

Women

The year 2010 marked the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth (1995) World Conference on Women, and the United Nations observed the milestone with a number of activities that served to gauge its efforts to advance the status of women worldwide. The Commission on the Status of Women carried out a global review of progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference, and the outcomes of the General Assembly's twenty-third (2000) special session (Beijing+5). The Commission held a series of high-level round table and panel discussions, the summaries of which were submitted to the Economic and Social Council as input for its 2010 annual ministerial review on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women. It also adopted a declaration on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary and transmitted it, through the Council, to the Assembly, which endorsed it in December.

In July, the Assembly established the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to be operational by 1 January 2011. Combining the mandates and assets of the four existing entities dealing with women's issues—the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women—UN-Women would be the centre of the UN system gender architecture. In October, the Council decided on procedures for the election of the UN-Women Executive Board and the Assembly made key financing decisions, including by approving the use of a grant modality to administer UN-Women regular budget resources, and determining the amount and sources of funding to be transferred to UN-Women in the 2010–2011 UN regular budget.

The Commission on the Status of Women, in March, brought to the Council's attention resolutions on: women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS; the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts; women's economic empowerment; ending female genital mutilation; and eliminating maternal mortality. It also recommended to the Council the adoption of a draft resolution on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women, on which the Council took ac-

tion in July, along with a resolution on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the UN system.

Issues central to women's lives on which the Assembly adopted resolutions included: eliminating violence against women; supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula; the establishment of International Widows' Day; trafficking in women and girls; strengthening criminal justice responses to violence against women; follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session; and strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women. The last resolution contained the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Two Security Council presidential statements in April and October on women and armed conflict welcomed the appointment of Margot Wallström as the Secretary-General's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict and supported the development of a set of proposed indicators for use at the global level to track implementation of resolution 1325(2000) on women's full participation in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. In a December resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to list in his annual reports on the implementation of resolutions 1820(2008) and 1888(2009) on sexual violence and armed conflict the parties suspected of committing rape and other sexual violence in conflict situations on the Council's agenda.

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and Beijing+5

During 2010, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly considered follow-up to the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, particularly the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action [YUN 1995, p. 1170] and the political declaration and further actions and initiatives to implement both instruments adopted at the twenty-third (2000) special session of the Assembly (Beijing+5) by resolution S/23-2 [YUN 2000, p. 1084].

The Declaration had reaffirmed the commitment of Governments to the goals and objectives of the Fourth World Conference and to the implementation of the 12 critical areas of concern outlined in the Platform for Action: women and poverty; education and training of women; women and health; violence against women; women and armed conflict; women and the economy; women in power and decision-making; institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women; the human rights of women; women and the media; women and the environment; and the girl child. The issue of mainstreaming a gender perspective into UN policies and programmes continued to be addressed (see p. 1168).

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 64/141 [YUN 2009, p. 1116], the Secretary-General, in an August report [A/65/204], reviewed the follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of Assembly's twenty-third special session. He described steps taken by intergovernmental bodies to incorporate gender equality perspectives into their work, including advances made during the sixty-fourth (2009) session of the Assembly and the 2009 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council and in the work of their subsidiary bodies, notably at the fifty-third (2009) and fifty-fourth (2010) sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women. Since 2010 marked the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference, the report outlined some of the activities taking place to observe the milestone. Notably, the Commission on the Status of Women carried out a global review of progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the Assembly's twenty-third special session (see below), while the Assembly held a commemorative event on 2 March (see p. 1135).

The Assembly and the Council considered gender equality and the empowerment of women within and across a variety of agenda items, including women's human rights, violence against women, women in development and the need for improved data collection and analysis. Although gender equality and women's empowerment were addressed at a number of high-level events and discussions and in the work of the Assembly's subsidiary bodies, such as the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council (see p. 633), gender equality considerations appeared in only a limited number of resolutions of intergovernmental bodies and in only about half of the reports of the Secretary-General. Gender mainstreaming was disproportionately concentrated in development-related agendas and not uniformly addressed in the work of the Assembly and Council. There was, therefore, a need to improve its inclusion into all the documentation and work of intergovern-

mental bodies and to accelerate the implementation of commitments on gender equality, women's human rights and women's empowerment. The report noted that lack of adequate data impeded progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment and limited the ability of Member States to improve institutional mechanisms, design better policies and tailor relevant and more effective strategies to address the needs and vulnerabilities of their populations. Increased investment in data collection and analysis at the global, regional and national levels was required.

The Secretary-General suggested that the Assembly might consider: strengthening its efforts to enhance accountability with respect to the implementation of gender-equality commitments, including by improved monitoring and reporting on progress in relation to policies, strategies, resource allocations and programmes; encourage Member States, UN entities, international and regional organizations and other actors to prioritize the strengthening of data collection and monitoring capacities; request that reports submitted to the Assembly, the Council and their subsidiary bodies facilitate gender-sensitive policy development through qualitative gender analysis, sex-disaggregated data and concrete recommendations for action; ensure that gender perspectives were mainstreamed in the preparation, implementation and follow-up of all UN conferences, summits and high-level meetings; and encourage the committees of the Assembly and commissions of the Council to hold periodic thematic discussions on progress made in mainstreaming gender perspectives into their work.

Review of Fourth World Conference and Beijing+5 (2010)

In response to Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/9 [YUN 2006, p. 1356] and 2009/15 [YUN 2009, p. 1155], the Secretary-General, in a February report [E/2010/4-E/CN.6/2010/2], reviewed progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the Assembly, and the contribution of the implementation to shaping a gender perspective towards the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The report was based on information provided in response to a questionnaire distributed by the UN regional commissions to Member States and observer States at the end of 2008. By November 2009, 139 Member States and one observer State had responded.

For each of the 12 critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action, the report reviewed major global policy developments, trends in national-level implementation, and remaining gaps and challenges. Cross-cutting issues included: the need to combat gender stereotypes; violence against women; the im-

portance of increasing the participation of women in decision-making; the critical role of men and boys in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and the unequal distribution of unpaid work between women and men. Legal frameworks that provided specific legislation on gender equality and ensured attention to gender equality perspectives in all other legislation were recognized as a critical foundation for implementation, as was the adoption of national policies and action plans on gender equality. The improvement of statistics, disaggregated by sex and age, was considered crucial for ensuring the development of strategies and actions, monitoring trends and progress, assessing the impact of measures, and allowing policymakers to undertake legislative and policy reforms. Strengthening political will and leadership was considered a priority, as was increasing resource allocations for promoting gender equality in general, and implementing the gender mainstreaming strategy in particular.

With regard to linkages between the Platform for Action and the gender equality dimensions of each MDG, the report stated that gender equality perspectives were poorly reflected in the formulation of many MDGs and were not explicitly outlined in strategies and plans for implementation of the Goals. The lack of progress for women suggested that the global policy framework on gender equality and women's empowerment, particularly the Platform for Action, was insufficiently used as a basis for policymaking and programming aimed at MDG achievement. The Secretary-General recommended that participatory processes and strategic partnerships be expanded, particularly by having national gender equality mechanisms participate in national MDG processes, including monitoring and reporting. Consultative processes involving women's groups and networks, and other civil society actors, would also contribute to greater collaboration across sectors. As the need for improved tracking and monitoring of gender equality expenditures had been recognized, the Secretary-General recommended that financing for gender equality and women's empowerment be strengthened through the use of gender-responsive budgeting and the integration of gender equality perspectives in economic decision-making.

Commission action. The Commission on the Status of Women, at its fifty-fourth session (New York, 1–12 March) [E/2010/27], reviewed progress in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action [YUN 1995, p. 1170] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century” [YUN 2000, p. 1082]. In preparation for the review, the five UN regional commissions submitted reports to the Commission. On 1 March, the Commission held a

high-level round table on the theme “Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session and its contribution to shaping a gender perspective in the realization of the Millennium Development Goals”. On 2 March [E/2010/27 (res. 54/1)], the Commission adopted a resolution containing the declaration on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and transmitted it through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly for its endorsement. During its March session, the Commission held expert panel discussions on the following topics: linkages between the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the achievement of the MDGs; implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women; regional perspectives in progress achieved and remaining gaps and challenges in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action; commemorating 30 years of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; women's economic empowerment in the context of the global economic and financial crises; unity towards ending violence against women; and the evolving status and role of national mechanisms for gender equality. On 12 March, the Commission adopted a decision [ibid. (dec. 54/101)] on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women, by which it transmitted summaries of the discussions held at the high-level round table and panels convened during its session to the Economic and Social Council as input for its 2010 annual ministerial review (see below).

Commemoration of fifteenth anniversary.

On 2 March [A/64/PV.73], the General Assembly held a commemorative meeting to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth (1995) World Conference on Women [YUN 1995, p. 1168].

Economic and Social Council ministerial review. On 28 and 30 June and 1 July, during the high-level segment of its 2010 substantive session [A/65/3/Rev.1], the Economic and Social Council held its annual ministerial review on the theme “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women”. The Council had before it voluntary national presentations on the subject from Australia [E/2010/63], Brazil [E/2010/65], Congo [E/2010/78], France [E/2010/81], Guatemala [E/2010/60], Moldova [E/2010/67], Mongolia [E/2010/80], Namibia [E/2010/61], the Netherlands [E/2010/62], Norway [E/2010/66], Portugal [E/2010/59], the Republic of Korea [E/2010/71] and the United States [E/2010/58]. It also had before it a letter from Senegal transmitting the report of the African regional preparatory meeting on women and health (Dakar, Senegal, 12–13 Janu-

ary) [E/2010/75]. On 2 July, the Council adopted the Ministerial Declaration, which reaffirmed that gender equality, the empowerment of women and women's full enjoyment of human rights were central to economic and social development and the achievement of the MDGs. It acknowledged the vital role of women as agents of development and called attention to the need to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, as well as for the implementation of measures to promote women's access to full and productive employment through decent work and equal pay. It called on the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth (2010) session of the General Assembly (20–22 September) on accelerating progress towards the achievement of all the MDGs by 2015 (see p. 813) to take into account the recommendations contained in the declaration and to ensure that gender perspectives were integrated into the Meeting's outcome.

In a 19 July letter [A/64/874], the Council President transmitted the Ministerial Declaration to the Assembly as a contribution to preparations for the High-level Plenary Meeting.

Declaration on fifteenth anniversary. On 20 July, the Council took note of the declaration adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women (see above) and transmitted it to the Assembly for endorsement (**decision 2010/232**).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee [A/65/449], adopted **resolution 65/191** without vote [agenda item 28 (b)].

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 64/141 of 18 December 2009,

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" are important contributions to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned,

Reaffirming the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit, the 2005 World Summit, the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and other major United Nations summits, confer-

ences and special sessions, and reaffirming also that their full, effective and accelerated implementation is integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Welcoming progress made towards achieving gender equality, but stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

Recognizing that the responsibility for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session rests primarily at the national level and that strengthened efforts are necessary in this respect, and reiterating that enhanced international cooperation is essential for full, effective and accelerated implementation,

Taking note of the declaration adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Welcoming the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in reviewing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and taking note with appreciation of all its agreed conclusions,

Welcoming also the adoption of General Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 on system-wide coherence, in particular the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women),

Welcoming further the appointment of Ms. Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile, as Under-Secretary-General and head of UN-Women,

Looking forward to the timely, effective and efficient operationalization of UN-Women, noting the importance of the early elaboration of the forthcoming strategic plan and budget for its operationalization, and stressing the need to meet the initial funding requirement to this end,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting the empowerment of women and achieving gender equality by transforming structures of inequality, and reaffirming also the commitment to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, as well as the commitment to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender equality,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, and stressing the importance of the continued integration of a gender perspective in the work and activities of the Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming the commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,

Bearing in mind the challenges and obstacles to changing discriminatory attitudes and gender stereotypes, which perpetuate discrimination against women and stereotypical roles of men and women, and stressing that challenges and

obstacles remain in the implementation of international standards and norms to address the inequality between men and women,

Reaffirming the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS adopted at the High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS, held on 2 June 2006, which, inter alia, acknowledged the feminization of the pandemic,

Expressing serious concern that the urgent goal of 50/50 gender balance in the United Nations system, especially at senior and policymaking levels, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, remains unmet, and that the representation of women in the United Nations system has remained almost static, with negligible improvement in some parts of the system, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system,

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding,

Recalling Security Council resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009 and 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009 on women and peace and security and resolution 1882(2009) of 4 August 2009 on children and armed conflict,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

2. *Reaffirms* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, as well as the declaration adopted on the occasion of the ten-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, and also reaffirms its commitment to their full, effective and accelerated implementation;

3. *Also reaffirms* the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the catalytic role of the Commission on the Status of Women, in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women based on the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and in promoting and monitoring gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

4. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations of States parties under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women are mutually reinforcing in respect of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and in this regard welcomes the contributions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to promoting the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and invites States parties to the Convention to include information on measures taken to enhance implementation at

the national level in their reports to the Committee under article 18 of the Convention;

5. *Calls upon* States parties to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto and to take into consideration the concluding observations as well as the general recommendations of the Committee, urges States parties to consider limiting the extent of any reservations that they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any reservations as precisely and narrowly as possible and to regularly review such reservations with a view to withdrawing them so as to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, also urges all Member States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to consider doing so, and calls upon those Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

6. *Welcomes* the establishment of UN-Women, which consolidates the mandates and functions of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, with the additional role of leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women, as established under General Assembly resolution 64/289;

7. *Recognizes* the role of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women as the multitiered intergovernmental governance structure for the normative support functions that shall provide normative policy guidance for UN-Women;

8. *Also recognizes* the role of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Executive Board of UN-Women as the multitiered intergovernmental governance structure for the operational activities that shall provide operational policy guidance for UN-Women;

9. *Urges* Member States to ensure adequate funding for the budget of UN-Women by providing, when legislative and budgetary provisions allow, core, multi-year, predictable, stable and sustainable voluntary contributions to enable UN-Women to promptly and effectively plan and carry out its mandate;

10. *Welcomes* the ministerial declaration adopted by the Economic and Social Council in 2010 on the theme "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women";

11. *Endorses* the declaration adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fourth session on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women;

12. *Encourages* all actors, inter alia, Governments, the United Nations system, other international organizations and civil society, to continue to support the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in fulfilling its central role in the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and, as applicable, to carry out its recommendations, and welcomes in this regard the revised programme and methods

of work of the Commission adopted at its fifty-third session, which continue to focus attention on the sharing of experiences, lessons learned and good practices in overcoming challenges to full implementation at the national and international levels as well as to the evaluation of progress in the implementation of priority themes;

13. *Calls upon* Governments and the organs and relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and other international and regional organizations, including financial institutions, and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to intensify action to achieve the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

14. *Reaffirms* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent violence against women and girls, provide protection to the victims and investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, calls upon Governments to elaborate and implement laws and strategies to eliminate violence against women and girls, encourages and supports men and boys in taking an active part in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence, encourages increased understanding among men and boys of how violence harms girls, boys, women and men and undermines gender equality, encourages all actors to speak out against any violence against women, and in this regard encourages Member States to continue to support the Secretary-General's ongoing campaign "UNITE to End Violence against Women" and the UN-Women social mobilization and advocacy platform "Say NO to violence against women";

15. *Reiterates its call* to the United Nations system, including the main organs, their main committees and subsidiary bodies, functions such as the annual ministerial review and the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, and the funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to increase efforts to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all issues under their consideration and within their mandates, as well as in all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and in their follow-up processes, including the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2011, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 and the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, at the fifty-first session of the Commission for Social Development, in 2013;

16. *Requests* that the entities of the United Nations system systematically incorporate the outcomes of the Commission on the Status of Women into their work within their mandates, inter alia, to ensure effective support for the efforts of Member States towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women;

17. *Strongly encourages* Governments to continue to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

18. *Requests* that reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies systematically address gender perspectives through qualitative gender analysis, sex- and age-disaggregated data and, where available, quantitative data, in particular through concrete conclusions and recommendations for further action on gender equality and the empowerment of women, in order to facilitate gender-sensitive policy development;

19. *Encourages* Member States, with the support of, as appropriate, United Nations entities, including UN-Women, international and regional organizations and other relevant actors, to prioritize the strengthening of national data collection and monitoring capacities, with regard to statistics disaggregated by sex and age, as well as national tracking indicators for gender equality and the empowerment of women through multisectoral efforts and partnerships;

20. *Calls upon* all parts of the United Nations system to continue to play an active role in ensuring the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, through, inter alia, the maintenance of gender specialists in all entities of the United Nations system, as well as by ensuring that all personnel, especially in the field, receive training and appropriate follow-up, including tools, guidance and support, for accelerated gender mainstreaming, and reaffirms the need to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review and redouble his efforts to make progress towards achieving the goal of 50/50 gender balance at all levels throughout the United Nations system, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, considering, in particular, women from developing and least developed countries, from countries with economies in transition and from unrepresented or largely underrepresented Member States, and to ensure managerial and departmental accountability with respect to gender balance targets, and strongly encourages Member States to identify and regularly submit more women candidates for appointment to positions in the United Nations system, especially at more senior and policymaking levels, including in peacekeeping operations;

22. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to continue its efforts towards achieving the goal of gender balance, including with the active support of gender focal points, and requests the Secretary-General to provide an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fifth session and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system, under the item entitled "Advancement of women", and on progress made and obstacles encountered in achieving gender balance, recommendations for accelerating progress, and up-to-date statistics, including the number and percentage of women and their functions and nationalities throughout the United Nations system, and information on the responsibility and accountability of the offices of human resources management and the secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for promoting gender balance;

23. *Encourages* increased efforts by Governments and the United Nations system to enhance accountability for the implementation of commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women at the international, regional and national levels, including by improved monitoring and reporting on progress in relation to policies, strategies, resource allocations and programmes and by achieving gender balance;

24. *Reaffirms* that Governments bear the primary responsibility for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries in progressing towards the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report annually to the General Assembly under the item entitled “Advancement of women”, as well as to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, with an assessment of progress in gender mainstreaming, including information on key achievements, lessons learned and good practices, and recommendations on further measures to enhance implementation.

