efficiency of the policies and programmes related to women and development of the organizations of the United Nations system,

Bearing in mind its resolution 1984/12 of 24 May 1984, pursuant to which the Commission on the Status of Women, at its thirty-first session, will review the ways in which the needs and concerns of women can be integrated into all planning and programme activities of the United Nations system,

1. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General reviewing the issue of women and development in the medium-term plans of the organizations of the United Nations system, and the recommendations contained therein, as a first step towards a coherent approach by the organizations of the United Nations system to policies and programmes related to women and development;

2. Urges all United Nations bodies, including the regional commissions, and the specialized agencies which have not yet done so, to develop and implement comprehensive policies for women and development and to incorporate them into their medium-term plans, statements of objectives, programmes and other major policy statements;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to take the initiative in formulating a system-wide medium-term plan for women and development, taking into account the priorities recommended by the Council, the recommendations of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, to be held at Nairobi from 15 to 26 July 1985, and the relevant decisions of the respective governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system, to be submitted, through the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-first session, to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-sixth session and to the Council at its second regular session of 1986;

4. Recommends that future medium-term plans of the United Nations and the specialized agencies should contain intersectoral presentations of the various programmes dealing with issues of concern to women and that revisions of current plans should be considered in the light of the results of the Nairobi Conference;

5. Also recommends that in formulating programmes and projects it should explicitly be indicated where women constitute a significant proportion of the intended beneficiaries;

6. Invites the Commission on the Status of Women, beginning in 1986, to review regularly the priorities and strategies for the advancement of women of the organizations of the United Nations system and to report biennially to the Council on progress made system-wide in their implementation;

7. Requests the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to undertake in 1989 a cross-organizational programme analysis in order to review systematically the activities for and resources allocated to the advancement of women, and requests the Secretary-General to submit the proposed general framework and approach of that cross-organizational programme analysis for comment to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-second session;

8. Decides to transmit the report of the Secretary-General to the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace for its consideration in formulating forward-looking strategies for the advancement of women at the international and regional levels;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its regular sessions of 1986 on the implementation of the present resolution.

Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/46

**UN Development Fund for Women**

In accordance with a 1984 General Assembly resolution, the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, renamed the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), was transferred from the United Nations Secretariat to autonomous association with UNDP on 1 July 1985.

In an October 1985 report to the General Assembly, the Secretary-General gave information on the implementation of the 1984 resolution on arrangements for the management of the Fund, outlined project-cycle activities and mentioned...
Fund activities in connection with the 1985 World Conference. The report stated that contributions from Governments and non-governmental sources had risen gradually since 1980 to reach a high point of $3.4 million in 1984. However, expenditures were also on the increase. During 1985, programming and/or evaluation missions were sent to 30 countries, as a result of which 16 project proposals were scheduled for implementation in 1986 and future years, according to a report on the Fund by the UNDP Administrator. Projects ranged from the training of rural trainers to village bakeries, poultry-raising and horticulture. A total of 144 project proposals were received and approval of 36 projects totalling $2.7 million was recommended by the Fund’s Consultative Committee. By the end of 1985, UNIFEM had provided assistance to all regions of the world through 473 projects with a total value of $30.4 million.

In 1985, UNIFEM received contributions and pledges from 54 Member States. The $3.5 million in pledges towards the Fund’s general resources in 1985 represented an increase of 35 per cent over 1984 pledges, exclusive of contributions earmarked for specific projects. A further $122,451 was received from individuals, NGOs and national committees on the Fund. Also, one donor provided $89,000 for two projects in the African region and $50,000 for donor round-table activities.

At the 1985 Pledging Conference for Development Activities held in November (see Chapter II of this section), 38 countries pledged $3 million to UNIFEM for 1986. Although four traditional major donors were unable to announce their pledges at the Conference, the 1986 total was expected to reach $4 million-more than a 14 per cent increase over 1985.

The Fund maintained a balance between income and expenditures during the year, with an estimated total project expenditure of $4.3 million, representing an increase over the $3.2 million record for 1984.

UNDP activities. In a May 1985 report to the UNDP Governing Council on UNIFEM, the Administrator gave an overview of its mandate and activities, and noted that, in view of the full agenda of the General Assembly’s Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), the biennial budget for the Fund’s administrative costs would be submitted to the Assembly’s 1985 session in September (see below). The Administrator, therefore, sought authorization to act on any ACABQ recommendations before the Council’s 1986 session.

By a 29 June decision, the Council welcomed the Administrator’s arrangements to accept responsibility for UNIFEM as of 1 July 1985 and requested him to prepare the Fund’s 1986-1987 budget estimates for review by ACABQ; the Council would consider the budget proposals, as well as staffing matters, at its 1986 organizational session. It authorized the Administrator to maintain the current level of staffing and budgetary expenditures, pending Council approval of the 1986-1987 budget, and requested him to report to the Council annually on the establishment of administrative arrangements relating to the Fund’s association with UNDP.

ACABQ consideration. The UNDP Administrator’s budget estimates for UNIFEM for 1986-1987 were reviewed by ACABQ later in the year.

As at 31 August 1985, from the inception of the Fund, contributions amounted to $25.4 million, including $24 million in pledges from States and $1.4 million from non-governmental sources. As at 31 October 1985, the level of unpaid pledges was $1.2 million and some $400,000 in income had not been taken into account in connection with the Fund’s financial transfer from the United Nations to UNDP. ACABQ had no objection to the Administrator’s staffing requirements of 13 posts, an increase of two over the 1984-1985 biennium. It was informed that the Fund was developing a knowledge-bank pilot project; it felt that before further implementation, the impact of the project on the Fund, its costs and potential users should be carefully weighed.

**Contributions and Pledges to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women (as at 30 June 1985: in US dollar equivalent)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>1985 payment</th>
<th>Pledge for future years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>89,859</td>
<td>78,574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>21,000</td>
</tr>
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<td>Belgium</td>
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<td>Canada</td>
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<td>729,927</td>
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<td>Chile</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Guinea</td>
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<td>India</td>
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<td>Indonesia</td>
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<td>Ireland</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
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<td>225,080</td>
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<td>Jamaica</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao People’s Democratic Republic</td>
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<td>1,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lesotho</td>
<td>944</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Maldives</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mauritius</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>1,466</td>
<td>577</td>
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<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>130,435</td>
<td>230,769</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>12,698</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>24,352</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>790,960</td>
<td>1,052,632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Women

General Assembly Action

On 13 December, on the recommendation of the Third Committee, the Assembly adopted resolution 40/104 without vote.

United Nations Development Fund for Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 39/125 of 14 December 1984, in which it decided, inter alia, that the activities of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women should be continued through establishment of a separate and identifiable entity in autonomous association with the United Nations Development Programme,

Taking note of decision 85/33 of 29 June 1985 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, as well as decision 85/7 of 28 June 1985, in which the Governing Council requested the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to develop an internal implementation strategy to strengthen the capacity of the Programme to deal with issues of women in development which, calling on the experience of the Fund, would establish verifiable objectives and a time-frame for implementation,

Recognizing the Fund’s dual priorities, to serve as a catalyst with the goal of ensuring the appropriate involvement of women in mainstream development activities, as often as possible at pre-investment stages, and to support activities directly benefiting women in line with national and regional priorities,

Considering the innovative and experimental activities of the Fund directed towards strengthening both governmental and non-governmental institutional capacities to ensure access for women to development co-operation resources and their full participation at all levels in the development process,

Stressing that general questions of development and access of women to development resources have, as a common objective, the creation of conditions which will improve the quality of life for all,

Aware of the broad range of linkages of the Fund with Governments, national women’s groups, non-governmental organizations and women’s research institutes, besides its close co-operation with United Nations development agencies, including the regional commissions,

Reaffirming that the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, in adopting the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, underlined the necessity of strengthening the role of women in national and international development programmes,

Taking note of the reports of the Consultative Committee on the Fund on its seventeenth and eighteenth sessions,

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General,

1. Expresses its satisfaction that the establishment of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, in autonomous association with the United Nations Development Programme, was effected on the agreed target date of 1 July 1985, in accordance with the arrangements set out in General Assembly resolution 39/125;

2. Approves the name United Nations Development Fund for Women, with the acronym UNIFEM, as the new name for the Fund, as proposed by the Consultative Committee on the Fund at its seventeenth session, held from 25 to 29 March 1985, in accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 39/125 and as reflected in the annex to that resolution;

3. Notes with satisfaction the steps that are being undertaken to implement resolution 39/125, as well as the commitment expressed by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to ensure the appropriate involvement of women in mainstream development activities;

4. Stresses the need for close and continuous working relationships between the Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and those bodies, organs and organizations of the United Nations system and other agencies concerned with women’s issues and development co-operation;

5. Expresses its appreciation for the contributions to the Fund made by Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals, which have a vital role to play in maintaining and increasing the financial viability of the Fund and the effectiveness of its work;

6. Urges Governments to continue and, where possible, to increase their contributions to the Fund, and calls upon those Governments that have not yet done so to consider contributing to the Fund, in order to enable the Fund to give greater support to deserving requests received for technical assistance;

7. Requests the Consultative Committee on the Fund to continue to monitor the process of implementing the new arrangements for the management of the Fund, as set out in the annex to resolution 39/125;

8. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to submit to the Governing Council of the Programme an annual report on the operations, management and budget of the Fund, taking into account the advice of the Consultative Committee on the Fund;

9. Also requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-first session, through the Secretary-General, a report on the activities of the Fund, in accordance with resolution 39/125.


Table: Pledge for future years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>1985 Pledge for payment</th>
<th>1986 Pledge for payment</th>
<th>1987 Pledge for future years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>8,772</td>
<td>7,622</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>1,867</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>600</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sao Tome et Principe</td>
<td>444</td>
<td>535</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seychelles</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>17,647</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>111,111</td>
<td>164,609</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>672</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>2,146</td>
<td>403</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>125,000</td>
<td>74,963</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>239,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yugoslavia</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zaire</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>600</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>2,451</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,030</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,862,320</td>
<td>3,481,737</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In resolution 40/29, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in implementing the programme on aging, to pay special attention to the question of elderly women, and invited UNIFEM to give due consideration to projects aimed at benefiting elderly women.

By decision 40/470, the Assembly suspended its fortieth session on 18 December 1985 and decided to resume it at a date to be announced to consider a number of agenda items, among which was the appointment of members of the Consultative Committee on UNIFEM.