Critical areas of concern

Women and poverty

Women in development

At the High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs (see p. 813), the General Assembly, on 22 September, by **resolution 65/1**, adopted the outcome document, entitled “Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals”. The Assembly recognized that achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment was both a key development goal and an important means for realizing all of the MDGs. It welcomed the establishment of UN-Women (see p. 1178) and pledged full support for its operationalization. The Assembly noted that with increased political commitment, successful approaches in MDG implementation could be replicated and scaled up for further progress, including by advancing the economic, legal and political empowerment of women, and investing in the health of women and children to reduce the number of women and children who died of preventable causes.

2010 ECOSOC thematic dialogue

On 28 April, the Economic and Social Council decided that “Gender equality and empowerment of women in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals: regional perspectives” would be the theme for the item on regional cooperation of its 2010 substantive session (**decision 2010/207**). On 2 July, the Council held a dialogue with the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions on the chosen theme.

International Widows’ Day

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/65/449], adopted **resolution 65/189** without vote [agenda item 28 (a)].

International Widows’ Day

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its relevant resolutions, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, and, in particular, the agreed conclusions endorsing the eradication of poverty through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-sixth session, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women on 15 September 1995,

Recalling also the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in particular article 3, according to which parties shall take in all fields, in particular in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women,

Affirming that ensuring and promoting the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all women is critical to achieving all internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Emphasizing that the economic empowerment of women, including widows, is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty,

Recognizing that all aspects of the lives of widowed women and their children are, in many parts of the world, negatively affected by various economic, social and cultural factors, including lack of access to inheritance, land tenure, employment and/or livelihood, social safety nets, health care and education,

Recognizing also the link existing between the situation of widows and that of their children,

Deeply concerned that millions of widows’ children face hunger, malnutrition, child labour, difficult access to health care, water and sanitation, loss of schooling, illiteracy and human trafficking,

Reaffirming that women, including widowed women, should be an integral part of the society in the State where they reside, and recalling the importance of positive steps on the part of Member States to that end,

Emphasizing the need to give special attention to the situation of widows and their children, including those living in rural areas,

1. *Decides*, with effect from 2011, to observe International Widows’ Day on 23 June each year;

2. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, to give special attention to the situation of widows and their children;

3. *Invites* all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society, to observe International Widows' Day and to raise awareness of the situation of widows and their children around the world;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the measures necessary, within existing resources, for the observance by the United Nations of International Widows' Day.

Women's health

Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS

In a March resolution [E/2010/27 (res. 54/2)], the Commission on the Status of Women requested Governments to provide equal access for all persons to social services related to health care, especially women and girls living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, including treatment for opportunistic infections and other HIV-related diseases. Governments were called on to integrate HIV prevention and voluntary counselling and testing into other health services, and to intensify efforts to eliminate discrimination against women and girls in relation to HIV and AIDS. The Commission stressed that women and girls should be empowered to protect themselves against violence and have the right to decide on matters related to their sexuality. Governments and the international donor community were called on to integrate a gender perspective in all matters of international assistance and take measures to ensure that resources concomitant with the impact of HIV and AIDS on women and girls were made available. The Commission requested the Secretariat and co-sponsors of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other UN agencies addressing the pandemic, as well as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, to mainstream a gender and human rights perspective throughout their HIV- and AIDS-related operations. The Commission recommended that gender-equality perspectives be included throughout the MDG review process, and that gender analysis, harmonization of data, and the development and refinement of indicators be used to update the core indicators on HIV and AIDS for the reporting system of the 2001 special session of the Assembly on HIV/AIDS [YUN 2001, p. 1125].

Elimination of obstetric fistula

In response to General Assembly resolution 63/158 [YUN 2008, p. 1256], the Secretary-General submitted an August report on supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula [A/65/268], a devastating childbirth injury leaving women incontinent and therefore often stigmatized and isolated within their communities. It described actions taken at the international, regional and national levels, including within the UN system, to end obstetric fistula. Prolonged obstructed labour

without medical or surgical care was the main cause of obstetric fistula and, in almost 90 per cent of such cases, the baby was stillborn or died within the first week of life. Noting that precise figures were lacking, the report stated that at least 2 million, and possibly 3.5 million, women suffered from the condition. Attention was drawn to the need to address obstetric fistula in the context of the achievement of MDG 5 on improving maternal health and achieving universal access to reproductive health by 2015. A preventable and treatable condition that afflicted the most impoverished women and girls in the developing world, obstetric fistula was a stark example of continued global health inequity.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) continued its global Campaign to End Fistula [YUN 2002, p. 1078], aiming to end obstetric fistula by 2015 by offering preventative and treatment measures. In 2010, UNFPA conducted about 5,000 surgical treatments and was active in more than 49 countries in Africa, the Arab States and Asia (see PART THREE, Chapter VIII).

Noting that educating and empowering girls and women was crucial for the prevention of obstetric fistula, the Secretary-General recommended greater investment in health-care systems, especially in priority countries in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. He also proposed investments to support national health-care plans and address health-care coverage inequalities among socio-economic and age groups, particularly in rural areas and in poor urban areas. Equitable geographic access required the distribution of health-care facilities and personnel, collaboration with the transport sector on affordable transport options, and the promotion of community-based solutions, while financial access required innovative mechanisms to ensure the availability of free or subsidized delivery care and obstetric fistula treatment. He called for strengthened and expanded interventions to keep adolescent girls in school, stop child marriages and promote health-seeking behaviours. Achieving MDG 5 and the eradication of obstetric fistula would require substantial financial resources, including sustained and predictable funding for preventing and treating existing and new cases until 2015.

Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health. On 22 September, the Secretary-General launched the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health (Every Woman Every Child), which aimed to save 16 million lives by 2015 through accelerating collective progress towards the achievement of MDG 4 (a two-thirds reduction in under-five mortality) and 5 (a three-quarters reduction in maternal mortality and universal access to reproductive health). In **resolution 65/197** of 21 December, the General Assembly took note of the launch (see p. 647).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/65/449], adopted **resolution 65/188** without vote [agenda item 28 (a)].

Supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 62/138 of 18 December 2007 and 63/158 of 18 December 2008 on supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century” and the declaration adopted at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming also the international commitments in the field of social development and to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, as well as those made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and at the 2005 World Summit,

Reaffirming further the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and urging States that have not done so to consider, as a matter of priority, signing, ratifying or acceding to those Conventions and the Optional Protocols thereto,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula, and welcoming the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

Stressing the interlinkages between poverty, malnutrition, lack of or inadequate or inaccessible health services, early childbearing, early marriage of the girl child, violence against young women and girls and gender discrimination as root causes of obstetric fistula, and that poverty remains the main social risk factor,

Recognizing that the difficult socio-economic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, have resulted in the acceleration of the feminization of poverty,

Recognizing also that early pregnancy and early childbearing entail complications during pregnancy and delivery and a much higher risk of maternal mortality and morbidity, and deeply concerned that early childbearing and limited access to the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, including in the area of emergency obstetric care, cause high levels of obstetric fistula and other maternal morbidities, as well as maternal mortality,

Recognizing further the serious immediate and long-term implications for health, including sexual and reproductive health, as well as increased vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, and the negative impact on psychological, social and economic development that violence against the girl child and adolescent girls represents for individuals, families, communities and States,

Deeply concerned about discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child, which often result in less access by girls to education and nutrition, reduced physical and mental health and enjoyment by girls of fewer of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence compared with boys, and in their often being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and to violence and harmful practices,

Welcoming the contribution by Member States, the international community and civil society to the global Campaign to End Fistula, bearing in mind that a people-centred approach to social and economic development is fundamental for protecting and empowering individuals and communities,

Welcoming also the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, entitled “Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals”, in particular the references to Goal 5,

Welcoming further the Secretary-General’s Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health, undertaken by a broad coalition of partners, in support of national plans and strategies aimed at significantly reducing the number of maternal, newborn and under-five child deaths as a matter of immediate concern by scaling up a priority package of high-impact interventions and integrating efforts in sectors such as health, education, gender equality, water and sanitation, poverty reduction and nutrition,

Welcoming the various national, regional and international initiatives on all the Millennium Development Goals, including those undertaken bilaterally and through South-South cooperation, in support of national plans and strategies in sectors such as health, education, gender equality, energy, water and sanitation, poverty reduction and nutrition as a way to reduce the number of maternal, newborn and under-five child deaths,

Welcoming also ongoing partnerships between stakeholders at all levels to address the multifaceted determinants of maternal, newborn and child health in close coordination with Member States based on their needs and priorities and the commitments announced during the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals to accelerate progress on the health-related Goals,

Reaffirming the renewed and reinforced commitments made by Member States for achieving Millennium Development Goal 5,

1. *Recognizes* the interlinkages between poverty, malnutrition, lack of or inadequate or inaccessible health services, early childbearing, early marriage of the girl child and gender discrimination as root causes of obstetric fistula, that poverty remains the main social risk factor, that the eradication of poverty is critical to meeting the needs and protecting and promoting the rights of women and girls and that continued urgent national and international action is required to eliminate it;

2. *Stresses* the need to address the social issues that contribute to the problem of obstetric fistula, such as early marriage of the girl child, early pregnancy, lack of access to sexual and reproductive health, lack of or inadequate education of women and girls, poverty and the low status of women and girls;

3. *Also stresses* that States have the obligation to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls, that they must exercise due diligence in order to prevent, investigate and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and to provide protection to the victims, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

4. *Calls upon* States to take all measures necessary to ensure the right of women and girls to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, and to develop sustainable health systems and social services, with a view to ensuring access to such systems and services without discrimination, while paying special attention to adequate food and nutrition, water and sanitation, family planning information, increasing knowledge and awareness and securing appropriate prenatal and post-natal care for the prevention of obstetric fistula;

5. *Also calls upon* States to ensure the right to education for women and girls, of good quality, on an equal basis with men and boys, and to ensure that they complete a full course of primary education, and to renew their efforts to improve and expand girls' and women's education at all levels, including at the secondary and higher levels, as well as vocational education and technical training, in order, inter alia, to achieve gender equality, the empowerment of women and poverty eradication;

6. *Urges* States to enact and strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses and, in addition, to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage, and to raise the minimum age for marriage where necessary;

7. *Calls upon* the international community to support the activities of the United Nations Population Fund and other partners in the global Campaign to End Fistula, including the World Health Organization, in establishing and financing regional fistula treatment and training centres, and where necessary national centres, by identifying and supporting health facilities that have the potential to serve as centres for treatment, training and convalescent care;

8. *Calls upon* States to accelerate progress in order to achieve Millennium Development Goal 5 and its two targets by addressing reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health in a comprehensive manner, inter alia, through the provision of family planning, prenatal care, skilled attendance at birth, emergency obstetric and newborn care and methods of prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and infections, such as HIV, within strengthened health systems that provide accessible and affordable integrated health-care services and include community-based preventive and clinical care, as also reflected in the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, entitled "Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals", and the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health;

9. *Calls upon* States and/or the relevant funds and programmes, organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and invites the international financial institutions and all relevant

actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and the private sector:

(a) To redouble their efforts to meet the internationally agreed goal of improving maternal health by making maternal health services and obstetric fistula treatment geographically and financially accessible, including by increasing access to skilled attendance at birth, emergency obstetric care and appropriate prenatal and post-natal care;

(b) To develop, implement and support national and international prevention, care and treatment and socio-economic reintegration and support strategies, as appropriate, to address effectively the condition of obstetric fistula and to develop further a multisectoral, multidisciplinary, comprehensive and integrated approach in order to bring about lasting solutions and put an end to obstetric fistula, maternal mortality and related morbidities, including through ensuring access to affordable, comprehensive, quality maternal health-care services, including skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care;

(c) To strengthen the capacity of health systems, in particular public health systems, to provide the essential services needed to prevent obstetric fistula and to treat those cases that do occur by providing the continuum of services, including family planning, prenatal care, skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric care and post-partum care, to young women and girls, including those living in poverty and in underserved rural areas where obstetric fistula is most common;

(d) To strengthen research, monitoring and evaluation systems, including community-based notification of obstetric fistula cases and maternal and newborn deaths, to guide the implementation of maternal health programmes;

(e) To provide essential health services, equipment and supplies and skills training and income-generating projects to women and girls so that they can break out of the cycle of poverty;

(f) To mobilize funding to provide free or subsidized fistula repairs, including through encouraging more networking among providers and the sharing of new treatment techniques and protocols;

(g) To improve data collection, pre- and post-surgery, to measure progress in addressing the needs for surgical treatment and the quality of surgery, rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration services, including post-surgery prospects for successful subsequent pregnancies, live births and severe health-related complications so as to address the challenges for improving maternal health;

(h) To provide health education, rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration counselling, including medical counselling, as key components of post-operative care to all women after fistula treatment, including to those with irreparable cases;

(i) To bring obstetric fistula to the attention of policymakers and communities, thereby reducing the stigma and discrimination associated with it and helping women and girls suffering from obstetric fistula so that they can overcome abandonment and social exclusion together with the psychosocial implications thereof, inter alia, through the support of social reintegration projects;

(j) To educate individual women and men, girls and boys, communities, policymakers and health professionals about how obstetric fistula can be prevented and treated,

and increase awareness of the needs of pregnant women and girls, as well as of those who have undergone surgical fistula repair, including their right to the highest attainable standard of health, by working with community and religious leaders, traditional birth attendants, women and girls who have suffered from fistula, the media, radio stations, influential public figures and policymakers, support the training of doctors, midwives, nurses and other health workers in lifesaving obstetric care, and include training on fistula repair, treatment and care as a standard element of the training curricula of health professionals;

(k) To develop means of transportation and financing that enable women and girls to access obstetric care and treatment, and provide incentives and other means to secure the presence in rural areas of qualified health professionals who are able to perform interventions to prevent obstetric fistula;

10. *Encourages* communication and networking among existing fistula centres to facilitate training, research, advocacy and fund-raising and the development and application of relevant standards, including *Obstetric Fistula: Guiding Principles for Clinical Management and Programme Development*, which provides background information and principles for developing fistula prevention and treatment strategies and programmes;

11. *Urges* the international community to address the shortages of doctors, midwives, nurses and other health workers trained in lifesaving obstetric care, and of space and supplies, that limit the capacity of most fistula centres;

12. *Urges* multilateral donors, and invites international financial institutions, within their respective mandates, and regional development banks to review and implement policies to support national efforts to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reaches young women and girls, in particular in rural and remote areas;

13. *Invites* Member States to contribute to efforts to end obstetric fistula, including, in particular, the United Nations Population Fund global Campaign to End Fistula, with the goal of eliminating obstetric fistula by 2015, in line with the targets of the Millennium Development Goal of improving maternal health;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

Eliminating maternal mortality

In a March resolution [E/2010/27 (res. 54/5)], the Commission on the Status of Women called on Member States and the international community to commit to eliminating the unacceptably high global rate of maternal mortality and morbidity and to implement the Beijing Platform for Action, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development [YUN 1994, p. 956], and the outcomes of their review conferences, including commitments related to sexual and reproductive health. States were called on to address gender inequalities, violations of the enjoyment of human rights by women and girls, discrimination against women and girls,

and harmful traditional practices that contributed to the global rate of maternal mortality and morbidity; guarantee access to the highest attainable standard of health for all women; and ensure women's full participation in decision-making regarding health care. The Commission recognized the interlinkages among poverty, malnutrition, lack of or inadequate or inaccessible health services, early childbearing and gender discrimination as root causes of maternal mortality and morbidity; that the eradication of poverty contributed to meeting the needs of women and girls; and that continued national and international action was required to eliminate it. It decided to hold, at its 2011 session, an expert panel discussion on the elimination of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and the empowerment of women.

Tobacco use and maternal and child health

On 22 July, the Economic and Social Council, in **resolution 2010/8** (see p. 1227) on tobacco use and maternal and child health, called on Member States to include tobacco control in their efforts to improve maternal and child health, and to reduce child mortality through the protection of children and pregnant women from tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke.

Traditional practices affecting the health of women and girls

Female genital mutilation

In response to Commission resolution 52/2 [YUN 2008, p. 1258], the Secretary-General submitted a report [E/CN.6/2010/6] on ending female genital mutilation (FGM), which provided information on measures taken by Member States and activities within the UN system to address the practice, as well as recommendations for future action. Responses to the Secretary-General's request for information were received from 27 Member States, 10 UN system entities and the International Organization for Migration.

Measures taken by Member States included: strengthening legal and policy frameworks; reinforcing preventive action and support to victims and women at risk; and enhancing data collection and collaboration among different stakeholders. States emphasized the importance of working with communities practising FGM, including migrant communities, and developing partnerships with UN entities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector, community and faith-based organizations, media and other actors. Awareness-raising and information campaigns and programmes on the prohibition of FGM, the detrimental effects of the practice on health and well-being, and the human rights of women and girls were carried out through a range of media. Information on the benefits of abandoning the

practice were included in school curricula. Training programmes towards FGM prevention or prohibition had been put in place for health-care providers and government officials.

UN entities collaborated with national authorities to support the adoption, improvement and implementation of laws, action plans and policies on the elimination of FGM. Approaches to working with communities were strengthened; those efforts included counselling for women and girls who had undergone the practice and advocating for alternative rites of passage for at-risk girls. UN entities supported training initiatives, focused on ensuring that victims and at-risk women and girls had access to services and support, and increased the availability of data and knowledge on FGM by providing information resources on prevalence, health consequences and elimination strategies.

The Secretary-General recommended that Member States ratify and implement international instruments and establish legal frameworks to prohibit and prevent FGM; protect and support victims and at-risk women and girls; put in place sanctions to discourage health professionals from performing the practice; and ensure that all professionals, including those in schools and health and social services, were duty-bound to report cases of FGM and cases in which they believed girls or women were at risk. Training programmes should be strengthened for religious and traditional leaders, health professionals and public officials, and States should support the re-training of traditional practitioners of FGM in alternative income-generating activities. Prevention efforts should continue, the role of communities in the abandonment of FGM should be recognized and community-based abandonment initiatives supported.

Commission action. In a March resolution [E/2010/27 (res. 54/7)], the Commission called on States to develop and implement integrated strategies for the prevention of FGM, including by training social workers, medical personnel, religious and community leaders and other professionals; ensure that they provided care and support services to at-risk women and girls and to women and girls who had undergone FGM; and compel them to report cases in which they believed girls or women were at risk. It called on the international community, UN entities, civil society and international financial institutions to support, through the allocation of increased financial resources, targeted, innovative programmes, and to disseminate best practices that addressed the needs and priorities of girls in vulnerable situations, such as that of FGM. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to ensure that all UN system entities took into account the protection and promotion of the rights of women and girls against FGM in their country programmes, in accordance with national priorities.