REFERENCES

10) Economic and social questions 13 December 1985 Meeting 116 Adopted without vote
12) Ibid (dec. 85/27).

Economic and social questions

Status of women

Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

The fifth session of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women was held at Havana, Cuba, from 28 January to 1 February 1985. In addition to reviewing the Institute's activities during 1984, the Board discussed INSTRAW's participation in the 1985 World Conference (see above), progress in establishing a network of focal points and correspondents active in the field of women and development, the Institute's proposed medium-term plan for 1986-1992, and proposed fund-raising activities.

The Board adopted a series of decisions to be brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council. With regard to the priority programme on women and international economic relations, the Board looked forward to: the reproduction of studies on the subject; publication of a consolidated report on the studies; the widest possible dissemination of the consolidated report in different languages; and the participation of Board members and INSTRAW focal points and correspondents in that endeavour. The Board recommended that the results of INSTRAW activities continue to be disseminated as widely as possible and that its public information programme be given priority. It recommended the use of a new logo for the Institute, to be selected in a competition, with the United Nations emblem on all INSTRAW publications.

The Board decided that the balance of the INSTRAW Trust Fund appropriations approved for the 1984-1985 biennium should be released in 1985, including the remainder of the posts approved but not authorized; it requested the Institute's Director to recruit the necessary staff, particularly local staff. The Board requested that the classification of professional and local-level posts be re-evaluated to reflect changes in functions and that particular attention be given to upgrading the posts of Chief of Research and Training and Administrative Officer. The Director was requested to review and implement the results after approval by the United Nations Department of Administration and Management.

Recommending that the Institute promote its activities at both the Nairobi Conference and the concurrent NGO forum, the Board endorsed the proposed activities for INSTRAW's participation in the Conference.

The Board decided also to endorse activities proposed for establishing a network of focal points and correspondents, encouraged the Director to intensify related activities, endorsed the focal points already designated for co-operation with the Institute, and expressed its desire to organize a meeting of designated focal points as soon as possible.

The Board endorsed the Institute's medium-term plan (1986-1992) and recommended that activities emphasize network-building, methodological approaches related to women and development, training, and the information, documentation and communication programme, including the establishment of data banks. It further recommended that the medium-term plan reflect the outcome of the World Conference with regard to research, training and information.

The Board decided that every effort should be made to seek additional contributions to the Institute, endorsed the Director's proposals on fund-raising activities, and requested the Economic and Social Council to appeal for contributions.

In other action, the Board authorized the Director to evaluate each request for new activities in the light of the work programme and financial situa-
tion. It agreed in principle that Arabic should be one of its official languages but felt that it was not currently possible and requested a report on the proposal for its 1986 session.

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION**

On 31 May, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1985/45 without vote.

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

The Economic and Social Council, recalling its decision 1984/124 of 24 May 1984 on the Statute of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,


Having considered the report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its fifth session;

1. Expresses its satisfaction for the significant achievements in the programme of work of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women;

2. Takes note of the decisions of the Board of Trustees contained in the report on its fifth session;

3. Notes the decision of the Board of Trustees by which it requested the Economic and Social Council to make an appeal for contributions from Governments and other potential donors;

4. Appeals to Governments and other potential donors to contribute to the Trust Fund established for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women in view of the increasing importance of research and training for full participation of women in the development process at all levels.

Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/45

31 May 1985 Meeting 26 Adopted without vote

25 nation draft (E/1985/L.321; agenda item 5.
Sponsors: Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Greece, Indonesia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire.

Meeting numbers. ESC 25, 26.

**INSTRAW programme activities**

In response to a 1984 General Assembly resolution, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Assembly in October 1985 a report prepared by INSTRAW on its programme activities. The report outlined the general methodological framework of the Institute’s work in research, training and information, documentation and communication, and its method of implementation.

The report also presented information on INSTRAW’s work programme in 1984-1985. The Institute had worked closely with the United Nations Statistical Office to improve statistics, indicators and data on the situation of women. In co-operation with the Economic Commission for Europe, it held an expert meeting on statistics and indicators on the role and situation of women (Geneva, 11-14 March), attended by participants from 18 countries and a number of United Nations bodies and other international organizations. In collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa and the Statistical Office, a subregional seminar met to discuss improved statistics and indicators for women in development (Harare, Zimbabwe, 29 April-7 May), attended by 45 participants from 15 countries. A subregional seminar on statistical analysis of the situation of women in the labour market through household surveys, organized with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (Montevideo, Uruguay, 3-6 June), was attended by 25 participants from 10 countries. As part of a joint, long-term project on households, gender and age, INSTRAW and the United Nations University met in February at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, to review four studies. A workshop on social indicators for Dominican women was held by the Dominican Republic’s National Office of Statistics and INSTRAW (Santo Domingo, 6-10 May).

The report also contained information about the Institute’s work on women and international economic relations, implementation of policies of individual and collective self-reliance, water supply and sanitation, industrial development, new and renewable sources of energy, food systems, training and fellowships, and documentation and communication.

The Institute’s work programme was financed entirely by voluntary contributions. Assets as at 30 June 1985 amounted to $2,509,519, while resources available were $2,302,368.

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO INSTRAW, 1985 AND 1986**

(as at 37 December 1985: in US dollar equivalent)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>1985 Payment</th>
<th>1986 Pledge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Argentina</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,305</td>
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<tr>
<td>China</td>
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<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
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<td>500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
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<td>46,876</td>
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<td>2,500</td>
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<td>Guinea-Bissau</td>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>7,870</td>
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<td>Indonesia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>184</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madagascar</td>
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<td>401</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malta</td>
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<td>Nigeria</td>
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<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
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<td>Thailand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
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<td>672</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
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<td>Turkey</td>
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<td>5,000</td>
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<td>Yugoslavia</td>
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<td>1,034</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zaire</td>
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<td>500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 460,997 532,969

On 29 November 1985, on the recommendation of the Third Committee, the Assembly adopted resolution 40/38 without vote.

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

The General Assembly,
Recalling its resolutions 37/56 of 3 December 1982, 38/104 of 16 December 1983 and 39/122 of 14 December 1984, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/45 of 31 May 1985,
Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its activities,
Taking note with interest of the Institute’s mode of operation, through the use of networks, in carrying out its functions at the international, regional and national levels,
Recognising the importance of research, training and information activities for the increased participation of women in the development process at all levels,
Recognising also the importance of research, training and information activities for the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,
1. Requests the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women to strengthen its activities in research and training for the formulation of policy analysis, planning and programming relevant to the increased participation of women in development, especially its activities in statistics, indicators and data relevant to women, in particular in the developing countries, at the national and regional levels;
2. Also requests the Institute to give particular emphasis in its programme of activities to innovative methodological approaches related to women and development in research, training and information programmes;
3. Calls upon competent institutions and organizations within and outside the United Nations system to continue their collaboration with the Institute by strengthening the network of co-operative arrangements related to programmes concerning women and development;
4. Invites States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, in view of the long-term projection for the work of the Institute;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-second session a report on the activities of the Institute;
6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-second session the item entitled “International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women”.

General Assembly resolution 40/38
29 November 1985 Meeting 96 Adopted without vote

In the interest of women, the General Assembly resolved to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-second session the item entitled “International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women”.

Women and society
On 13 December, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee, adopted resolution 40/101 without vote.

The role of women in society
The General Assembly,
Reaffirming the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, as well as the importance of the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975, the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women’s Year and the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women,
Welcoming the results of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held at Nairobi from 15 to 26 July 1985, in particular the adoption of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,
Noting that just and lasting peace and social progress, as well as the establishment of a new international economic order, require the active participation of women in promoting international peace and co-operation and in the process of development,
Bearing in mind that economic inequality, colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, apartheid, foreign intervention, occupation, alien domination and terrorism in all its forms, acts of aggression and interference in the internal affairs of others and violations of human rights and fundamental
freedoms constitute an impediment to the achievement of real and genuine equality and to the integration of women in society.

Convinced of the necessity to secure for all women full realization of the rights embodied in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in the International Covenants on Human Rights and in other relevant instruments in this field,

Recognizing that the achievement of equal and full participation of women in all spheres of activities constitutes an inseparable part of the political, economic, social and cultural development of all countries,

Aware that efforts to promote the status of women in all its aspects and their complete integration in society go beyond the problem of legal equality and that deeper structural transformations of society and changes in present-day economic relations, as well as elimination of traditional prejudices through education and dissemination of information, are required so as to create conditions for women to develop fully their intellectual and physical capacities and to participate actively in the decision-making process in political, economic, social and cultural development,

Mindful of the necessity to enlarge the possibilities for both men and women to combine parental duties and household work with paid employment and social activities,

Aware that the role of women in childbearing should not be the cause of inequality and discrimination, and that child rearing demands shared responsibilities among women, men and society as a whole,

Deeply appreciating the increasing participation of women in political, economic, social and cultural life and their contribution thereto,

1. Appeals to all Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organisations to recognize in their activities the importance of all inter-related aspects of the role of women in society as mothers, as participants in economic development and as participants in public life without underestimating any one of them;

2. Calls upon all Governments to encourage such social and economic development that would secure the participation of women in all spheres of work, equal pay for work of equal value and equal opportunities for education and for professional and vocational training, taking into consideration the necessity of combining all aspects of the role of women in society;

3. Appeals to Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to promote conditions that would enable women to participate as equal partners with men in public and political life, in the decision-making process at all levels and in the management of different spheres of life in society;

4. Calls upon Governments to recognize the special status and social importance of motherhood and to take, in the context of their specific abilities and conditions, all necessary measures to promote its protection, including maternity leave with pay, and to provide security for their jobs as long as necessary, so as to allow women, if they so wish, to fulfil their role as mothers without prejudice to their professional and public activities;

5. Appeals to Governments to promote the establishment of appropriate facilities for child-care and education of children as a means of combining parenthood with economic, political, social, cultural and other activities and thus to provide assistance to women in integrating fully into their societies;

6. Decides to consider the question of the role of women in society at its forty-first session under an item entitled “Forward-looking strategies for the advancement of women to the year 2000”.