Violence against women

In response to General Assembly resolution 63/155 [YUN 2008, p. 1260], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/65/208] on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women. Based on inputs received from 54 Member States, the report provided information on measures taken to address such violence, including the strengthening of legal frameworks, adoption of dedicated policies, reinforcement of preventive action, collection and analysis of data, and efforts to prosecute perpetrators and protect and support victims.

Many States had strengthened their national legislation to prevent and address violence against women, but the lack of enforcement of such laws remained a challenge. Penal codes had been amended to allow for expanded definitions of violence against women. The definition of rape had also been broadened in several countries to include a greater range of constitutive acts, focusing on consent rather than physical force and providing for an increase in applicable penalties. A growing number of States were criminalizing marital rape, and sentences and fines for domestic violence had been increased. To enhance the capacity of law enforcement officials, training programmes were carried out for police, prosecutors, judges, lawyers and security forces. Training materials were developed, and protocols and guidelines issued on investigation, prosecution, legal proceedings and cooperation between authorities.

National mechanisms were established, including expert groups, specialized units within ministries, and multisectoral task forces and commissions. Campaigns to sensitize community and religious leaders were carried out in several States, and a range of media were used in awareness-raising and information programmes. Helplines and legal clinics informed survivors and at-risk women of their rights and encouraged victims to seek assistance. A promising trend was the establishment of centres providing integrated services for victims in one location. Shelters and safe houses were more widely available for different groups, such as domestic workers, women migrants, women with disabilities, and children victims/witnesses of violence. Projects to build capacity and raise awareness among staff dealing with violence against women, including health staff, were organized in numerous States.

The Secretary-General recommended that States ensure that law enforcement officials dealing with violence against women received systematic training, and that criminal justice procedures were gender-sensitive and protected survivors' rights. Barriers to accessing justice faced by victims should be removed, including by ensuring legal aid, interpretation and court support. He recognized improvements in the collection of data on violence against women, includ-

ing through the creation of national databases and the growing number of population-based surveys, but as the availability of more and better quality information and data was crucial, States should reinforce their efforts. Data should be disaggregated by sex, race, age, ethnicity and other characteristics, and States should intensify efforts to build the capacity of statisticians to collect data in a gender-sensitive manner. State-run information and awareness-raising campaigns, educational programmes and other initiatives should be reinforced to ensure that they were sustained and extensive in coverage, and that they targeted particular groups, such as immigrants, rural and indigenous women, women from ethnic minorities, and women with disabilities. Educational curricula should promote gender equality and women's human rights and condemn violence against women. Prevention activities should be extended to school programmes and sports and youth organizations and include efforts aimed at building skills in the development of respectful relations.

The Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences submitted to the Human Rights Council her first thematic report, which was on the topic of reparations to women subjected to violence in contexts of both peaceful and post-conflict settings [A/HRC/14/22] (see p. 751).

UNIFEM activities. In response to General Assembly resolution 50/166 [YUN 1995, p. 1188], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Human Rights Council and the Commission on the Status of Women a December report [A/HRC/16/34-E/CN.6/2011/9] of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), by then part of UN-Women (see p. 1178), on its 2010 programming to eliminate violence against women in some 90 countries. In March, UNIFEM launched an online resource for service providers, programmers, policymakers and advocates that provided information on “what works best” to address gender-based violence: the Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls. In November, it introduced the Global Programme on Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls—the first cross-regional initiative dedicated to developing a model for making cities safer by reducing sexual harassment and violence in public spaces.

Reviewing the activities of the UNIFEM-managed United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, which was guided by a new strategic plan for 2010–2015 entitled “Vision 2015”, the report said that the Fund focused on three priorities: turning policy pledges into reality for women and girls; generating knowledge on “what works” to end the pandemic of violence against women and girls; and building new partnerships, ownership and expanded commitment to the Fund throughout the UN system and beyond. Initiatives

engaging multiple sectors and encouraging partnerships among key stakeholders were prioritized; emphasis was placed on projects to meet the needs of marginalized or neglected groups, including youth, women living in conflict, and indigenous women. The Fund supported projects in standardized data collection, political advocacy and developing capacities of government officials and other stakeholders charged with implementing or enforcing laws.

The Fund had a portfolio of 83 active grants across 72 countries and territories with a total value of nearly \$47 million. Africa had the largest portfolio (29 per cent), followed by Asia and the Pacific (26 per cent). Latin America and the Caribbean accounted for 20 per cent of grants. Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States comprised 14 per cent, followed by Arab States and cross-regional programmes with grant portfolios of 6 and 5 per cent, respectively. In 2010, over \$10 million was awarded to 13 initiatives in 18 countries and territories for programmes expected to reach 280,000 beneficiaries.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/65/449], adopted **resolution 65/187** without vote [agenda item 28 (a)].

Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 61/143 of 19 December 2006, 62/133 of 18 December 2007, 63/155 of 18 December 2008 and 64/137 of 18 December 2009 and all its previous resolutions on the elimination of violence against women,

Reaffirming the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reaffirming also that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international human rights instruments, and that its elimination is an integral part of efforts towards the elimination of all forms of violence against women,

Reaffirming also the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”, the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2010 of the Economic and Social Council and the declarations adopted at the forty-ninth and fifty-fourth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming further the international commitments in the field of social development and to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the World Confer-

ence on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, as well as those made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, at the 2005 World Summit and at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, and noting the attention paid to the elimination of all forms of violence against indigenous women in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007,

Recalling the inclusion of gender-related crimes and crimes of sexual violence in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as well as the recognition by the ad hoc international criminal tribunals that rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity or a constitutive act with respect to genocide or torture,

Recalling also the tenth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security and the need for its full implementation, Council resolutions 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009 and 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009 on women and peace and security and Council resolution 1882(2009) of 4 August 2009 on children and armed conflict,

Recalling further Human Rights Council resolution 14/12 of 18 June 2010, in which the Council requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a compilation of good practices in efforts aimed at preventing violence against women, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, and Council resolution 15/23 of 1 October 2010 on the elimination of discrimination against women,

Welcoming the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the appointment of Ms. Michelle Bachelet as Under-Secretary-General and head of UN-Women, and recognizing the importance of the cooperation and coordination of UN-Women with all relevant United Nations entities, including the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences,

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts and the high number of activities undertaken by the United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, including by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, to eliminate all forms of violence against women,

Deeply concerned about the pervasiveness of violence against women and girls in all its different forms and manifestations worldwide, and reiterating the need to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls throughout the world,

Recognizing that violence against women and girls is rooted in historical and structural inequality in power relations between men and women and that all forms of violence against women seriously violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment by women and girls of all human rights and

fundamental freedoms and constitute a major impediment to the ability of women to make use of their capabilities,

Recognizing also that women's poverty and lack of empowerment, as well as their marginalization resulting from their exclusion from social policies and from the benefits of education and sustainable development, can place them at increased risk of violence, and that violence against women impedes the social and economic development of communities and States, as well as the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing further that the empowerment of women, by, inter alia, ensuring their full representation and full and equal participation at all levels of decision-making and their full economic autonomy, including by promoting their equal access to the labour market, is fundamental for eliminating violence against women and girls, especially in the current time of economic crisis,

Acknowledging the need to address violence against women and girls holistically, including through the recognition of linkages between violence against women and girls and other issues, such as HIV/AIDS, poverty eradication, food security, peace and security, humanitarian assistance, human trafficking, education, health and crime prevention,

Welcoming the adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, and stressing its contribution to combating violence against women and the need for its full and effective implementation,

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts and the high number of activities undertaken by States to eliminate all forms of violence against women that have resulted in the strengthening of legislation and the criminal justice system, such as adopting national action plans, strategies and national coordination mechanisms, implementing prevention measures, including awareness-raising and capacity-building, reinforcing protection, support and services for victims and survivors, and improving data collection and analysis,

Emphasizing that the lack of full and effective enforcement of national legal frameworks to prevent and address violence against women remains a continuing challenge, as noted by the Secretary-General in his report,

Recognizing the important role of the family in preventing and combating violence against women and girls and the need to support its capacity to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls,

Recognizing also the important role of the community, in particular men and boys, as well as civil society, in particular women's organizations, in the efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women,

1. *Stresses* that "violence against women" means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life;

2. *Recognizes* that violence against women and girls persists in every country in the world as a pervasive violation of the enjoyment of human rights and a major impediment to achieving gender equality, development, peace and the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals;

3. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;

4. *Also welcomes* the fact that a high number of Member States have responded to the request of the Secretary-General for information relating to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 63/155, and expresses the hope that Member States will continue to respond to subsequent requests of the Secretary-General;

5. *Further welcomes* the efforts and important contributions at the local, national, regional and international levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* for the progress achieved in the Secretary-General's 2008–2015 campaign "UNITE to End Violence against Women", through the launch of the Secretary-General's Network of Men Leaders and the development of a framework for action outlining the five key outcomes to be achieved by 2015, supported, inter alia, by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (part of UN-Women) social mobilization and advocacy platform "Say NO to violence against women", the United Nations inter-agency initiative "Stop Rape Now: United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict" and the regional components of the campaign, stresses the need to accelerate the implementation of concrete follow-up activities by the United Nations system to end all forms of violence against women, requests the Secretary-General to report on the results of his campaign, and encourages Member States to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of all forms of violence against women;

7. *Strongly condemns* all acts of violence against women and girls, whether those acts are perpetrated by the State, by private persons or by non-State actors, and calls for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence in the family, within the general community and where perpetrated or condoned by the State;

8. *Stresses* that it is important that States strongly condemn all forms of violence against women and refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination as set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;

9. *Also stresses* that States have the obligation, at all levels, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including women and girls, and must exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls, to eliminate impunity and to provide protection to the victims, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

10. *Reaffirms* that the persistence of armed conflicts in various parts of the world is a major impediment to the elimination of all forms of violence against women, and, bearing in mind that armed and other types of conflicts and terrorism and hostage-taking still persist in many parts of the world and that aggression, foreign occupation and ethnic and other types of conflicts are an ongoing reality, affecting women and men in nearly every region, calls upon all States and the international community to place particular focus on the plight, and give priority attention and increased assistance to relieving the suffering of, women

and girls living in such situations and to ensure that, where violence is committed against them, all perpetrators of such violence are duly investigated and, as appropriate, prosecuted and punished in order to end impunity, while stressing the need to respect international humanitarian law and human rights law;

11. *Stresses* the need for the exclusion of the killing and maiming of women and girls, as prohibited under international law, and crimes of sexual violence from amnesty provisions in the context of conflict resolution processes;

12. *Also stresses* that, despite important steps taken by many countries around the world, States should continue to focus on the prevention of violence against women and its causes and consequences, in order to complement more effectively the improved legal and policy frameworks, and should therefore monitor and rigorously evaluate the implementation of available programmes, policies and laws and improve, where possible, their impact and effectiveness;

13. *Further stresses* that States should take measures to ensure that all officials responsible for implementing policies and programmes aimed at preventing violence against women and girls, protecting and assisting the victims and investigating and punishing violence against women and girls receive proper training to sensitize them to the different and specific needs of women and girls, in particular those who have been subjected to violence, so that women and girls are not revictimized when seeking justice and redress;

14. *Stresses* that States should take all possible measures to empower women, inform them of their rights in seeking redress through mechanisms of justice and inform everyone of women's rights and of the existing penalties for violating those rights;

15. *Calls upon* States, with the support of United Nations entities, to fully engage men and boys, as well as families and communities, as agents of change in preventing and condemning violence against women;

16. *Urges* States to continue to develop their national strategy, translating it into concrete programmes and actions, and a more systematic, comprehensive, multisectoral and sustained approach, aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women, including by achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and by increasing the focus on prevention in laws, policies and programmes and their implementation, monitoring and evaluation, so as to ensure the optimal use of available instruments, by, for example:

(a) Establishing, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders and at all relevant levels, a comprehensive integrated national plan dedicated to combating violence against women and girls in all its aspects, which includes data collection and analysis, prevention and protection measures, as well as national information campaigns, using resources to eliminate in the media gender stereotypes that lead to violence against women and girls;

(b) Reviewing and, where appropriate, revising, amending or abolishing all laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that discriminate against women or have a discriminatory impact on women, and ensuring that the provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations, commitments and principles, including the principle of non-discrimination;

(c) Evaluating and assessing the impact of current legislation, rules and procedures regarding violence against women and the reasons for low reporting, reinforcing, where necessary, criminal law and procedure relating to all forms of violence against women and, where necessary, incorporating into law measures aimed at preventing violence against women;

(d) Promoting awareness among all stakeholders of the need to combat violence against women, and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, inter alia, through regular and repeated use and funding of awareness-raising campaigns and other ways to promote prevention, such as international, regional and national conferences, seminars, training, publications, brochures, websites, audiovisual material, social media, television and radio spots, and debates, as appropriate;

(e) Ensuring that there is sufficient knowledge, including expertise in effective legal approaches to eliminating violence against women and girls, awareness and coordination in the legal system and, to that end, where appropriate, appointing a focal point in the legal system for cases of violence against women and girls;

(f) Ensuring the systematic collection and analysis of data to monitor all forms of violence against women, including on the effectiveness of measures to prevent and address such violence, with the involvement of national statistical offices and, where appropriate, in partnership with other actors, in order to review and implement effectively laws, policies, strategies and preventive measures, while ensuring and maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of the victims;

(g) Establishing appropriate national mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of national measures, including national action plans, taken to eliminate violence against women, including through the use of national indicators;

(h) Providing adequate financial support for the implementation of national action plans to end violence against women and other relevant activities;

(i) Allocating adequate resources to promote the empowerment of women and gender equality and to prevent and redress all forms and manifestations of violence against women;

(j) Adopting all appropriate measures, especially in the field of education, from the entry levels of the education system, to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women of all ages, in order to promote the development of respectful relations and to eliminate prejudices, customary practices and all other practices based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority of either of the sexes and on stereotyped roles for men and women, and by raising awareness of the unacceptability of violence against women and girls at all levels, including through schools, teachers, parents, youth organizations and teaching materials sensitized on gender equality and human rights;

(k) Empowering women, in particular women living in poverty, by, inter alia, strengthening their economic autonomy and by ensuring their full participation in society and in decision-making processes, through, inter alia, social and economic policies that guarantee them full and equal access to all levels of quality education and training and to affordable and adequate public and social services,

as well as equal access to financial resources and employment, and full and equal rights to own and have access to land and other property, and taking further appropriate measures to address the increasing rate of homelessness of and inadequate housing for women in order to reduce their vulnerability to violence;

(l) Treating all forms of violence against women and girls as a criminal offence, punishable by law, contributing, inter alia, to the prevention of such crimes, and ensuring penalties commensurate with the severity of the crimes and sanctions in domestic legislation to punish, and redress, as appropriate, the wrongs caused to women and girls who are subjected to violence;

(m) Taking effective measures to prevent the victim's consent from becoming an impediment to bringing perpetrators of violence against women and girls to justice, while ensuring that appropriate safeguards to protect the victim and adequate and comprehensive measures for the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of violence into society are in place;

(n) Encouraging the removal of all barriers to women's access to justice and ensuring that effective legal assistance is provided to all female victims of violence so that they can make informed decisions regarding, inter alia, legal proceedings and issues relating to family law, and also ensuring that victims have access to just and effective remedies for the harm that they have suffered, including through the adoption of national legislation where necessary;

(o) Ensuring effective cooperation and coordination among all stakeholders, including all relevant public officials and civil society, in the prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of all forms of violence against women and girls;

(p) Developing or improving and disseminating specialized training programmes, including practical tools and good practice guidelines on how to identify, prevent and deal with cases of violence against women and girls and on how to assist victims, for all stakeholders responsible for dealing with violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, including police officers, the judiciary, health workers, law enforcement personnel and civil society, and engaging statisticians and the media;

(q) Strengthening national health and social infrastructure to reinforce measures to promote women's equal access to public health care and address the health consequences of all forms of violence against women and girls, including by providing support to victims;

(r) Establishing or supporting integrated centres through which shelter, legal, health, psychological, counselling and other services are provided to victims of all forms of violence against women and, where such centres are not yet feasible, promoting collaboration and coordination among agencies, in order to make remedies more accessible and to facilitate the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims, and ensuring that victims have access to such services;

(s) Ensuring that the prison system and probation services provide appropriate rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators, as a preventive tool to avoid recidivism;

(t) Supporting and engaging in partnerships with non-governmental organizations, in particular women's organizations, and other relevant actors and the private sector to end violence against women and girls;

17. *Calls upon* the international community, including the United Nations system and, as appropriate, regional and subregional organizations, to support national efforts to promote the empowerment of women and gender equality in order to enhance national efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls, including, upon request, in the development and implementation of national action plans on the elimination of violence against women and girls, through, inter alia, official development assistance and other appropriate assistance, such as facilitating the sharing of guidelines, methodologies and best practices, taking into account national priorities;

18. *Stresses* the contribution of the ad hoc international criminal tribunals and the International Criminal Court to ending impunity, by ensuring accountability and punishing perpetrators of violence against women, and urges States to consider ratifying or acceding as a matter of priority to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which entered into force on 1 July 2002;

19. *Calls upon* the inter-agency Programme Appraisal Committee of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, in consultation with the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, to continue to provide guidance on the implementation of the 2010–2015 strategy for the Trust Fund and to further enhance its effectiveness as a system-wide funding mechanism for preventing and redressing all forms of violence against women and girls and to give due consideration, inter alia, to the findings and recommendations of the external evaluation of the Trust Fund;

20. *Notes with concern* the growing gap between available funding in the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women and the funds required to meet the increasing demand, and urges States and other stakeholders, where possible, to significantly increase their voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund in order to meet the annual target of 100 million United States dollars by 2015 as set by the Secretary-General's campaign "UNITE to End Violence against Women", while expressing its appreciation for the contributions to the Trust Fund already made by States, the private sector and other donors;

21. *Stresses* that, within the United Nations system, adequate resources should be assigned to UN-Women and other bodies, specialized agencies, funds and programmes responsible for the promotion of gender equality and women's rights and to efforts throughout the United Nations system to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls, and calls upon the United Nations system to make the necessary support and resources available;

22. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Secretary-General's database on violence against women, expresses its appreciation to all the States that have provided the database with information regarding, inter alia, their national policies and legal frameworks aimed at eliminating violence against women and supporting victims of such violence, strongly encourages all States to regularly provide updated information for the database, and calls upon all relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue to support States, at their request, in the compilation and regular updating of pertinent information and to raise awareness of the database among all relevant stakeholders, including civil society;

23. *Also welcomes* the adoption of an interim set of indicators to measure violence against women by the Statistical Commission at its fortieth session, and looks forward to the results of the ongoing work of the Commission on this topic;

24. *Calls upon* all United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies and invites the Bretton Woods institutions to intensify their efforts at all levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and to better coordinate their work, inter alia, through the Task Force on Violence against Women of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, and looks forward to the results of the ongoing work of the Task Force on composing a manual on joint programming, with a view to increasing effective support for national efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

25. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences to present an annual report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth and sixty-seventh sessions;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report containing:

(a) Information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on their follow-up activities to implement resolution 64/137 and the present resolution, including on their assistance to States in their efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

(b) Information provided by States on their follow-up activities to implement the present resolution;

27. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to present an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions including information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on recent follow-up activities to implement resolutions 63/155 and 64/137 and the present resolution, including on the progress made in enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women as a system-wide United Nations mechanism and on the progress of the Secretary-General's campaign to end violence against women, and urges United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to contribute promptly to that report;

28. *Decides* to continue the consideration of the question at its sixty-seventh session under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

Crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its nineteenth session (Vienna, 17–21 May) [E/2010/30], had before it a draft resolution on strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women. As recommended by the 2009 meeting of the intergovernmental expert group to review and update the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime

Prevention and Criminal Justice [YUN 2009, p. 1133], the Commission submitted the draft to the Economic and Social Council for approval and for adoption by the General Assembly. Annexed to the draft resolution were the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 22 July [meeting 45], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice [E/2010/30], adopted **resolution 2010/15** without vote [agenda item 14 (c)].

Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

[For text, see General Assembly resolution 65/228 below.]

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/65/457], adopted **resolution 65/228** without vote [agenda item 105].

Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, and, in particular, the determination of Governments to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women,

Reaffirming also the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, as well as the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" and the declarations adopted at the forty-ninth and fifty-fourth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Recognizing that the term "women", except where otherwise specified, encompasses "girl children",

Reaffirming the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reaffirming that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other international human rights instruments and that its elimination is an integral part of efforts towards the elimination of all forms of violence against women,

Stressing that States have the obligation to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including women and girls, and must exercise due diligence to prevent and investigate acts of violence against women and girls and punish the perpetrators, eliminate impunity and provide protection to the victims, and that failure to do

so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Emphasizing the importance of preventing violence against migrant women through the implementation, inter alia, of measures aimed at combating racism, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance,

Deeply concerned that all forms of discrimination, including racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination and disadvantage, can lead to the targeting or particular vulnerability to violence of girls and some groups of women, such as women belonging to minority groups, indigenous women, refugee and internally displaced women, migrant women, women living in rural or remote communities, destitute women, women in institutions or in detention, women with disabilities, elderly women, widows, women in situations of armed conflict, women who are otherwise discriminated against, including on the basis of HIV status, and women victims of commercial sexual exploitation,

Greatly concerned that some groups of women, such as migrant women, refugees and women in detention, in situations of armed conflict or in territories under occupation, might be more vulnerable to violence,

Recognizing that women's poverty and lack of empowerment, as well as their marginalization resulting from their exclusion from social policies and from the benefits of sustained development, can place them at increased risk of violence and that violence against women impedes the social and economic development of communities and States, as well as the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming its resolution 52/86 of 12 December 1997, in which it adopted the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Recalling its resolutions 61/143 of 19 December 2006, 62/133 of 18 December 2007, 63/155 of 18 December 2008 and 64/137 of 18 December 2009 on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women,

Recalling also the Bangkok Declaration on Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, adopted at the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in which Governments recognized that comprehensive crime prevention strategies could significantly reduce crime and victimization and urged that such strategies be developed at the local, national and international levels and that they, inter alia, take into account the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime, and emphasized the importance of promoting the interests of victims of crime, including taking account of their gender,

Taking note of Human Rights Council resolution 11/2 of 17 June 2009 on accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women,

Recalling the inclusion of gender-related crimes and crimes of sexual violence in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as well as the recognition by the ad hoc international criminal tribunals that rape can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity or a constitutive act with respect to genocide or torture,

Expressing deep concern about the pervasiveness of violence against women in all its forms and manifestations worldwide, and reiterating the need to intensify efforts to address that challenge,

Recognizing that effective and integrated criminal justice responses to violence against women require close cooperation among all key stakeholders, including law enforcement officials, prosecutors, judges, victim advocates, health professionals and forensic scientists,

Stressing the importance of a comprehensive, well-coordinated, effective and adequately resourced response by the United Nations system to all forms of violence against women,

Recalling the joint dialogue of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on addressing violence against women through legal reform, held in New York on 4 March 2009 within the framework of the fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling also Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice decision 17/1 of 18 April 2008, in which the Commission requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to convene an intergovernmental group of experts with equitable geographical representation, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, to review and update, as appropriate, the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

1. *Strongly condemns* all acts of violence against women, whether those acts are perpetrated by the State, by private persons or by non-State actors, and calls for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence in the family, within the general community and where perpetrated or condoned by the State;

2. *Stresses* that “violence against women” means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work done at the meeting of the intergovernmental expert group to review and update the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Bangkok from 23 to 25 March 2009;

4. *Adopts* the guidelines in the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, annexed to the present resolution;

5. *Urges* Member States to end impunity for violence against women by investigating, prosecuting with due process and punishing all perpetrators, by ensuring that women have equal protection under the law and equal access to justice and by holding up to public scrutiny and countering those attitudes that foster, justify or tolerate any form of violence against women;

6. *Also urges* Member States to enhance their mechanisms and procedures for protecting victims of violence against women in the criminal justice system, taking into account, inter alia, the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, and to provide to that end specialized counselling and assistance;

7. *Calls upon* Member States to advance effective crime prevention and criminal justice strategies that address violence against women, including strategies aimed at preventing revictimization by, inter alia, removing barriers that prevent victims from seeking safety, including barriers related to custody of children, access to shelter and availability of legal assistance;

8. *Also calls upon* Member States to develop and implement crime prevention policies and programmes to promote the safety of women in the home and in society at large in a manner that reflects the realities of women’s lives and addresses their distinct needs, taking into account, inter alia, the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime and the important contribution that educational and public awareness-raising initiatives provide to the promotion of the safety of women;

9. *Urges* Member States to evaluate and review their legislation and legal principles, procedures, policies, programmes and practices relating to crime prevention and criminal justice matters, in a manner consistent with their legal systems and drawing upon the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures, to determine if they are adequate to prevent and eliminate violence against women or if they have a negative impact on women and, if they do, to modify them in order to ensure that women enjoy fair and equal treatment;

10. *Also urges* Member States to take into account the special needs and vulnerabilities of women within the criminal justice system, especially women in detention, pregnant inmates and women with children born in detention, including through the development of policies and programmes to address such needs, taking into account relevant international standards and norms;

11. *Further urges* Member States to recognize the needs and special vulnerabilities of women and children in situations of armed conflict and in post-conflict situations, migrant women, refugee women and women subject to forms of violence because of their nationality, ethnicity, religion or language;

12. *Urges* Member States to provide appropriate assistance to women victims of violence, including by ensuring that those women have access to adequate legal representation where appropriate, in particular so that they can make informed decisions regarding, inter alia, legal proceedings and issues relating to family law;

13. *Invites* Member States to establish a multidisciplinary, coordinated response to sexual assault that includes specially trained police, prosecutors, judges, forensic examiners and victim support services to contribute to the well-being of the victim and increase the likelihood of the successful apprehension, prosecution and conviction of the offender and to prevent revictimization;

14. *Encourages* Member States to design and support programmes to empower women, both politically and economically, in order to assist in preventing violence against women, in particular through their participation in decision-making processes;

15. *Calls upon* Member States to set up and strengthen mechanisms for the systematic collection of data on violence against women with a view to assessing the scope and prevalence of such violence and to guiding the design, implementation and funding of effective crime prevention and criminal justice responses;

16. *Urges* Member States and the United Nations system to give attention to, and encourages greater international cooperation in, systematic research and the collection, analysis and dissemination of data, including data disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant information, on the extent, nature and consequences of violence against women and on the impact and effectiveness of policies and programmes for combating violence, welcomes in that context the establishment of the Secretary-General's co-ordinated database on violence against women, and urges Member States and the United Nations system to regularly provide information for inclusion in the database;

17. *Calls upon* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support national efforts to promote the empowerment of women and gender equality in order to enhance national efforts to eliminate violence against women, including by strengthening throughout its programme of work its crime prevention and criminal justice efforts in response to violence against women;

18. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Member States and invites the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network to continue to offer training and capacity-building opportunities, in particular for practitioners working in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice and providers of support services to victims of violence against women, and to make available and disseminate information on successful intervention models, preventive programmes and other practices;

19. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to intensify its efforts to ensure the widest possible use and dissemination of the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures, including through the development or revision of relevant tools, such as handbooks, training manuals, programmes and modules, including online capacity-building modules for each section of the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures, as an efficient and practical way to disseminate the relevant content, and invites Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary contributions for that purpose, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

20. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to strengthen coordination in its activities in the area of violence against women with other relevant entities of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, as well as other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, so as to make efficient use of the financial, technical, material and human resources in the application of the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures;

21. *Also invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to cooperate with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat in the development of training material based on the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures for military, police and civilian personnel of peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

ANNEX

Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Preamble

1. The multifaceted nature of violence against women necessitates different strategies to respond to the diverse manifestations of violence and the various settings in which it occurs, both in private and in public life, whether committed in the home, the workplace, educational and training institutions, the community or society, in custody or in situations of armed conflict or natural disaster. In the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the importance of adopting a systematic, comprehensive, coordinated, multi-sectoral and sustained approach to fighting violence against women is recognized. The practical measures, strategies and activities described below can be introduced in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice to address violence against women. Except where otherwise specified, the term "women" encompasses "girl children".

2. Violence against women exists in every country in the world as a pervasive violation of human rights and a major impediment to achieving gender equality, development and peace. Violence against women is rooted in historically unequal power relations between men and women. All forms of violence against women seriously violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment by women of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and have serious immediate and long-term implications for health, including sexual and reproductive health, for example through increased vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, and public safety, and have a negative impact on the psychological, social and economic development of individuals, families, communities and States.

3. Violence against women is often embedded in and supported by social values, cultural patterns and practices. The criminal justice system and legislators are not immune to such values and thus have not always regarded violence against women with the same seriousness as other types of violence. Therefore, it is important that States strongly condemn all forms of violence against women and refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligation with respect to its elimination and that the criminal justice system recognize violence against women as a gender-related problem and as an expression of power and inequality.

4. Violence against women is defined in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and reiterated in the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth

World Conference on Women to mean any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. The updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures build on the measures adopted by Governments in the Platform for Action, which was adopted in 1995 and subsequently reaffirmed in 2000 and 2005, the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice adopted in 1997, and relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 61/143 and 63/155, bearing in mind that some groups of women are especially exposed and vulnerable to violence.

5. The updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures specifically acknowledge the need for an active policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies, programmes and practices to ensure gender equality and equal and fair access to justice, as well as establishing the goal of gender balance in all areas of decision-making, including those related to the elimination of violence against women. The updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures should be applied as guidelines in a manner consistent with relevant international instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime, with a view to furthering their fair and effective implementation. The updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures reaffirm the commitment of States to promote gender equality and empower women with a view to meeting Goal 3 of the Millennium Development Goals.

6. The updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures should be endorsed by national legislation and implemented by Member States and other entities in a manner consistent with the right to equality before the law, while also recognizing that gender equality may sometimes require the adoption of different approaches that acknowledge the different ways in which violence affects women as compared to men. Member States should ensure that women have equal protection under the law and equal access to justice in order to facilitate efforts by Governments to prevent and sanction acts of violence against women through comprehensive and coordinated policies and strategies, and to deal with all forms of violence against women within the criminal justice system.

7. The updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures recognize that crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women must be focused on the needs of victims and empower individual women who are victims of violence. They aim to ensure that prevention and intervention efforts are made to not only stop and appropriately sanction violence against women, but also restore a sense of dignity and control to the victims of such violence.

8. The updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures aim to contribute to de jure and de facto equality between women and men. They do not give preferential treatment to women but aim to ensure that any inequalities or forms of discrimination that women face in accessing justice, particularly in respect of acts of violence, are redressed.

9. The updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures recognize that sexual violence is an issue of international peace and security, as outlined in Security Council resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000 and 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008 on women and peace and security, particularly the need for parties to armed conflict to adopt prevention and protection measures in order to end sexual violence.

10. The updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures recognize that some special groups of women are particularly vulnerable to violence, either because of their nationality, ethnicity, religion or language or because they belong to an indigenous group, are migrants, are stateless, are refugees, live in underdeveloped, rural or remote communities, are homeless, are in institutions or in detention, have disabilities, are elderly, are widowed or live in conflict, post-conflict or disaster situations and, as such, require special attention, intervention and protection in the development of crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women.

11. The updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures recognize advances in crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women and the importance of investing in the prevention of violence against women.

12. The updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures recognize that States have the obligation to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people, including women, and that they must exercise due diligence and take relevant measures to prevent, investigate and punish the perpetrators of violence against women, to eliminate impunity and to provide protection to the victims, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of women's human rights and fundamental freedoms.

I. Guiding principles

13. Member States are urged:

(a) To be guided by the overall principle that effective crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women are human rights-based, manage risk and promote victim safety and empowerment while ensuring offender accountability;

(b) To develop mechanisms to ensure a comprehensive, coordinated, systematic and sustained approach for the implementation of the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures at the national, regional and international levels;

(c) To promote the involvement and participation of all relevant sectors of government and civil society and other stakeholders in the implementation process;

(d) To commit adequate and sustained resources and develop monitoring mechanisms to ensure their effective implementation and oversight;

(e) To take into account in the implementation of the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures the varying needs of women subjected to violence.

II. Criminal law

14. Member States are urged:

(a) To review, evaluate and update their national laws, policies, codes, procedures, programmes and practices, especially their criminal laws, on an ongoing basis to ensure and guarantee their value, comprehensiveness and effectiveness in eliminating all forms of violence against women and to remove provisions that allow for or condone violence against women or that increase the vulnerability or revictimization of women who have been subject to violence;

(b) To review, evaluate and update their criminal and civil laws in order to ensure that all forms of violence against women are criminalized and prohibited and, if not, to adopt measures to do so, including measures aimed at preventing violence against women, protecting, empowering and supporting survivors, adequately punishing perpetrators and ensuring available remedies for victims;

(c) To review, evaluate and update their criminal laws in order to ensure that:

(i) Persons who are brought before the courts on judicial matters in respect of violent crimes or who are convicted of such crimes can be restricted in their possession and use of firearms and other regulated weapons, within the framework of their national legal systems;

(ii) Individuals can be prohibited or restrained, within the framework of their national legal systems, from harassing, intimidating or threatening women;

(iii) The laws on sexual violence adequately protect all persons against sexual acts that are not based on the consent of both parties;

(iv) The law protects all children against sexual violence, sexual abuse, commercial sexual exploitation and sexual harassment, including crimes committed through the use of new information technologies, including the Internet;

(v) Harmful traditional practices, including female genital mutilation, in all their forms, are criminalized as serious offences under the law;

(vi) Trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, is criminalized;

(vii) Individuals who are serving in the armed forces or in United Nations peacekeeping operations are investigated and punished for committing acts of violence against women;

(d) To continually review, evaluate and update their national laws, policies, practices and procedures, taking into account all relevant international legal instruments, in order to effectively respond to violence against women, including to ensure that such measures complement and are consistent with the criminal justice system's response to such violence and that civil law decisions reached in marital dissolutions, child custody decisions and other family law proceedings for cases involving domestic violence or child abuse adequately safeguard victims and the best interests of children;

(e) To review and, where appropriate, revise, amend or abolish any laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that discriminate against women or have a discriminatory impact on women, and to ensure that provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations, commitments and principles, in particular the principle of non-discrimination.

III. Criminal procedure

15. Member States are urged to review, evaluate and update their criminal procedures, as appropriate and taking into account all relevant international legal instruments, in order to ensure that:

(a) The police and other law enforcement agencies have, with judicial authorization where required by national law, adequate powers to enter premises and conduct arrests in cases of violence against women and to take immediate measures to ensure the safety of victims;

(b) The primary responsibility for initiating investigations and prosecutions lies with the police and prosecution authorities and does not rest with women subjected to violence, regardless of the level or form of violence;

(c) Women subjected to violence are enabled to testify in criminal proceedings through adequate measures that facilitate such testimony by protecting the privacy, identity and dignity of the women; ensure safety during legal proceedings; and avoid "secondary victimization". In jurisdictions where the safety of the victim cannot be guaranteed, refusing to testify should not constitute a criminal or other offence;

(d) Evidentiary rules are non-discriminatory; all relevant evidence can be brought before the court; rules and principles of defence do not discriminate against women; and "honour" or "provocation" cannot be invoked by perpetrators of violence against women to escape criminal responsibility;

(e) The credibility of a complainant in a sexual violence case is understood to be the same as that of a complainant in any other criminal proceeding; the introduction of the complainant's sexual history in both civil and criminal proceedings is prohibited when it is unrelated to the case; and no adverse inference is drawn solely from a delay of any length between the alleged commission of a sexual offence and the reporting thereof;

(f) People who perpetrate acts of violence against women while voluntarily under the influence of alcohol, drugs or other substances are not exempted from criminal responsibility;

(g) Evidence of prior acts of violence, abuse, stalking and exploitation by the perpetrator is considered during court proceedings, in accordance with the principles of national criminal law;

(h) Police and courts have the authority to issue and enforce protection and restraining or barring orders in cases of violence against women, including removal of the perpetrator from the domicile, prohibiting further contact with the victim and other affected parties, inside and outside the domicile; to issue and enforce child support and custody orders; and to impose penalties for breaches of those orders. If such powers cannot be granted to the police, measures must be taken to ensure timely access to court decisions in order to ensure swift action by the court. Such protective measures should not be dependent on the initiation of a criminal case;

(i) Comprehensive services are provided and protection measures are taken when necessary to ensure the safety, privacy and dignity of victims and their families at all stages of the criminal justice process, without prejudice to the victim's ability or willingness to participate in an investigation or prosecution, and to protect them from intimidation and retaliation, including by establishing comprehensive witness and victim protection programmes;

(j) Safety risks, including the vulnerability of victims, are taken into account in decisions concerning non-custodial or quasi-custodial sentences, the granting of bail, conditional release, parole or probation, especially when dealing with repeat and dangerous offenders;

(k) Claims of self-defence by women who have been victims of violence, particularly in cases of battered woman syndrome, are taken into account in investigations, prosecutions and sentences against them;

(l) All procedures and complaint mechanisms are accessible to women who are victims of violence without fear of reprisal or discrimination.

IV. Police, prosecutors and other criminal justice officials

16. Member States are urged, within the framework of their national legal systems, as appropriate and taking into account all relevant international legal instruments:

(a) To ensure that the applicable provisions of laws, policies, procedures, programmes and practices related to violence against women are consistently and effectively implemented by the criminal justice system and supported by relevant regulations as appropriate;

(b) To develop mechanisms to ensure a comprehensive, multidisciplinary, coordinated, systematic and sustained response to violence against women in order to increase the likelihood of successful apprehension, prosecution and conviction of the offender, contribute to the well-being and safety of the victim and prevent secondary victimization;

(c) To promote the use of specialized expertise in the police, among prosecution authorities and in other criminal justice agencies, including through the establishment, where possible, of specialized units or personnel and specialized courts or dedicated court time, and to ensure that all police officers, prosecutors and other criminal justice officials receive regular and institutionalized training to sensitize them to gender and child-related issues and to build their capacity with regard to violence against women;

(d) To promote the development and implementation of appropriate policies among different criminal justice agencies to ensure coordinated, consistent and effective responses to violence perpetrated against women by personnel within such agencies and to ensure that attitudes of criminal justice officials that foster, justify or tolerate violence against women are held up to public scrutiny and sanction;

(e) To develop and implement policies and appropriate responses regarding the investigation and collection of evidence that take into account the unique needs and perspectives of victims of violence, respect their dignity and integrity and minimize intrusion into their lives while abiding by standards for the collection of evidence;

(f) To ensure that criminal justice officials and victims' advocates conduct risk assessments that indicate the level or extent of harm that victims may be subjected to based on their vulnerability, the threats to which they are exposed, the presence of weapons and other determining factors;

(g) To ensure that laws, policies, procedures and practices pertaining to decisions on the arrest, detention and terms of any form of release of the perpetrator take into account the need for the safety of the victim and others

related through family, socially or otherwise and that such procedures also prevent further acts of violence;

(b) To establish a registration system for judicial protection, restraining or barring orders, where such orders are permitted by national law, so that police or criminal justice officials can quickly determine whether such an order is in force;

(i) To empower and equip police, prosecutors and other criminal justice officials to respond promptly to incidents of violence against women, including by drawing on a rapid court order, where appropriate, and by taking measures to ensure the fast and efficient management of cases;

(j) To ensure that the exercise of powers by police, prosecutors and other criminal justice officials is undertaken according to the rule of law and codes of conduct and that such officials are held accountable for any infringement thereof through appropriate oversight and accountability mechanisms;

(k) To ensure gender-equitable representation in the police force and other agencies of the justice system, particularly at the decision-making and managerial levels;

(l) To provide victims of violence, where possible, with the right to speak to a female officer, whether it be the police or any other criminal justice official;

(m) To develop new or improve existing model procedures and resource material and disseminate such procedures and material, to help criminal justice officials to identify, prevent and deal with violence against women, including by assisting and supporting women subjected to violence in a manner that is sensitive and responsive to their needs;

(n) To provide adequate psychological support to police, prosecutors and other criminal justice officials to prevent their vicarious victimization.

V. Sentencing and corrections

17. Recognizing the serious nature of violence against women and the need for crime prevention and criminal justice responses that are commensurate with that severity, Member States are urged, as appropriate:

(a) To review, evaluate and update sentencing policies and procedures in order to ensure that they:

(i) Hold offenders accountable for their acts related to violence against women;

(ii) Denounce and deter violence against women;

(iii) Stop violent behaviour;

(iv) Promote victim and community safety, including by separating the offender from the victim and, if necessary, from society;

(v) Take into account the impact on victims and their family members of sentences imposed on perpetrators;

(vi) Provide sanctions that ensure that the perpetrators of violence against women are sentenced in a manner commensurate with the severity of the offence;

(vii) Provide reparations for harm caused as a result of the violence;

(viii) Promote the rehabilitation of the perpetrator, including by promoting a sense of responsibility in offenders and, where appropriate, reintegrating perpetrators into the community;

(b) To ensure that their national laws take into account specific circumstances as aggravating factors for sentencing purposes, including, for example, repeated violent acts, abuse of a position of trust or authority, perpetration of violence against a spouse or a person in a close relationship with the perpetrator and perpetration of violence against a person under 18 years of age;

(c) To ensure the right of a victim of violence to be notified of the offender's release from detention or imprisonment;

(d) To take into account, in the sentencing process, the severity of the physical and psychological harm and the impact of victimization, including through victim impact statements;

(e) To make available to the courts, through legislation, a full range of sentencing dispositions to protect the victim, other affected persons and society from further violence, and to rehabilitate the perpetrator, as appropriate;

(f) To develop and evaluate treatment and reintegration/rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators of different types of violence against women that prioritize the safety of the victims;

(g) To ensure that judicial and correctional authorities, as appropriate, monitor perpetrators' compliance with any treatment ordered;

(h) To ensure that there are appropriate measures in place to eliminate violence against women who are detained for any reason;

(i) To provide adequate protection to victims and witnesses of acts of violence before, during and after criminal proceedings.

VI. Victim support and assistance

18. Member States are urged, as appropriate and taking into account all relevant international legal instruments, in particular the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power:

(a) To make available to women who have been subjected to violence relevant information on rights, remedies and victim support services and on how to obtain them, in addition to information about their role and opportunities for participating in criminal proceedings and the scheduling, progress and ultimate disposition of the proceedings, as well as any orders against the offender;

(b) To encourage and assist women subjected to violence in lodging and following through on formal complaints by providing protection to the victims and advising them that the responsibility for pursuing charges and prosecuting offenders rests with the police and the prosecution;

(c) To take appropriate measures to prevent hardship during the detection, investigation and prosecution process in order to ensure that victims are treated with dignity and respect, whether they participate in the criminal proceedings or not;

(d) To ensure that women subjected to violence have access to prompt and fair redress for the harm that they have suffered as a result of violence, including the right to seek restitution from the offender or compensation from the State;

(e) To provide court mechanisms and procedures that are accessible and sensitive to the needs of women subjected to violence and that ensure the fair and timely processing of cases;

(f) To provide efficient and easily accessible procedures for issuing restraining or barring orders to protect women and other victims of violence and for ensuring that victims are not held accountable for breaches of such orders;

(g) To recognize that children who have witnessed violence against their parent or another person with whom they have a close relationship are victims of violence and need protection, care and support;

(h) To ensure that women subjected to violence have full access to the civil and criminal justice systems, including access to free legal aid, where appropriate, court support and interpretation services;

(i) To ensure that women subjected to violence have access to qualified personnel who can provide victim advocacy and support services throughout the entire criminal justice process, as well as access to any other independent support persons;

(j) To ensure that all services and legal remedies available to victims of violence against women are also available to immigrant women, trafficked women, refugee women, stateless women and all other women in need of such assistance, and that specialized services for such women are established, where appropriate;

(k) To refrain from penalizing victims who have been trafficked for having entered the country illegally or for having been involved in unlawful activities that they were forced or compelled to carry out.

VII. Health and social services

19. Member States, in cooperation with the private sector, relevant non-governmental organizations and professional associations, are urged, as appropriate:

(a) To establish, fund and coordinate a sustainable network of accessible facilities and services for emergency and temporary residential accommodation, health services, including counselling and psychological care, legal assistance and other basic needs for women and their children who are victims of violence or who are at risk of becoming victims of violence;

(b) To establish, fund and coordinate services such as toll-free information lines, professional multidisciplinary counselling and crisis intervention services and support groups in order to benefit women who are victims of violence and their children;

(c) To establish better linkages between health and social services, both public and private, particularly in emergency situations, and criminal justice agencies for the purposes of reporting, recording and responding appropriately to acts of violence against women, while protecting the privacy of women subjected to violence;

(d) To design and sponsor sustainable programmes to prevent and treat alcohol and other substance abuse, given the frequent presence of substance abuse in incidents of violence against women;

(e) To ensure that violent acts and sexual crimes against children are reported to the police and other law enforcement agencies when suspected by the health and social services;

(f) To promote collaboration and coordination among relevant agencies and services, including through the establishment, where possible, of specialized units specifically

trained to deal with the complexities and sensitivities of victims involved in cases of violence against women where victims can receive comprehensive assistance, protection and intervention services, including health and social services, legal advice and police assistance;

(g) To ensure that adequate medical, legal and social services sensitive to the needs of victims are in place to enhance the criminal justice management of cases involving violence against women and to encourage the development of specialized health services, including comprehensive, free and confidential forensic examinations by trained health providers and appropriate treatment, including HIV-specific treatment.

VIII. Training

20. Member States, in cooperation with relevant non-governmental organizations and professional associations, are urged, as appropriate:

(a) To provide for or to encourage mandatory cross-cultural gender and child-sensitivity training modules for police, criminal justice officials and professionals involved in the criminal justice system on the unacceptability of all forms of violence against women and on their harmful impact and consequences on all those who experience such violence;

(b) To ensure that police, criminal justice officials and other professionals involved in the criminal justice system receive adequate training and continued education on all relevant national laws, policies and programmes, as well as international legal instruments;

(c) To ensure that police, criminal justice officials and other relevant authorities are adequately trained to identify and respond appropriately to the specific needs of women victims of violence, including victims of trafficking; to receive and treat all victims respectfully with a view to avoiding secondary victimization; to handle complaints confidentially; to conduct safety assessments and risk management; and to use and enforce protection orders;

(d) To encourage relevant professional associations to develop enforceable standards of practice and behaviour and codes of conduct that promote justice and gender equality.

IX. Research and evaluation

21. Member States, the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, relevant entities of the United Nations system, other relevant international organizations, research institutes, non-governmental organizations and professional associations are urged, as appropriate:

(a) To set up and strengthen mechanisms for systematic and coordinated data collection on violence against women;

(b) To develop both modules and dedicated population-based surveys, including crime surveys, for assessing the nature and extent of violence against women;

(c) To collect, analyse and publish data and information, including data and information disaggregated by gender, for use in carrying out needs assessments, taking decisions and developing policy in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, in particular concerning:

- (i) The different forms of violence against women; the causes, risk factors and levels of severity of such violence; and the consequences and impacts of such violence, including on different population subgroups;
 - (ii) The extent to which economic deprivation and exploitation are linked to violence against women;
 - (iii) The patterns, trends and indicators of violence against women, women's feelings of insecurity in the public and private spheres and factors that can reduce such feelings of insecurity;
 - (iv) The relationship between the victim and the offender;
 - (v) The effect of various types of interventions on the individual offender and on the reduction and elimination of violence against women as a whole;
 - (vi) The use of weapons and of drugs, alcohol and other substances in cases of violence against women;
 - (vii) The relationship between victimization or exposure to violence and subsequent violent activity;
 - (viii) The relationship between the violence experienced by women and women's vulnerability to other types of abuse;
 - (ix) The consequences of violence on those who witness it, particularly within the family;
- (d) To monitor, and publish annual reports on, the number of cases of violence against women reported to the police as well as other criminal justice agencies, including arrest and clearance rates, prosecution and case disposition of the offenders and the prevalence of violence against women; in doing so, use should be made of data derived from population-based surveys. Such reports should disaggregate data by type of violence and include, for example, information on the sex of the perpetrator and his or her relationship to the victim;
- (e) To evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in meeting the needs of women subjected to violence, including with regard to the way in which the criminal justice system treats victims and witnesses of acts of violence, the use it makes of different intervention models and the degree to which it cooperates with providers of services to victims and witnesses, as well as to evaluate and assess the impact of current legislation, rules and procedures relating to violence against women;
- (f) To evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of offender treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including victims and victim service providers;
- (g) To be guided by existing ongoing efforts at the international level to develop a set of indicators to measure violence against women and to ensure a multisectoral, coordinated approach to the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of data-collection initiatives;
- (b) To ensure that data on violence against women are collected in a way that respects the confidentiality and human rights of women and does not jeopardize their safety;
- (i) To encourage and provide sufficient financial support for research on violence against women.

X. Crime prevention measures

22. Member States and the private sector, relevant non-governmental organizations and professional associations are urged, as appropriate:

(a) To develop and implement relevant and effective public awareness and public education initiatives, as well as school programmes and curricula, that prevent violence against women by promoting respect for human rights, equality, cooperation, mutual respect and shared responsibilities between women and men;

(b) To develop codes of conduct for personnel in public and private entities that prohibit violence against women, including sexual harassment, and include safe complaint and referral procedures;

(c) To develop multidisciplinary and gender-sensitive approaches within public and private entities that seek to prevent violence against women, especially through partnerships between law enforcement officials and services specialized in the protection of women victims of violence;

(d) To develop programmes to assess perceptions of public safety and to develop safety planning, environmental design and management of public space in order to reduce the risk of violence against women;

(e) To set up outreach programmes and provide relevant information to women about gender roles, women's human rights and the social, health, legal and economic aspects of violence against women in order to empower women to protect themselves and their children against all forms of violence;

(f) To set up outreach programmes for offenders or persons identified as potential offenders in order to promote non-violent behaviour and attitudes and respect for equality and the rights of women;

(g) To develop and disseminate, in a manner appropriate to the audience concerned, including in educational institutions at all levels, information and awareness-raising materials on the different forms of violence that are perpetrated against women and the availability of relevant programmes that include information on the relevant provisions of criminal law, the functions of the criminal justice system, the victim support mechanisms that are available and the existing programmes concerning non-violent behaviour and the peaceful resolution of conflicts;

(h) To support all initiatives, including those of non-governmental organizations and other relevant organizations seeking women's equality, to raise public awareness of the issue of violence against women and to contribute to the elimination of such violence;

(i) To facilitate the work at lower levels of government, including among city and local community authorities, to promote an integrated approach that makes use of the range of local services provided by institutions and civil society for the development of preventive strategies and programmes.

23. Member States and the media, media associations, media self-regulatory bodies, schools and other relevant partners, while respecting the freedom of the media, are urged, as appropriate, to develop public awareness campaigns and appropriate measures and mechanisms, such as codes of ethics and self-regulatory measures on media violence, aimed at enhancing respect for the rights and dignity of women, while discouraging both discrimination and gender stereotyping.

24. Member States and the private sector, relevant non-governmental organizations and professional associations are urged to develop and improve, where appropriate, crime prevention and criminal justice responses to the production, possession and dissemination of games, images and all other materials that depict or glorify acts of violence against women and children, and their impact on the general public's attitude towards women and children, as well as the mental and emotional development of children, particularly through new information technologies, including the Internet.

XI. International cooperation

25. Member States, in cooperation with United Nations bodies and institutes and other relevant organizations, are urged, as appropriate:

(a) To continue exchanging information concerning successful intervention models and preventive programmes on eliminating all forms of violence against women and to update the resource manual and the compendium on the Model Strategies and Practical Measures, as well as to provide information for inclusion in the Secretary-General's database on violence against women;

(b) To cooperate and collaborate at the bilateral, regional and international levels with relevant entities to prevent violence against women; to provide safety, assistance and protection for the victims and witnesses of violence and their family members, as appropriate; and to promote measures to effectively bring perpetrators to justice, through strengthened mechanisms of international cooperation and mutual legal assistance;

(c) To develop provisions providing for the safe and, to the extent possible, voluntary repatriation and reintegration of women victims of violence who have been trafficked or kidnapped across borders;

(d) To contribute and provide support to the United Nations system in its efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

(e) To take appropriate preventive action and to ensure full accountability in cases of sexual exploitation and abuse involving troops and police in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

26. Member States are also urged:

(a) To condemn all acts of violence against women in situations of armed conflict, to recognize them as violations of international human rights, humanitarian law and international criminal law, to call for a particularly effective response to such violations, in particular when they involve murder, systematic rape, sexual slavery and forced pregnancy, and to implement Security Council resolutions 1325(2000) and 1820(2008) on women and peace and security;

(b) To work actively towards universal ratification of or accession to all relevant treaties and to promote their full implementation, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

(c) To formulate any reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in a manner that is as precise and as narrow as possible and to ensure that any such reservations are not incompatible with the object and purpose of that Convention;

(d) To work actively towards the ratification of or accession to existing regional instruments and agreements aimed at combating violence against women, and to promote their implementation;

(e) To include in periodic reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women information on efforts made to implement the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures;

(f) To cooperate with the International Criminal Court, ad hoc international criminal tribunals and other international criminal tribunals in the investigation and prosecution of the perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, particularly of those crimes involving gender-based violence, and to enable women who have been subjected to violence to give testimony and participate in all stages of the proceedings while protecting the safety, interests, identity and privacy of those women;

(g) To cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences and the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children, in performing their mandated tasks and duties by supplying all information requested and responding to the Special Rapporteurs' visits and communications.

XII. Follow-up activities

27. Member States, United Nations bodies, the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, other relevant international and regional organizations, research institutes, non-governmental organizations and professional organizations, including organizations seeking women's equality, are urged, as appropriate:

(a) To encourage the translation of the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures into local languages and to ensure their wide dissemination and use in training and education programmes;

(b) To draw, as appropriate, on the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures in the development of legislation, procedures, policies and practices in responding to violence against women;

(c) To assist States, upon request, in developing strategies and programmes to prevent violence against women and in reviewing and evaluating their criminal justice systems, including their criminal legislation, on the basis of the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures;

(d) To support the technical cooperation activities of the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women;

(e) To develop coordinated national, subregional and regional plans and programmes to implement the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures;

(f) To design standard training programmes and manuals for police and criminal justice officials based on the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures;

(g) To periodically monitor and review progress made at the national and international levels in terms of plans, programmes and initiatives to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

(h) To periodically review and update, if necessary, the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures.