General Assembly resolution 40/101
13 December 1985 Meeting 116 Adopted without vote
Approved by Third Committee (A/40/1008) without vote, 19 November (meeting 46): 9: nation draft (A/C.3/40/PL.25/Rev.1), orally amended by Pakistan and Colombia; agenda item 92.
Sponsors: Argentina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cuba, German Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Nigeria, Viet Nam, Zambia.
Meeting numbers. GA 40th session: 3rd Committee 24-34, 46: plenary 116.

Women and peace
On 13 December 1985, on the recommendation of the Third Committee, the General Assembly adopted resolution 40/102 without vote.

Participation of women in promoting international peace and co-operation
The General Assembly,
Confirming the noble goal enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations to maintain peace and security in the world and the determination of the States Members of the United Nations expressed therein to save present and succeeding generations from the scourge of war,
Recalling that the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held at Nairobi from 15 to 26 July 1985, in adopting the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, underlined the importance of the participation of women in promoting international peace and co-operation,

Convinced that the International Year of Peace, proclaimed for the year 1986 by the General Assembly in its resolution 40/3 of 24 October 1985, could give new impulses for safeguarding international peace and security,
Reaffirming its resolution 37/63 of 3 December 1982, by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace and Co-operation,
Recalling its resolution 39/124 of 14 December 1984, in which it requested the Commission on the Status of Women to consider what measures might be necessary in order to implement the Declaration,
Wishing to encourage the active participation of women in promoting international peace and security and co-operation,
Convinced that increased efforts are required to eliminate still existing forms of discrimination against women in every field of human endeavour,
Conscious of the need to implement the provisions of the Declaration,

1. Pledges its determination to encourage the full participation of women in the economic, social, cultural, civil and political affairs of society and in the endeavour to promote international peace and co-operation;

2. Appeals to all Governments to take the necessary measures for putting into practice the principles and provisions of the Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace and Co-operation;
3. Invites all Governments to give wide publicity to the Declaration and its implementation:
4. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to take adequate steps to ensure that publicity is given to the Declaration:
5. Invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization and other appropriate bodies within the United Nations system to consider adequate measures to implement the Declaration:
6. Requests the Commission on the Status of Women to consider measures which may be necessary to implement the Declaration in the context of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women for the period up to the year 2000:
7. Decides to consider the further implementation of the Declaration at its forty-first session, as a sub-item of an item entitled “Forward-looking strategies for the advancement of women to the year 2000”.

General Assembly resolution 40/102
13 December 1985 Meeting 116 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/40/1008) without vote, 21 November (meeting 48); 21-nation draft (A/C.3/40/L.33): agenda item 92.

Sponsors: Afghanistan, Angola, Bulgaria, Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Ethiopia, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Iraq, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mali, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Poland, Ukrainian SSR, Viet Nam.

Meeting numbers. GA 40th session: 3rd Committee 24-34, 46, 48: plenary 116.

Women under apartheid

In its annual report to the General Assembly, the Special Committee against Apartheid (see also p. 127) stated that it had organized, in cooperation with the United Republic of Tanzania and the Organization of African Unity (OAU), an International Conference on Women and Children under Apartheid (Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, 7–10 May). A mission of the Special Committee to Angola, Zambia and the United Republic of Tanzania, from 3 to 16 April, preceded the Conference, consulting with Governments and liberation movements and visiting refugee camps. The mission’s report was the main document before the Conference.

The Conference was convened to publicize the plight of women and children under apartheid, promote moral and material assistance to them in their struggle for liberation and contribute to the July World Conference on the Decade for Women (see above). By a 15 May letter, the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee transmitted, for forwarding to the World Conference, the text of the Declaration adopted by the World Conference on 9 May.

The Conference considered the plight of women and children in South Africa and Namibia and their struggle for national liberation, measures to promote international assistance to them and action to demonstrate solidarity with them in their legitimate struggle. The Conference reiterated that apartheid was a crime against humanity and an intolerable affront to the conscience of mankind, commended the peoples of South Africa and Namibia on their heroic resistance, and condemned the massacres, killings and other atrocities against the oppressed people of South Africa, as well as forced removals which had driven millions of people, mostly women and children, off their ancestral lands and deprived them of their South African nationality. The Conference condemned the Pretoria régime for subjecting women and children to oppression and humiliation, for separating families, and for killing, imprisoning, restricting and torturing women and children for opposing apartheid. The Conference also: condemned the manipulation of “family planning” by the South African Government; was appalled that the majority of refugees in neighbouring countries consisted of women and children fleeing the apartheid system; urged countries to grant asylum, food, shelter, medical care, legal protection and guarantee of fundamental human rights, counseling, education, training and employment to women and children from southern Africa; and stressed that the 1985 World Conference should focus on women in South Africa and Namibia in the light of the Decade’s themes.

In addition, the Conference called for intensified support for the women and children of South Africa and Namibia and in front-line States, in particular: wide dissemination of information on the situation of women and children in South Africa; national campaigns for the unconditional release of political prisoners there; regional and national meetings on the plight of women and children under apartheid, increased contributions to funds supporting the oppressed people of South Africa; financial assistance to women in the national liberation movements to enable them to attend major international conferences and seminars and undertake speaking tours; and activities of the southern African liberation movements recognized by OAU.

The Conference encouraged the Special Committee and the International Committee of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women of South Africa and Namibia to redouble their efforts to promote publicity and assistance, and appealed to Governments and organizations to lend them full co-operation.

By a 26 February 1985 resolution the Commission on Human Rights expressed its indignation at the continued violations of human rights in South Africa, particularly the continued adverse effects on women and children of the policies of apartheid.

In accordance with a 1981 General Assembly resolution, the Special Committee against Apartheid observed 9 August as the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women of South Africa and Namibia.
In July, the World Conference had before it a report of the Secretary-General on the situation of women and children living under racist minority regimes. The report appraised the political, social and economic aspects of women living under apartheid, gave accounts of recent activities to promote awareness of their plight and contained information on assistance provided by United Nations organizations, specialized agencies and NGOs.

By resolution 40/25 of 29 November 1985, the General Assembly demanded the immediate release of women and children detained in Namibia and South Africa.

Women and population

As a follow-up to the 1984 Conference on Population, whose Declaration emphasized the positive influence on family life and size of improving the status of women, the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of its First (Economic) Committee, adopted resolution 1985/6, without vote, on 28 May 1985.

**Status and role of women and population**

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace is scheduled to be held at Nairobi from 15 to 26 July 1985,

Recalling that the International Conference on Population, in its recommendations for the further implementation of the World Population Plan of Action, identified the role and status of women as an area of priority action in the field of population,

Recalling also that the Mexico City Declaration on Population and Development emphasized the fact that the improvement of the status of women and the enhancement of their role were important goals in themselves and that the achievement of those goals would influence family life and size in a positive way,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 39/228 of 18 December 1984, in which the Assembly, inter alia, reaffirmed the importance attached to the formulation and implementation of concrete policies which would enhance the status and role of women in the area of population policies and programmes,

1. Urges all Governments participating in the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, to incorporate fully into the forward-looking strategies for the advancement of women for the period up to the year 2000 those aspects of the Mexico City Declaration on Population and Development and the recommendations for the further implementation of the World Population Plan of Action which relate to the status and role of women in the context of population;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, in the framework of the ongoing monitoring, review and appraisal of progress made towards the implementation of the recommendations of the World Population Plan of Action, to focus periodically on those recommendations which make special reference to the relation between the role and status of women and population, and to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council, through the Population Commission.

**Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/6**

28 May 1985 Meeting 22 Adopted without vote

Approved by First Committee (E/1985/89) without vote. 17 May (meeting 6); draft by Population Commission (E/1985/23), agenda item 10.

Prevention of prostitution

In March, the Secretary-General submitted a report to the Economic and Social Council on implementation of a 1983 Council resolution on suppression of traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others. The replies of seven Governments to a note verbale from the Secretary-General had been transmitted to the Working Group on Slavery of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in 1984 and replies from a further eight Governments were considered by the Working Group at its 1985 session (Geneva, 29 July-2 August). Replies from regional commissions, specialized agencies, other United Nations organizations and an NGO to another note verbale had also been transmitted to the Working Group.

At its 1984 session, the Working Group had recommended that the 1983 Council resolution be made widely known to Member States and that they be urged to implement a national policy against violating the fundamental rights of women and children. It had also recommended that they be urged to implement social and legal measures to ensure reinsertion into society of victims of prostitution, and supported the adoption of international measures aimed at dismantling the networks that fed prostitution and repatriating and assisting their victims.

The Working Group’s report was considered by the Sub-Commission in 1984 which had recommended to the Commission on Human Rights that it be requested to undertake a study on slavery-like practices against women and children. It had also recommended that the struggle against procurement be intensified at the national level and reiterated the Working Group’s recommendations regarding dismantling of prostitution networks and the repatriation and reinsertion into society of prostitution’s victims.

In accordance with the 1983 Council resolution, United Nations agencies and organs and NGOs were invited to co-operate with the Centre for Human Rights in preparing two studies: one on the sale of children and the other on the legal and social problems of sexual minorities, including male prostitution. Action was also being taken to reproduce as a United Nations publication a 1983 report on the suppression of traffic in persons and exploitation of the prostitution of others.
In an 11 March 1985 resolution, the Commission on Human Rights invited States to sign or ratify the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others; it also recommended that the struggle against procuring be intensified, that the networks of prostitution be dismantled and that States adopt measures to ensure victims’ orderly and effective reinsertion into society.

The Working Group on Slavery, at its eleventh session (Geneva, 29 July-2 August 1985), recommended that all Governments ratify and implement the 1949 Convention and that strong measures be taken to ensure that women reached a social status equal to that of men and that the mass media publicize their fundamental equality.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 13 December, on the recommendation of the Third Committee, the General Assembly adopted resolution 40/103 without vote.

Prevention of prostitution

The General Assembly, having considered the report of the Special Rapporteur on the subject of the suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others, prepared in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/20 of 4 May 1982,


Considering that the suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others requires a threefold concerted effort, involving prevention, punishment of all forms of procuring and solidarity in order to facilitate the social rehabilitation of the victims,

1. Congratulates the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Tourism Organization for the action they have begun to take in implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/30;

2. Invites once again the Economic and Social Council to consider the whole question of the suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others at its first regular session of 1986 in connection with the agenda item on human rights, together with the reports requested by the Council in its resolution 1983/30;

3. Invites the Working Group on Slavery of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to transmit its report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its next session;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to expedite the issuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/20.