UN rules for treatment of women prisoners

On 22 July, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution on UN rules for the treatment of women prisoners and non-custodial measures for women offenders (**resolution 2010/16**), which were annexed to the resolution and would henceforth be known as the Bangkok Rules. On 21 December, in **resolution 65/229**, the Assembly took that action (see p. 1120).

Women and armed conflict

Women and children taken hostage

In response to a 2008 Commission on the Status of Women resolution [YUN 2008, p. 1267], the Secretary-General submitted a report [E/CN.6/2010/5] on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts. Six Member States provided information for the report. Of the 14 entities of the UN system that responded to the request for information, three described activities related to women and children taken hostage or imprisoned in armed conflict. The information from States demonstrated that Governments continued to develop policies and legislation in support of women and children taken hostage, as well as provide humanitarian assistance. Information provided by the United Nations focused on programmes in support of women and children demobilized from situations of forced recruitment into armed forces. The Secretary-General suggested that the Commission might wish to invite the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to take into account the release of children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, and provide sex-disaggregated data, where available, when preparing the reports requested by the General Assembly.

Commission action. In a March resolution [E/2010/27 (res. 54/3)], the Commission requested the Secretary-General to facilitate the immediate release of civilian women and children who had been taken hostage, to ensure the widest possible dissemination of relevant material, in particular material related to Security Council resolution 1325(2000) [YUN 2000, p. 1113], and to submit to the Commission in 2012 a report on the implementation of its resolution.

On 12 March [dec. 54/102], the Commission took note of the Secretary-General's report.

Women, peace and security

Report of Secretary-General. In response to Security Council resolution 1889(2009) [YUN 2009, p. 1141], the Secretary-General submitted an April report [S/2010/173] containing a set of proposed indicators for use at the global level to track implementation of resolution 1325(2000) concerning the obstacles to women's full involvement in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and their participation in post-conflict public life. The provision of indicators, to be used as a common basis for reporting by Member States, UN entities and international and regional organizations, was considered a major step towards fostering more effective and coordinated action. The report described the process by which the indicators were developed, including the establishment of the 15-entity Technical Working Group on Global Indicators for resolution 1325(2000), for which UNIFEM served as the technical lead. Organized in line with the pillars of the 2008–2009 United Nations System-wide Action Plan [YUN 2007, p. 1166] on implementing resolution 1325(2000), the indicators were grouped in four thematic areas: prevention; participation; protection; and relief and recovery. The Action Plan's fifth thematic area, normative, was cross-cutting, and therefore incorporated within the four areas selected. For the prevention pillar, indicators would measure progress towards preventing conflict and violations of women's and girls' human rights, including sexual and gender-based violence. They would also respond to a need to develop specific guidelines and protocols for justice and security actors and to establish systems for reporting abuses and ensuring the accountability of both peacekeepers and national security forces. Indicators for the participation pillar would allow for the monitoring of progress in ensuring the inclusion of women and women's interests in decision-making processes related to the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts. Indicators for the protection pillar would measure progress towards protecting and promoting the human rights of women and girls and ensuring their physical safety, health and economic security, while those for the relief and recovery pillar would assess the extent to which the specific needs of women and girls were addressed during the relief and recovery phase following conflict.

The Secretary-General concluded that development of the indicators was timely as, 10 years after its adoption, the implementation of resolution 1325(2000) remained slow, and the assessment of progress was constrained by an absence of baseline data and specific, measurable, relevant and time-bound indicators. To make the indicators operational, a pilot phase entailing technical and baseline development and data collection would be needed, for which the involvement of UN country teams would be critical.

The pilot period would vary from two to five years. The Secretary-General recommended that the Council urge the UN system to engage organizations and parties that had technical expertise in data collection and analysis to populate the indicators in the shortest possible time, so that the data would be available for use. He urged Member States, in parallel with UN efforts, to volunteer to pilot the indicators to ensure that they were relevant to country situations and to establish best practices in data collection and analysis. He recommended the inclusion of information generated through the indicators in the Secretary-General's country reports to the Council, and that the Council strengthen its accountability and monitoring through the establishment of a mechanism that would use the indicators.

Appointment of Special Representative. On 29 January [S/2010/62], the Secretary-General informed the President of the Security Council of his intention, in accordance with resolution 1888(2009) [YUN 2009, p. 1137], to appoint Margot Wallström (Sweden) as his Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, with immediate effect. On 2 February [S/2010/63], the Council took note of the Secretary-General's appointment.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 27 April [meeting 6302], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2010/8** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council welcomes the appointment of Ms. Margot Wallström as Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and reiterates its support of her mandate as outlined in resolution 1888(2009).

The Council welcomes the timely submission of the report of the Secretary-General requested in resolution 1889(2009) and takes note of both the indicators and the recommendations contained in the report.

The Council notes that indicators contained in the report would need technical and conceptual development before they could become operational.

The Council requests the Secretary-General to continue to consult with the Council, taking into account views expressed by other relevant stakeholders, including the broader United Nations membership, taking into account the need to further develop indicators contained in his report and the parallel ongoing work regarding resolution 1888(2009), in order to include a comprehensive set of indicators in his next report on the implementation of resolution 1325(2000), to be submitted to the Council in October 2010, as well as a programme of work containing roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis the indicators within the United Nations system and a time frame to render the indicators operational.

The Council requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that all country reports to the Council provide information on the impact of situations of armed conflict

on women and girls, their particular needs in post-conflict situations and obstacles to meeting those needs.

The Council expresses its intention to take action on a comprehensive set of indicators on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of resolution 1325(2000) in October 2010, for use at the global level to track implementation of resolution 1325(2000).

The Council reiterates its desire to commemorate the tenth anniversary of resolution 1325(2000).

Report of Secretary-General. In response to a Security Council request contained in presidential statement S/PRST/2007/40 [YUN 2007, p. 1167], the Secretary-General submitted a September report [S/2010/498] that reviewed progress in implementing resolution 1325(2000). The report assessed the processes by which the Council received, analysed and took action on information pertinent to that resolution, and it included information on measures taken to improve the capacity of Member States to implement the resolution, including on best practices. It also reviewed the 2008–2009 System-wide Action Plan for implementing resolution 1325(2000) and, in response to a request contained in presidential statement S/PRST/2010/8 (see above), presented the results of the further development of the indicators proposed in the Secretary-General's April report (see p. 1160). The latter section included the outline of a programme of work detailing roles and responsibilities within the UN system vis-à-vis the indicators and a time frame to render the indicators operational.

In June and July, the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA), the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNIFEM, through the Global Open Day for Women and Peace, supported over 20 dialogues on gender issues in peacebuilding between women's peace groups and senior UN leaders in conflict-affected countries and territories. The Global Open Day aimed to further national dialogues on women and peace and security and thereby improve the implementation of resolution 1325(2000); it enabled women to share their concerns with the international community and provided a model for more regular dialogue between civil society and Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and Resident Coordinators. In January, DPA and UNIFEM, in response to Council resolution 1889(2009), initiated a Joint Strategy on Gender and Mediation, with the task of identifying and preparing qualified female mediators; increasing the availability of gender expertise in mediation processes; and enhancing women's participation in peace processes. The High-level Steering Committee to guide the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of resolution 1325(2000), established in 2010 and chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, sought to produce a more intensified second decade of resolution implementation. One of the priorities of

the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, who was appointed in March (see p. 1160), was to increase the participation of female police officers to 20 per cent by 2014. In 2010, women comprised 3.2 per cent of total military personnel deployed to peacekeeping.

Between May and July, consultations were held with Council experts, regional groups and Member States to receive their inputs to guide the development of the 26 indicators to track implementation of resolution 1325(2000). The technical review and development of the indicators was carried out by the Technical Working Group on Global Indicators and the effort was coordinated by the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI) and UNIFEM. Member States' concerns related to the applicability of the indicators for non-conflict contexts; the responsibility of Member States for populating the indicators; the need to address qualitative as well as quantitative indicators; and the need to ensure that all aspects were addressed. Annexed to the report was the final set of indicators.

The report noted that the UN system, Member States, civil society and other actors had made notable efforts to implement resolution 1325(2000) in a range of areas, but progress had been inconsistent. There was need for an overarching framework to set strategic system-wide priorities and ensure coherence. It was suggested that the Council might wish to request the Secretary-General to provide, in his next annual report to the Council, a single comprehensive framework with an agreed set of goals, targets and indicators to guide resolution implementation in the next decade. The Council could endorse the set of indicators for use in preparing the framework. The Council and Member States might adopt and begin to use the indicators as a basis for their reviews, analyses, interventions and reporting. It was further proposed that a working group be established, which would review progress in implementing resolution 1325(2000), on the basis of the Secretary-General's annual reports, and recommend to the Council how to address gaps and challenges.

With the Secretary-General's report before it, the Council held a ministerial open debate on women and peace and security on 26 October [S/PV.6411].

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 26 October [meeting 6411], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2010/22** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council, meeting on the tenth anniversary of the adoption of its resolution 1325(2000), reaffirms its commitment to the continuing and full implementation, in a mutually reinforcing manner, of resolutions 1325(2000), 1612(2005), 1674(2006),

1820(2008), 1882(2009), 1888(2009), 1889(2009) and 1894(2009) and all relevant statements by its President.

The Council welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security and the analysis it contains on progress in implementing resolution 1325(2000).

The Council welcomes General Assembly resolution 64/289 establishing the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) that will be fully operational in January 2011. The Council invites UN-Women to regularly contribute to its work on women and peace and security and notes the valuable role that it will play in supporting women's roles in peacebuilding and the prevention of sexual violence in conflict, including through coordination and coherence in policy and programming for women and girls. It welcomes the appointment of Ms. Michelle Bachelet as the head of UN-Women.

The Council reiterates its strong condemnation of all violations of applicable international law committed against women and girls in situations of armed conflict and in post-conflict situations, including rape, other forms of sexual and gender-based violence and killing and maiming that contravene international law. The Council urges the complete cessation by all parties of such acts with immediate effect and also urges Member States to bring to justice those responsible for crimes of this nature. Their efforts to combat impunity must be matched with assistance and redress to victims. In this regard, it reiterates its support for the mandates of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and encourages them to continue to ensure full transparency, cooperation and coordination of their efforts.

The Council notes that the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern committed against women and girls has been strengthened through the work of the International Criminal Court, ad hoc and mixed tribunals, as well as specialized chambers in national tribunals and takes note of the stocktaking of international criminal justice undertaken at the first Review Conference of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, held in Kampala from 31 May to 11 June 2010. The Council intends to enhance its efforts to fight impunity and uphold accountability for serious crimes against women and girls with appropriate means and draws attention to the full range of justice and reconciliation mechanisms to be considered, including national, international and mixed criminal courts and tribunals, truth and reconciliation commissions, as well as national reparation programmes for victims, institutional reforms and traditional dispute resolution mechanisms.

The Council recognizes the continuing challenges and welcomes the many efforts to implement resolution 1325(2000) detailed in the report of the Secretary-General, in particular positive examples of efforts to engage with women's civil society groups in conflict resolution and peacebuilding, and to protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence.

The Council notes with grave concern that women and girls are disproportionately affected by conflict, and that women's participation at all stages of peace processes and

in the implementation of peace accords remains too low, despite the vital role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in rebuilding their societies. The Council recognizes the need to facilitate the full and effective participation of women in these areas and stresses that the full and effective participation of women is very important for the sustainability of peace processes.

The Council welcomes the efforts of Member States to implement resolution 1325(2000) at the national level, including the increase in the number of States that have formulated or revised national action plans and strategies, and encourages Member States to continue to pursue such implementation.

The Council welcomes the concrete commitments made by a number of Member States at the present ministerial open debate on 26 October 2010 to increase their efforts to implement resolution 1325(2000) and invites those Member States and any other Member States that wish to do so to regularly review implementation of this resolution and to report to the Council on progress made, as appropriate.

The Council supports taking forward, including by relevant United Nations entities, the set of indicators contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General for use as an initial framework to track implementation of resolution 1325(2000) in situations of armed conflict and in post-conflict and other situations relevant to the implementation of resolution 1325(2000), as appropriate, and taking into account the specificity of each country.

The Council recognizes the need for consistent implementation of resolution 1325(2000) in its own work and for monitoring progress in implementation. In this regard the Council underlines the need for timely and systematic reporting on women and peace and security issues and urges the Secretary-General to ensure that reports and briefings on country-specific and relevant thematic issues provide information on women and peace and security issues and on the implementation of resolution 1325(2000) using this set of indicators, as appropriate.

The Council encourages Member States to take into account the set of indicators contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General, as appropriate, in implementing resolution 1325(2000) and subsequent resolutions on women and peace and security.

The Council reiterates its demand to all parties to armed conflict to immediately and completely cease all forms of violence against women and girls, including acts of sexual violence.

The Council encourages Member States to deploy greater numbers of female military and police personnel to United Nations peacekeeping operations, and to provide all military and police personnel with adequate training to carry out their responsibilities. The Council requests the Secretary-General to continue and strengthen efforts to implement the policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel. The Council requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide and deploy guidance on addressing sexual violence for predeployment and induction training of military and police personnel, to assist missions in developing situation-specific procedures to address sexual violence

at the field level and to ensure that technical support is provided to troop- and police-contributing countries in order to include guidance for military and police personnel on addressing sexual violence in predeployment and induction training. The Council welcomes the work of gender and women's protection advisers appointed to peacekeeping missions. The Council looks forward to considering the annual report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of its resolution 1820(2008).

The Council requests the Secretary-General to continue to submit an annual report to it on the implementation of resolution 1325(2000). The Council further requests the Secretary-General to propose in his next annual report a strategic framework to guide the implementation by the United Nations of the resolution in the next decade, which includes targets and indicators and takes account of relevant processes within the Secretariat. In this context, the Council requests the Secretary-General to include recommendations for policy and institutional reforms in the United Nations that will facilitate improved response by the Organization to women and peace and security issues.

The Council reiterates its request to Member States and international, regional and subregional organizations to take measures to increase the participation of women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding, including in decision-making roles in post-conflict governance institutions, appointed and elected. The Council urges the Secretary-General to appoint more women as mediators and special representatives and envoys to pursue good offices on his behalf.

The Council expresses its intention to convene a high-level review in five years to assess progress at the global, regional and national levels in implementing resolution 1325(2000), renew commitments and address obstacles and constraints that have emerged in the implementation of resolution 1325(2000).

Sexual violence and armed conflict

Situation in Democratic Republic of the Congo. In presidential statement *S/PRST/2010/17* of 17 September (see p. 128) on the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Security Council condemned the mass rapes that had occurred in late July and August and urged the DRC Government to ensure swift prosecution of the perpetrators and to inform the Council on measures taken to that end.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to Council resolution 1888(2009), the Secretary-General submitted a November report [A/65/592-S/2010/604] on the implementation of that resolution and of resolution 1820(2008) [YUN 2008, p. 1265]. The report provided an analysis of conflict-related sexual violence to inform practice; updates on situations on the Council's agenda, including information about parties suspected of engaging in patterns of sexual violence; progress made by the UN system in implementing the resolutions, including measures to improve the

collection of information; and recommendations for enhancing response. Input from stakeholders at both Headquarters and the country level, including Member States, NGOs and experts, contributed to the report. Information was provided on contemporary conflicts in which sexual violence was a factor, including in Afghanistan, Angola, the Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the DRC, Haiti, Iraq, Liberia, Nepal, Somalia and South Sudan. Three common themes emerged from the country-level contributions: there was a need to change social attitudes in tandem with legal and policy reforms to reduce stigmatization; reporting should be standardized, employing an ethical and methodologically sound system that could be used by all stakeholders; and the UN system and donor countries should provide coherent and sustained support to national authorities. The Secretary-General drew attention to the appointment of his first Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, who had established her office in April. Progress had been made in carrying out her five-point agenda, which was to address impunity, including by supporting national institutions to identify and prosecute perpetrators; empower women to seek redress and claim their rights; mobilize political leadership; increase recognition of rape as a tactic and consequence of conflict; and ensure a more coherent response by the UN system. The Special Representative's priorities included facilitating a rapid response to emerging situations of sexual violence by developing an early warning matrix of risk factors; recognizing and promoting exemplary action; sustaining media attention through political and public advocacy regarding situations in which sexual violence was not sufficiently recognized and the response was under-resourced; paving the way for the deployment of a team of experts on the rule of law in support of national institutions; and fostering Government engagement in developing and implementing comprehensive strategies to combat sexual violence.

The Secretary-General affirmed his commitment to accelerating implementation of resolutions 1820(2008) and 1888(2009) and to according the highest level of attention to the issue of sexual violence and armed conflict. He noted that progress at the policy level had been overshadowed by the surge of sexual violence in the eastern DRC and its continuing prevalence elsewhere. Additional measures were needed to deliver tangible protection outcomes. He urged the Council to increase pressure on perpetrators through the adoption of sanctions against individuals and entities and the exchange of information between relevant sanctions committees and his Special Representative. As a possible basis for the application of targeted measures, he proposed that the Council mandate the listing, in his annual reports, of parties who had engaged in patterns of sexual violence.