Palestinian women

In response to a 1984 recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the Preparatory Body for the World Conference, which was approved by the Economic and Social Council in 1984, the Secretary-General submitted to the Conference a report on the situation of women and children living in the occupied Arab territories and other occupied territories.

The report described the effects of Israeli settlements, which had forced transfers of the indigenous Arab population from the West Bank and Gaza, and gave examples of oppressive practices such as arrest, detention, demolition of houses, imposition of curfews and other measures applied to the Palestinian population. The report also gave information on employment and working conditions, housing, education and health, and listed assistance activities being carried out by the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the political, social, economic and humanitarian spheres.

By a letter of 19 March 1985 to the Secretary-General, Israel submitted a rebuttal to the Secretary-General’s report. Israel’s paper on Arab women and children under Israeli administration took issue with what it called the more blatant inaccuracies, mistakes and misrepresentations in the Secretary-General’s report and presented the members of the Conference’s Preparatory Body with supplementary material which it said might assist them in determining whether to approve the report. The paper contained information and statistics on population, legal matters, economic and social development, employment, education and health.

Refugee women

The Secretary-General submitted to the World Conference a report on the activities and programmes of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on behalf of refugee women. The report stated that most large-scale influxes of refugees were composed largely of women and children. UNHCR tried to ensure that refugee women had equal access with men to benefits that accelerated social integration and contributed to their physical, psychological and material well-being. One of the most important problems of refugee women was the violation of their physical safety; experience had shown that a UNHCR presence in border areas and refugee camps could have a deter-
rent effect. The report provided information on assistance given by UNHCR to refugee women and children in the areas of health, education and employment.

The High Commissioner believed that work should continue in the following areas: securing accession of further States to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (24) and its 1967 Protocol (25) which applied to all refugees, regardless of sex; ensuring that international refugee instruments provided protection to refugee women, despite social, economic or cultural constraints governing the condition of women; ensuring liberal practices by States regarding the granting of asylum, the determination of refugee status and the treatment of refugees and asylum-seekers; ensuring the physical safety of refugees, particularly women; increasing awareness of the importance of the needs of refugee women and pressing for increased funding of programmes to meet those needs; promoting self-sufficiency among refugee women by offering literacy, adult education, vocational and formal education programmes and developing their ability to participate in productive activities and income-generating projects; increasing their participation in health education and mental health programmes, supportive ethnic and communal structures and community organization activities; providing for the special needs of refugee women who were heads of families and of handicapped and disabled refugee women.

By resolution 40/118, the General Assembly commended the High Commissioner’s programmes for refugee and displaced women, especially those undertaken to secure their protection and to help them to become self-sufficient through educational, vocational and income-generating projects.

Women in the UN Secretariat

Pursuant to the recommendations of the 1983 session (26) of the Commission on the Status of Women that were endorsed by a 1983 Economic and Social Council decision (27) and General Assembly resolution (28) a report (29) of the Secretary-General on progress achieved and obstacles encountered with regard to the employment and advancement of women within the United Nations system during the United Nations Decade for Women was submitted to the World Conference. The information was based on replies to a questionnaire sent to the organizations of the system and reflected the situation that prevailed from 1976 to 1983. Data received were tabulated for 31 December 1975, the beginning of the Decade, 31 December 1979, the mid-point, and 31 December 1983, towards the end of the Decade. It was noted that incompleteness of responses limited the analysis and the conclusions that could be reached.

The report concluded that efforts made during the Decade had produced some positive results, such as a higher overall percentage of women employed in the secretariats of most organizations. For the most part, however, the increase had been slight or negligible at the higher levels. The executive heads of some organizations had indicated a serious commitment to equality of female and male staff. In some cases, institutional measures, such as appointing a coordinator, designating a focal point or establishing a panel or board, had been taken. As the Decade drew to a close, it appeared that earlier initiatives either had not been sustained or had not been very effective; most targets had not been met. It appeared that bolder strategies were required.

By resolution 40/258 B, the General Assembly welcomed the Secretary-General’s efforts to improve the status of women in the Secretariat, requested him to increase the number of women in geographical posts to achieve an overall participation rate of 30 per cent by 1990, and to report in 1986 on progress. The Assembly reiterated its request to Member States to nominate more women candidates in the Professional category.

By resolution 40/105, the Assembly invited the regional commissions to propose measures for incorporating women’s concerns in their work programmes for 1988-1989. The Secretary-General was requested to report on their proposals, to take into account the regional commissions’ role in promoting the advancement of women when formulating the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development and when implementing the Forward-looking Strategies, and to report in 1986 on Progress made in implementing its 1984 resolution (30) on senior women’s programme officers posts at the regional commissions.

REFERENCES

Convention on Discrimination against Women

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, established in 1982(1) under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted in 1979,(2) held its fourth session at Vienna from 21 January to 1 February 1985.(3)

The Committee had before it six initial reports of States parties on legislative, judicial, administrative and other measures they had adopted to give effect to the Convention, which had entered into force in 1981.(4) The Committee considered the reports of Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Panama and Yugoslavia; it was unable to discuss El Salvador’s report due to the absence of that country’s representative.

CEDAW recommended to the Economic and Social Council that adequate funds and staff be made available to provide services for its effective functioning and that the standard of travel accorded to members be commensurate with that provided to comparable committees of experts.

The Committee also discussed its contribution to the 1985 World Conference, and agreed to use as a basis for its report a compendium of information based on national reports on the achievements and obstacles experienced in implementing the Convention. It agreed to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that its report should be placed on the Conference’s agenda and that the Council should invite the CEDAW Chairperson to present the report, and decided to request the Secretary-General to facilitate the Chairperson’s attendance. CEDAW decided that its 1986 session would be held in New York and its 1987 session at Vienna.

In its report to the World Conference,(5) CEDAW noted that, although 52 States parties should have submitted their initial reports by the end of December 1984, only 26 of them had been received. It appealed to States parties to present their reports in due time. Based on information provided in the reports of 18 States parties and during Committee sessions, the report discussed: general measures to guarantee equality of women and men and prohibit discrimination on the ground of sex; measures to provide equal rights for women in political and public life; equal rights in education and employment; equal access to health care services, including family planning and services for pregnant women; legal equality in areas of economic and social life; measures to ensure application of the Convention to women in rural areas; equality of women and men before the law; and rights pertaining to marriage and family relations.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 28 May 1985, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1985/18 without vote.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Recalling General Assembly resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979, by which the Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women annexed thereto,


Having considered the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its fourth session, notably the recommendation concerning the submitting of the report of the Committee on the achievements of and obstacles experienced by States parties in the implementation of the Convention,

1. Urges all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to do so as soon as possible, taking into account the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace to be held at Nairobi from 15 to 26 July 1985;
2. Takes note of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its fourth session;
3. Emphasizes the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties with their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
4. Urges States parties to make all possible efforts to submit their initial implementation reports in accordance with article 18 of the Convention and requests the Committee in organizing its work to ensure that the reports of States parties are adequately reviewed within the quadrennial cycle envisaged;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the report of the Committee on the achievements of and obstacles experienced by States parties in the implementation of the Convention is considered in connection with the relevant agenda item at the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace;
6. Also requests the Secretary-General to make all efforts to ensure adequate servicing for the effective functioning of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women as a treaty body of the United Nations;
7. Takes note once again of the deliberations of the Committee at its third session concerning the inclusion in the agenda of a future session of an item on ways and means of implementing article 21 of the Convention, which provides that the Committee may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports;
8. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.
session, as well as to the Commission on the Status of Women, for information.

Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/18

28 May 1985 Meeting 22 Adopted without vote

13-nation draft (E/1985/L.28), orally revised; agenda item 4.
Sponsors: Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Germany, Democratic Republic, Greece, Iceland, Mexico, Portugal, Rwanda, Sweden.
Meeting numbers. ESC 20. 22.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 29 November 1985, on the recommendation of the Third Committee, the General Assembly adopted resolution 40/39 without vote.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as stated in Articles 1 and 55 of the Charter, is to promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind, including distinction as to sex,

Reaffirming that women and men should participate equally in social, economic and political development, should contribute equally to such development and should share equally in improved conditions of life,

Recalling its resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979, by which it adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,


Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the work of its fourth session,

1. Notes with appreciation the increasing number of Member States that have ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
2. Urges all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so as soon as possible, taking into account the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held at Nairobi from 15 to 26 July 1985;
3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit annually to the General Assembly a report on the status of the Convention;
4. Takes note of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the work of its fourth session;
5. Emphasizes the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties with their obligations under the Convention;
6. Urges States parties to make all possible efforts to submit their initial implementation reports in accordance with article 18 of the Convention and the guidelines of the Committee, and requests the Committee, in organizing its work, to ensure that the reports of States parties are adequately reviewed within the quadrennial cycle envisaged in the Convention;
7. Requests the Secretary-General to make all efforts to ensure adequate servicing for the effective functioning of the Committee as a treaty body of the United Nations;
8. Takes note once again of the discussion in the Committee, at its third session, concerning the inclusion in the agenda of a future session of an item on ways and means of implementing article 21 of the Convention, which provides that the Committee may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports;
9. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to the Commission on the Status of Women, for information.

General Assembly resolution 40/39

29 November 1985 Meeting 96 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/40/927) without vote, 21 November (meeting 49): 40-nation draft (A/C.3/40/L.35); agenda item 100.
Sponsors: Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Liberia, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Rwanda, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Uruguay, Vietnam, Yugoslavia.
Meeting numbers. GA 40th session: 3rd Committee 24-34, 49; plenary 96.

Ratifications, accessions and signatures

As at 31 December 1985, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women had received 93 signatures and 84 ratifications or accessions. During the year, it was signed by Mali and Trinidad and Tobago and ratified or acceded to by Argentina, Belgium, Cyprus, the Federal Republic of Germany, Guinea-Bissau, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mali, New Zealand, Nigeria, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Senegal, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Zambia.

In September 1985, the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly his annual report on the status of the Convention, containing information on signatures, ratifications or accessions to the Convention as at 23 August 1985 and the texts of reservations, declarations and objections made between 9 July 1984 and 23 August 1985.

By resolution 40/39, the Assembly noted with appreciation the increasing number of Member States that had ratified or acceded to the Convention, urged others to do so as soon as possible, and requested the Secretary-General to submit annually a report on the Convention’s status.

REFERENCES