The Council should systematically consider sexual violence in authorizing and renewing the mandates of peacekeeping and political missions to ensure that the language contained in thematic resolutions would be reflected in country-level action.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 16 December [meeting 6453], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 1960(2010)**. The draft [S/2010/641] was submitted by 68 Member States.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its commitment to the continuing and full implementation, in a mutually reinforcing manner, of resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, 1612(2005) of 26 July 2005, 1674(2006) of 28 April 2006, 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1882(2009) of 4 August 2009, 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009 and 1894(2009) of 11 November 2009, and all relevant statements by its President,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General of 24 November 2010, but remaining deeply concerned over the slow progress on the issue of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict, in particular against women and children, and noting, as documented in the report of the Secretary-General, that sexual violence occurs in armed conflicts throughout the world,

Reiterating its deep concern that, despite its repeated condemnation of violence against women and children in situations of armed conflict, including sexual violence in situations of armed conflict, and despite its calls addressed to all parties to armed conflict for the cessation of such acts with immediate effect, such acts continue to occur, and in some situations have become systematic and widespread, reaching appalling levels of brutality,

Reiterating the necessity for all States and non-State parties to conflicts to comply fully with their obligations under applicable international law, including the prohibition on all forms of sexual violence,

Reiterating also the need for civilian and military leaders, consistent with the principle of command responsibility, to demonstrate commitment and political will to prevent sexual violence and to combat impunity and enforce accountability, and that inaction can send a message that the incidence of sexual violence in conflicts is tolerated,

Recalling the responsibilities of States to end impunity and to prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other egregious crimes perpetrated against civilians, and in this regard noting with concern that only limited numbers of perpetrators of sexual violence have been brought to justice, while recognizing that in conflict and in post-conflict situations national justice systems may be significantly weakened,

Welcoming the progress made in rendering operational the team of experts to assist national authorities to strengthen the rule of law in accordance with resolution 1888(2009), reaffirming the importance of deploying it rapidly to situations of particular concern with respect to sexual violence in armed conflict, working through the United Nations presence on the ground and with the consent of the host Government, and in this regard appreciating the voluntary contributions to support its work,

Recognizing that States bear the primary responsibility to respect and ensure the human rights of all persons within their territory and subject to their jurisdiction as provided for by international law,

Reaffirming that parties to armed conflict bear the primary responsibility to take all feasible steps to ensure the protection of civilians,

Recalling that international humanitarian law affords general protection to women and children as part of the civilian population during armed conflicts and special protection due to the fact that they can be placed particularly at risk,

Reaffirming that ending impunity is essential if a society in conflict or recovering from conflict is to come to terms with past abuses committed against civilians affected by armed conflict and to prevent such abuses in the future, drawing attention to the full range of justice and reconciliation mechanisms to be considered, including national, international and "mixed" criminal courts and tribunals and truth and reconciliation commissions, and noting that such mechanisms can promote not only individual responsibility for serious crimes but also peace, truth, reconciliation and the rights of the victims,

Recalling the inclusion of a range of sexual violence offences in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the statutes of the ad hoc international criminal tribunals,

Reaffirming the importance for States, with the support of the international community, to increase access to health care, psychosocial support, legal assistance and socio-economic reintegration services for victims of sexual violence, in particular in rural areas, and taking into account the specific needs of persons with disabilities,

Welcoming the proposals, conclusions and recommendations included in the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations on the need for adequate capabilities and clear and appropriate guidelines to enable peacekeeping missions to carry out all their mandated tasks, including prevention of and response to sexual violence; stressing the importance of ensuring engagement by senior mission leadership on protection of civilians, including the prevention of and response to instances of sexual violence in armed conflict, with a view to ensuring that all mission components and all levels of the chain of command are properly informed of and involved in the mandate of the mission and their relevant responsibilities; welcoming progress made by the Secretary-General in developing operational tools for the implementation of protection of civilians mandates; and encouraging troop- and police-contributing countries to make full use of and provide feedback on these important materials,

Recognizing the efforts of the Secretary-General to address the underrepresentation of women in formal peace processes, the lack of mediators and ceasefire monitors with proper training in dealing with sexual violence, and the lack of women as chief or lead peace mediators in United Nations-sponsored peace talks, and encouraging further such efforts,

Welcoming the inclusion of women in peacekeeping missions in civil, military and police functions, recognizing that their presence may encourage women from local communities to report acts of sexual violence,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 24 November 2010, and stressing that the present reso-

lution does not seek to make any legal determination as to whether situations that are referred to in the report of the Secretary-General are or are not armed conflicts in the context of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977, nor does it prejudice the legal status of non-State parties involved in those situations;

1. *Reaffirms* that sexual violence, when used or commissioned as a tactic of war or as a part of a widespread or systematic attack against civilian populations, can significantly exacerbate and prolong situations of armed conflict and may impede the restoration of international peace and security, affirms in this regard that effective steps to prevent and respond to such acts of sexual violence can significantly contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security, and expresses its readiness, when considering situations on the agenda of the Security Council, to take, where necessary, appropriate steps to address widespread or systematic sexual violence in situations of armed conflict;

2. *Reiterates its demand* for the complete cessation with immediate effect by all parties to armed conflict of all acts of sexual violence;

3. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to include in his annual reports submitted pursuant to resolutions 1820(2008) and 1888(2009) detailed information on parties to armed conflict that are credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for acts of rape or other forms of sexual violence, and to list in an annex to these annual reports the parties that are credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for patterns of rape and other forms of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict on the Council agenda; and expresses its intention to use this list as a basis for more focused United Nations engagement with those parties, including, as appropriate, measures in accordance with the procedures of the relevant sanctions committees;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in accordance with the present resolution and taking into account its specificity, to apply the listing and de-listing criteria for parties listed in his annual report on sexual violence in armed conflict consistent with paragraphs 175, 176, 178 and 180 of his report of 13 April 2010;

5. *Calls upon* parties to armed conflict to make and implement specific and time-bound commitments to combat sexual violence, which should include, inter alia, the issuance of clear orders through chains of command prohibiting sexual violence and the prohibition of sexual violence in codes of conduct, military field manuals, or equivalent; and further calls upon those parties to make and implement specific commitments on timely investigation of alleged abuses in order to hold perpetrators accountable;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to track and monitor implementation of these commitments by parties to armed conflict on the Council agenda that engage in patterns of rape and other sexual violence, and to regularly update the Council in relevant reports and briefings;

7. *Reiterates its intention*, when adopting or renewing targeted sanctions in situations of armed conflict, to consider including, where appropriate, designation criteria pertaining to acts of rape and other forms of sexual violence; and calls upon all peacekeeping and other relevant United Nations missions and United Nations entities, in particular the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, the Special Representative of

the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, to share with relevant Security Council sanctions committees, including through relevant sanctions committee monitoring groups and groups of experts, all pertinent information about sexual violence;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence, including rape in situations of armed conflict and in post-conflict and other situations relevant to the implementation of resolution 1888(2009), as appropriate, and taking into account the specificity of each country, that ensure a coherent and coordinated approach at the field level, and encourages the Secretary-General to engage with United Nations actors, national institutions, civil society organizations, health-care service providers and women's groups to enhance data collection and analysis of incidents, trends and patterns of rape and other forms of sexual violence to assist the consideration by the Council of appropriate actions, including targeted and graduated measures, while respecting fully the integrity and specificity of the monitoring and reporting mechanism implemented under Council resolutions 1612(2005) and 1882(2009) on children and armed conflict;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure full transparency, cooperation and coordination of efforts between the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict;

10. *Welcomes* the work of gender advisers, looks forward to the appointment of more women's protection advisers to peacekeeping missions, in accordance with resolution 1888(2009), and notes their potential contribution within the framework of the monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements to be established pursuant to paragraph 8 of the present resolution;

11. *Also welcomes* the elaboration by the Secretary-General of scenario-based training materials on combating sexual violence for peacekeepers, and encourages Member States to use them as a reference for the preparation and deployment of United Nations peacekeeping operations;

12. *Underlines* that, in order to carry out their mandate, missions must communicate effectively with local communities, and encourages the Secretary-General to improve their capacity to do so;

13. *Expresses its intention* to give due consideration to sexual violence in mandate authorizations and renewals and to request the Secretary-General to include, as appropriate, gender expertise in technical assessment missions;

14. *Encourages* the entities comprising United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict, as well as other relevant parts of the United Nations system, to continue to support the work of the aforementioned Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and to enhance cooperation and information-sharing among all relevant stakeholders in order to reinforce coordination and avoid overlap at the Headquarters and country levels and to improve system-wide response;

15. *Encourages* Member States to deploy greater numbers of female military and police personnel to United Nations peacekeeping operations and to provide all military and police personnel with adequate training on sexual and

gender-based violence, inter alia, to carry out their responsibilities;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue and strengthen efforts to implement the policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel, and further requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide and deploy guidance on addressing sexual violence for predeployment and induction training of military and police personnel, to assist missions in developing situation-specific procedures to address sexual violence at the field level and to ensure that technical support is provided to troop- and police-contributing countries in order to include guidance for military and police personnel on addressing sexual violence in predeployment and induction training;

17. *Invites* the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict to continue to provide briefings on sexual violence, in accordance with resolution 1888(2009);

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to submit annual reports to the Council on the implementation of resolutions 1820(2008) and 1888(2009) and to submit by December 2011 his next report on the implementation of resolutions 1820(2008) and 1888(2009) and the present resolution, to include, inter alia:

(a) A detailed coordination and strategy plan on the timely and ethical collection of information;

(b) Information on progress made in the implementation of the monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements mentioned in paragraph 8 above;

(c) Detailed information on parties to armed conflict that are credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for acts of rape or other forms of sexual violence, and an annex with a list of parties that are credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for patterns of rape and other forms of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict on the Council agenda;

(d) Updates on efforts by United Nations mission focal points on sexual violence to work closely with the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator, the United Nations country team, and, where appropriate, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and/or the team of experts, to address sexual violence;

19. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Women's participation in peacebuilding

In response to Security Council resolution 1889(2009) [YUN 2009, p. 1141], the Secretary-General submitted a September report [A/65/354-S/2010/466] on women's participation in peacebuilding, which analysed the needs of women and girls in post-conflict situations; identified the challenges to women's participation in preventing, resolving and recovering from conflict; and specified national and international measures aimed at ensuring that women's priorities were addressed, their right to participation was realized, a gender perspective was applied to peacebuilding, and public actions were consistent with States' international human rights obligations. Among the

factors preventing women in post-conflict situations from partaking in peacebuilding were elevated levels of violence and sexual violence; discriminatory legal codes, laws and customs excluding them from gaining a voice in political forums; the restoration of basic services without taking gender dimensions into account; and the re-establishment of public administration and finance systems without taking steps to counteract gender biases. With regard to economic revitalization, the needs and capacities of rural women had to be addressed.

The report comprised an action plan aimed at changing practices among national and international actors and improving outcomes on the ground. The plan's seven commitments were to ensure that women were fully engaged in, and timely gender expertise was provided to, all peace talks; women played substantive roles in post-conflict planning processes, including donor conferences, with comprehensive attention paid to gender equality; adequate financing was provided to address women's specific needs, advance gender equality and promote women's empowerment; deployed civilians possessed the necessary skills, including expertise in rebuilding State institutions to make them more accessible to women; women participated in post-conflict governance as civic actors, elected representatives or decision makers in public institutions, including through temporary special measures such as quotas; rule-of-law initiatives encouraged women's participation in seeking redress for injustices committed against them and in improving the capacity of security actors to prevent and respond to violations of women's rights; and economic recovery prioritized women's involvement in employment-creation schemes, community-development programmes and the delivery of front-line services. Each commitment corresponded to a set of specific measures and supporting activities. The Secretary-General noted that senior UN leaders would need to translate the commitments into outcomes. He urged coordinated action by Member States, regional organizations and, most importantly, the Governments and peoples of countries emerging from conflict.

The Secretary-General concluded that the action plan was a strong basis for fulfilling the pledges of Council resolutions on women and peace and security, but the implementation challenges were considerable. Revising procedures and designing programmes required careful deliberation and additional resources; he urged Member States to make substantial, long-term investments in women's security and productive potential. Member States should ensure that their support for women's engagement in peacebuilding was consistent. Positions on crucial issues should not vary across institutional contexts, both within and beyond the United Nations. Enhancing women's capacity to engage in peacebuilding had to be prioritized

in, among other areas, supporting peace processes through independent diplomatic initiatives, providing bilateral assistance to post-conflict countries and participation within UN intergovernmental bodies. As to the UN system, the Peacebuilding Commission, whose founding resolutions included a mandate to address gender issues, had an important role to play, including through its country-specific configurations. Tracking progress in fulfilling the provisions of the action plan's seven commitments would be crucial. Monitoring would be facilitated by the global indicators on the implementation of resolution 1325(2000), prepared at the Council's request. Reporting and monitoring on action plan implementation would be part of the Secretary-General's overall agenda for action to improve UN peacebuilding efforts.

In presidential statement **S/PRST/2010/20** of 13 October (see p. 53) the Secretary-General was requested to brief the Council and the Assembly by 13 October 2011 and submit a report by 13 October 2012 on progress made in implementing his agenda for action, with emphasis on the impact it had made on the ground, including progress towards increasing women's participation in peacebuilding, taking into consideration the views of the Peacebuilding Commission.

Women and the economy

On 12 March, the Commission on the Status of Women (see p. 1177) adopted a resolution [E/2010/27 (res. 54/4)] on women's economic empowerment. Noting the increasing recognition that women's economic empowerment was a key factor that contributed to sustainable economic development and women's human rights, the Commission recognized that the full integration of women into the formal economy, in particular into economic decision-making, meant changing the current gender-based division of labour into new economic structures where women and men enjoyed equal treatment, pay and power, including sharing of paid and unpaid work. It called on States to incorporate gender perspectives into social and economic policies, including development and poverty eradication strategies and related actions promoting women's economic rights and independence. States were requested to adopt and apply a systematic approach in order to accelerate women's participation in economic decision-making; undertake legislative and administrative reforms in order to give women full and equal access to economic resources; and provide adequate safety nets and strengthen State-based and community-based support systems in order to enable women living in poverty to withstand adverse economic environments. The Secretary-General was requested to submit to the Commission in 2011 a report on implementation of the resolution.

Women in power and decision-making

In response to Economic and Social Council decision 2009/210 [YUN 2009, p. 1143], by which the Council identified "Current global and national trends and challenges and their impact on gender equality and empowerment of women" as the topic for the thematic discussion of its 2010 substantive session, the Secretary-General submitted an April report [E/2010/49] on current global and national trends and challenges and their impact on gender equality and empowerment of women. The report discussed imbalances and weaknesses in the global economy, food insecurity, climate change, humanitarian crises, armed conflict and international development cooperation, and their impact on gender equality and the empowerment of women. Noting that the global crises could undermine progress made on gender equality, the report stated that they could also provide the potential for positive transformations of gender roles and women's empowerment, and offered ideas and proposals on how such global trends and challenges might be turned into opportunities for advancing equality.

Compared to other segments of the population, women and girls suffered disproportionately in times of crisis or hardship, and in that context the Secretary-General analysed the disadvantages they faced under those conditions, including limited access to food, health care, land for agricultural development, employment, education, economic resources and financial services. To empower women, it was necessary to ensure their full and equal participation in economic and political decision-making and to enhance their economic capacity. Policies should be formulated through continuous dialogue with those affected and with gender-sensitive indicators supported by sex-disaggregated data. Noting that particular attention needed to be given to the specific obstacles faced by poor women in accessing finance, the Secretary-General called for sustained and increased social expenditure and economic policies that included both short-term gender-sensitive measures to mitigate the adverse effects of the crises, and long-term measures to address implicit gender biases in policies and gender inequalities in the economy. Spending for women's health should be sustained to achieve the gender- and health-related MDGs by 2015; women's political, social and economic empowerment in post-conflict settings had to be given greater priority; and stable and predictable foreign aid was required to ensure the effective implementation of gender equality goals and commitments. The Secretary-General recommended that Governments, international organizations and UN system entities implement international commitments on gender equality and strengthen their capacity for gender mainstreaming and the advancement of women's rights. He referred to the recommendations

of the Committee for Development Policy, which considered in 2010 the gender dimensions of the global economic crisis and the crisis of food security in the context of climate change (see p. 840).

Women and disarmament

On 8 December, the General Assembly, in **resolution 65/69** (see p. 513), encouraged Member States, regional and subregional organizations, the United Nations and specialized agencies to promote the equitable representation of women in decision-making processes related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. The Assembly invited States to strengthen women's participation in disarmament organizations.

Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women

Inter-Agency Network. The United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE), at its ninth annual session (New York, 23–25 February) [IANWGE/2010/Report], discussed: the mainstreaming of gender perspectives throughout preparations for the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth (2010) session of the General Assembly (20–22 September) on progress towards the MDGs (see p. 813); preparations for the tenth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325(2000) [YUN 2000, p. 1113]; follow-up activities towards implementation of resolutions 1820(2008) [YUN 2008, p. 1265] and 1888(2009) [YUN 2009, p. 1137] (see p. 1163); matters related to the 2010 session of the Commission on the Status of Women, particularly its 15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the Assembly (2000) (see p. 1134); the system-wide implementation of Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1997/2 [YUN 1997, p. 1186] on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the UN system; the status of the Secretary-General's UNITE to End Violence against Women campaign; and progress in the creation of UN-Women (see p. 1178). Oral briefings on those topics were heard from representatives of UN entities and presentations were made on new and emerging issues, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO) Global Jobs Pact, adopted in 2009 [YUN 2009, p. 1062], and accountability for women's right to health.

With regard to the establishment of a set of global indicators to track implementation of resolution 1325(2000), IANWGE suggested two indicators: women's right to land and different forms of property; and tracking the economic activity and respective resources to support women in conflict situations. The Inter-

Agency Network expressed concern regarding the lack of a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy for the UNITE campaign and urged its working group on UNITE to focus on addressing the gap by mapping resource availability, identifying mechanisms to channel contributions, defining terms of reference for funding initiatives, generating a project pipeline, and establishing mechanisms to reach a broad range of stakeholders. Session participants reaffirmed their interest in a system-wide capacity development programme on gender mainstreaming [YUN 2009, p. 1144], to be developed by OSAGI and the United Nations System staff college. The Network endorsed a proposal to hold an expert group meeting (Turin, Italy, 7–9 June) on the development of a mandatory online training module in gender mainstreaming for all UN staff, the initial version of which would be developed in 2010, followed by the design of different versions tailored to various staff functions in the Organization, including an executive version for senior managers.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to Council resolution 2009/12 [YUN 2009, p. 1144], the Secretary-General submitted a May report [E/2010/57] on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all UN system policies and programmes, which was based on the responses of 28 UN entities to an OSAGI-formulated questionnaire.

The Secretary-General said that, since 2000, UN entities had adopted policies, strategies and action plans on mainstreaming a gender perspective into policy and capacity development, monitoring and reporting, and institutional arrangements of the UN system. In March, DPA reviewed its gender action plan and adopted a department-wide gender results framework, while the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia updated its gender mainstreaming strategy to ensure the availability of human and financial resources. DPA and UNIFEM had signed a three-year joint strategy on gender and mediation, and by April a gender expert was added to the standby team of mediation experts to mainstream a gender perspective into peace negotiations. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) developed its strategic framework 2010–2019, in which gender equality was identified as one of the organization's 11 strategic objectives, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees developed an age, gender and diversity action plan 2010–2015. DPKO updated the UN gender guidelines for mine action programmes to assist policymakers and programme personnel in incorporating gender considerations into mine action operations and developed a gender training strategy for peacekeeping. The United Nations Environment Programme integrated gender into its 2010–2013 work programme. Different types of training courses, whether continuous, on-demand or mandatory, were reported by UN entities,

as were joint efforts with regard to capacity development in the framework of country programmes. Two e-learning courses were launched in 2010: “Gender equality, United Nations coherence and you”; and “Different needs—equal opportunities: increasing effectiveness of humanitarian action for women, girls, boys and men”. The collection of data disaggregated by sex expanded steadily throughout the UN system. UNICEF, UNFPA, DAW, UNIFEM, ILO, the World Bank and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs produced “Gender Info 2010”, a global database of gender statistics and indicators on population, families, health, education, work and political participation that contained more than 360,000 data values from regional, national and subnational levels.

Despite progress achieved, the Secretary-General determined that UN entities were moving on an individual basis to implement the gender mainstreaming strategy, and, aside from IANWGE, there was no single driver of gender mainstreaming in the UN system. As efforts were not always coherent, the IANWGE system-wide gender mainstreaming capacity development programme (see above) was a welcome initiative. Suggested recommendations for action by UN entities included: ensuring that managers provided the leadership required to advance gender mainstreaming within the UN system; strengthening gender mainstreaming accountability frameworks using results-based management, including by establishing measurable common system indicators and protocols; increasing financial resources for gender mainstreaming; enhancing attention to gender perspectives in medium-term plans and programme budget and multi-year funding frameworks; using training institutions to assist entities in applying training modules and tools on gender mainstreaming; and increasing field-level capacity to support Member States in collecting and analysing gender-sensitive information, sex- and age-disaggregated data, and the use of gender-responsive budgeting.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 23 July [meeting 46], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2010/29** [draft: E/2010/L.35] without vote [agenda item 7 (e)].

Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2010 on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women,

Reaffirming its agreed conclusions 1997/2 of 18 July 1997 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, and

recalling its resolutions 2001/41 of 26 July 2001, 2002/23 of 24 July 2002, 2003/49 of 24 July 2003, 2004/4 of 7 July 2004, 2005/31 of 26 July 2005, 2006/36 of 27 July 2006, 2007/33 of 27 July 2007, 2008/34 of 25 July 2008 and 2009/12 of 28 July 2009,

Reaffirming also the commitment made at the 2005 World Summit to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres and to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender,

Welcoming the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, to be known as UN-Women, through the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 on system-wide coherence,

Underlining, in this regard, that the establishment of the Entity and the conduct of its work will lead to more effective coordination, coherence and gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system, and emphasizing that support of gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system will be an integral part of the work of the Entity,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and constitutes a critical strategy in the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and reaffirming also the commitment to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, as well as the commitment to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender equality,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General and the recommendations contained therein, and calls for further and continued efforts to mainstream a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations in accordance with all relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council;

2. *Looks forward* to UN-Women becoming fully operational, welcomes the decision of the General Assembly in its resolution 64/289 that the Entity shall assume the additional role of leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women in accordance with its mandate, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to ensure a smooth transition;

3. *Requests* the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds and programmes, within their respective mandates, to continue mainstreaming the issue of gender in accordance with previous Council resolutions, in particular resolution 2008/34, and General Assembly resolution 64/289, including mainstreaming a gender perspective into all operational mechanisms, inter alia, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and other development frameworks, ensuring that managers provide leadership and support, within the United Nations system, to advance gender mainstreaming, strengthening monitoring, reporting and evaluation so as to allow system-wide

assessment of progress in gender-mainstreaming, and using existing training resources, including institutions and infrastructure, to assist in the development and application of unified training modules and tools on gender mainstreaming and to promote the collection, analysis and use of data disaggregated by sex and age during programme development and evaluation of gender mainstreaming in order to assess progress towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women;

4. *Also requests* the United Nations system to continue to support Member States, upon their request, in the implementation of national policies for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its substantive session of 2011 a detailed report on the efforts and progress made by United Nations entities, and on gaps and challenges that they still face in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all policies and programmes and in capacity development, and to include in the report a section on how UN-Women will carry out its work, including by strengthening coordination, identifying areas for improvement and elevating the level of attention given to this cross-cutting issue.

OIOS report. In August [A/65/266], the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) reported on the results of a thematic evaluation of gender mainstreaming in the United Nations that had assessed 20 programmes within the Secretariat. The objective was to review the implementation and outcomes of the gender mainstreaming policy nearly 15 years after it was introduced in Assembly resolution 50/203 [YUN 1995, p. 1173].

OIOS found that every programme had responded to the gender mainstreaming mandates, but further steps were needed before the Assembly's vision of "an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective" could be achieved. The evaluation revealed a range of structures and processes for gender mainstreaming across the Secretariat; gaps in the understanding of the meaning, purpose and implications of gender mainstreaming; weaknesses in leadership and accountability; lack of visibility of the gender perspective in public documents; and lack of comprehensive and systematic evidence of results. It determined that the Secretariat's priority appeared to have been to ensure that appropriate structures and processes were in place rather than focusing on what they were delivering. As the link between the structures and processes and their results was weak or missing, OIOS was unable to draw firm conclusions about the outcomes of gender mainstreaming or its effectiveness in advancing gender equality.

OIOS concluded that the lack of alignment between policy and practice posed a risk to the reputation of the United Nations, which had committed to and promoted gender mainstreaming as a strategy for achieving gender equality. The formation of UN-Women

(see p. 1178) was an opportunity for reinvigorating the Secretariat's approach, and OIOS encouraged the architects of the new gender entity to take the evaluation's findings into account when developing the UN-Women mandate and structure. It urged the UN-Women governing body to seek a further evaluation of Secretariat gender mainstreaming within three years of its launch, building on the baselines established in the current report. OIOS recommended that OSAGI strengthen the central guidance available to Secretariat programmes and ensure greater coordination of their efforts by seeking a recommitment to gender mainstreaming at the highest level; developing a Secretariat-wide approach to the development of staff capabilities to implement gender mainstreaming; providing a central hub of expertise to enable gender experts to work together with Secretariat programmes; and developing guidelines to ensure that gender mainstreaming was integrated into common Secretariat tasks. OIOS also recommended that each Secretariat programme strengthen its results-based focus by ensuring it had developed and disseminated a programme-level gender mainstreaming action plan; establishing clear expectations for managers and all staff and developing the resources and staff capabilities to deliver on those expectations; ensuring that, if retained, focal points who were not specialized in gender mainstreaming had terms of reference and were well supported; and building an evidence base by collecting and analysing outcomes, best practices and lessons learned in gender mainstreaming.

Status of women in the United Nations

In response to General Assembly resolution 64/141 [YUN 2009, p. 1116], the Secretary-General submitted a September report [A/65/334] on the improvement of the status of women in the UN system between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2009. Representation of women in the Professional and higher categories increased marginally from 38.4 to 39.9 per cent.

The Assembly, in resolution 65/191 (see p. 1136), requested the Secretary-General to review and redouble his efforts to make progress towards the goal of achieving a 50/50 gender balance throughout the UN system.

In **resolution 65/247** (see p. 1480), the Assembly expressed concern that progress towards the goal of 50/50 gender balance in the UN system, especially at senior and policymaking levels, had been slow. It requested the Secretary-General to increase his efforts to attain and monitor the goal of gender parity in the Secretariat, particularly at senior levels, and in that context to ensure that women, especially those from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, were appropriately represented in the Secretariat.

Women and human rights

Division for the Advancement of Women and OHCHR activities

During 2010, cooperation continued between the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), which became part of the newly established UN-Women before the end of the year (see p. 1178), and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) with the goal of achieving equality between women and men and promoting and protecting women's human rights. In a November report [A/HRC/16/33-E/CN.6/2011/8], the Secretary-General reviewed implementation of the 2010 joint workplan of DAW and OHCHR and discussed plans for future cooperation, taking into account the establishment of UN-Women. OHCHR and UN-Women would continue and strengthen their cooperation under a mutually agreed strategic framework, the details of which would be reported to the Commission on the Status of Women in 2012 in the joint workplan for 2011–2012.

Palestinian women

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/14 [YUN 2009, p. 474], the Secretary-General submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women a report [E/CN.6/2010/4] in which he reviewed the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women from October 2008 to September 2009 (see p. 481).

In a 23 February letter to the Secretary-General [E/CN.6/2010/10], Palestine expressed its concerns about the language used in the report, and the overall context in which the report examined the situation and developments in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

On 12 March, the Commission adopted a resolution on the subject and recommended the text to the Council for adoption.

On 20 July, the Council took action on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women in **resolution 2010/6** (see p. 482).

Trafficking in women and girls

United Nations Global Plan of Action. On 30 July, the General Assembly, in **resolution 64/293** (see p. 1111), adopted the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, which was annexed to the resolution. It established the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and requested the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures for its operation.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to Assembly resolution 63/156 [YUN 2008, p. 1273], the Secretary-General submitted an August report

[A/65/209] on trafficking in women and girls, which provided information on measures taken by 59 Member States and 11 UN system entities to combat the practice. The report described initiatives by States with regard to ratification of international instruments, strengthened legal and policy frameworks, enhanced coordination with stakeholders, reinforced prevention measures, and efforts to prosecute perpetrators and support victims. In many States, penal codes included explicit criminal offences related to human trafficking, and numerous States strengthened their penalties for traffickers to make them commensurate with those prescribed for other grave crimes. An increasing number of countries were combining comprehensive laws with a range of other measures, such as protection and support services for victims, compensation for damages to victims, and the establishment of national coordination bodies on trafficking. Most reporting States supported bilateral or multilateral programmes to combat trafficking in persons, including development projects in and with countries of origin. Educational programmes and awareness-raising campaigns to improve knowledge of human trafficking and anti-trafficking measures were implemented by most reporting States; many activities were carried out in multiple languages and in cooperation with partners, including NGOs, international and regional organizations, human rights institutions, the media and the business sector. An increasing number of countries offered and supported specialized services for victims of trafficking, including psychological, medical, legal and social/financial assistance, as well as shelters, often run in cooperation with NGOs and other partners. Many countries established helplines for trafficking victims, or to report trafficking cases, and there was a growing trend towards the establishment of national referral mechanisms/procedures and national or multilateral networks to ensure the delivery of support for and protection of victims. Trafficking in women and girls remained under-documented, and although some States provided data on victims, investigations, prosecutions and convictions for human trafficking, the number of cases brought to the attention of the police, courts or service providers was small, data collection methodologies differed, and estimates of the number of victims varied. States therefore intensified efforts to enhance data collection and analysis on trafficking through research programmes, training and studies.

In the UN system, activities focused on global legal and policy development; coordination efforts; studies and reports; data collection; capacity-building; prevention activities; services for victims; and supporting partnerships with the private sector. The Human Rights Council working group on the Universal Periodic Review, between December 2008 and May 2010, continued to make recommendations related

to trafficking, especially in women and children, in 75 of the 96 countries it considered. In May, OHCHR organized a seminar aimed at identifying opportunities and challenges in the development of rights-based responses to trafficking in persons. In March, April, May and June, the Assembly held informal consultations to consider the development of a UN global plan of action to combat trafficking in persons (see p. 1110). The United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking carried out activities in the areas of advocacy; public-private partnerships; and knowledge-building to feed into global, regional and national policymaking. The Inter-Agency Cooperation Group against Trafficking in Persons continued its work to improve coordination between UN entities and other international organizations.

The Secretary-General recommended that future action should focus on ensuring a cohesive and gender-sensitive approach among all stakeholders. Comprehensive anti-trafficking acts covering offences and a range of other measures, including protection and support for victims, prevention measures and the establishment of national coordination bodies, were good practices that should be replicated. Training should be conducted for law enforcement officials, the judiciary and other personnel working on combating the practice. Efforts should be strengthened to ensure the prosecution and sentencing of perpetrators. Prevention efforts had to address the root causes and factors that put women and girls at risk, including social and economic marginalization, and violence and discrimination against women. Measures needed to be put in place to discourage employer and consumer demand that led to trafficking in women and girls. Countries should reinforce efforts to provide trafficking victims with support services; shelters; vocational training and alternative employment programmes; and residence permits or extended stays in third countries. States should continue strengthening their efforts to improve data collection on trafficking in women and girls.

The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, submitted to the Human Rights Council her second report, which contained recommendations for combating the practice [A/HRC/14/32 & Add.1-5] (see p. 752).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/65/449], adopted **resolution 65/190** without vote [agenda item 28 (d)].

Trafficking in women and girls

The General Assembly,

Reiterating its strong condemnation of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which constitutes a serious threat to human dignity, human rights and development,

Recalling all international conventions that deal specifically with and address issues relevant to the problem of trafficking in women and girls, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, as well as previous resolutions of the General Assembly and its subsidiary body the Human Rights Council, and the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions on the issue,

Reaffirming the provisions pertaining to trafficking in women and girls contained in the outcome documents of relevant international conferences and summits, in particular the strategic objective on the issue of trafficking contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Reaffirming also the commitment made by world leaders at the Millennium Summit, the 2005 World Summit and the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons to counter the demand for trafficked victims and to protect the victims,

Welcoming the adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons by the General Assembly on 30 July 2010,

Welcoming also the resolutions on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, adopted by the Human Rights Council, in particular resolution 11/3 of 17 June 2009 on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and resolution 14/2 of 17 June 2010 entitled "Trafficking in persons, especially women and children: regional and subregional cooperation in promoting a human rights-based approach to combating trafficking in persons",

Noting with appreciation the steps taken, including the reports of human rights treaty bodies and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the Special Rapporteur of the Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, the Special Rapporteur of the Council on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Special Rapporteur of the Council on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, and United Nations agencies and other concerned intergovernmental and governmental organizations, within their existing mandates, as well as civil society, to address the serious crime of trafficking in persons, and encourages them to continue doing so and to share their knowledge and best practices as widely as possible,

Recalling the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in February 2009 and the attention paid in it to the situation of trafficked women and girls, as well as other relevant reports of the Office on trafficking in persons,

Taking note of the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking, held from 13 to 15 February 2008, within the framework of the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, and of the thematic debates on the issue of trafficking in persons, held on 3 June 2008 and 13 May 2009 within the framework of the General Assembly,

Taking note also of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and of the fact that part of her task is to integrate a gender- and age-specific perspective throughout the work of her mandate, inter alia, through the identification of gender- and age-specific vulnerabilities in relation to the issue of trafficking in persons,

Acknowledging the inclusion of gender-related crimes in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which entered into force on 1 July 2002,

Bearing in mind that all States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish perpetrators of trafficking in persons, and to rescue victims as well as provide for their protection, and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the victims,

Seriously concerned that an increasing number of women and girls are being trafficked, including to developed countries, as well as within and between regions and States, and that men and boys are also victims of trafficking, including for sexual exploitation,

Recognizing that certain efforts against trafficking in persons lack the gender and age sensitivity needed to address effectively the situation of women and girls, who are particularly vulnerable to trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labour, services and other forms of exploitation, thus highlighting the need to incorporate a gender- and age-sensitive approach in all anti-trafficking efforts,

Recognizing also the need to address the impact of globalization on the particular problem of trafficking in women and children, in particular girls,

Recognizing further that, despite the progress made, challenges to combating trafficking in women and girls remain and that further efforts should be made to adopt adequate legislation and to implement existing legislation and to continue improving the collection of reliable sex-disaggregated data and statistics that would allow proper analysis of the nature and extent of trafficking in women and girls,

Concerned about the use of new information technologies, including the Internet, for purposes of exploitation of the prostitution of others, for trafficking in women as brides, for sex tourism exploiting women and children and for child pornography, paedophilia and any other forms of sexual exploitation of children,

Concerned also about the increasing activities of transnational criminal organizations and others that profit from international trafficking in persons, especially women and children, without regard to dangerous and inhuman conditions and in flagrant violation of domestic laws and international standards,

Recognizing that victims of trafficking are particularly exposed to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and that women and girl victims are often subject to multiple forms of discrimination and violence, including on the grounds of their gender, age, ethnicity, culture and religion, as well as their origins, and that those forms of discrimination themselves may fuel trafficking in persons,

Noting that some of the demand for prostitution and forced labour is met by trafficking in persons in some parts of the world,

Acknowledging that women and girl victims of trafficking, on account of their gender, are further disadvantaged and marginalized by a general lack of information on or awareness and recognition of their human rights and by the stigmatization often associated with trafficking, as well as by the obstacles they meet in gaining access to information and recourse mechanisms in cases of violation of their rights, and that special measures are required for their protection and to increase their awareness,

Reaffirming the importance of bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and initiatives, including information exchanges on best practices, of Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the problem of trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

Reaffirming also that global efforts, including international cooperation and technical assistance programmes, to eradicate trafficking in persons, especially women and children, demand the strong political commitment, shared responsibility and active cooperation of all Governments of countries of origin, transit and destination,

Recognizing that policies and programmes for prevention, rehabilitation, repatriation and reintegration should be developed through a gender- and age-sensitive, comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach, with concern for the security of the victims and respect for the full enjoyment of their human rights and with the involvement of all actors in countries of origin, transit and destination,

Convinced of the need to protect and assist all victims of trafficking, with full respect for the human rights of the victims,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General, which outlines concrete measures, addressing them to States and other stakeholders, to prevent and eliminate trafficking in persons, especially women and children;

2. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as a matter of priority, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, taking into consideration the central role of those instruments in the fight against trafficking in persons, and urges States parties to those instruments to implement them fully and effectively;

3. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and other international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the media, to fully and effectively implement the relevant provisions of the United

Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the activities outlined therein;

4. *Urges* Governments to consider signing and ratifying and States parties to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, as well as the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), of the International Labour Organization;

5. *Welcomes* the efforts of Governments, United Nations bodies and agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls, and encourages them to further enhance their efforts and cooperation, including by sharing their knowledge, technical expertise and best practices as widely as possible;

6. *Encourages* the United Nations system to mainstream, as appropriate, the issue of trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, into its broader policies and programmes aimed at addressing economic and social development, human rights, the rule of law, good governance, education, health and natural disaster and post-conflict reconstruction;

7. *Calls upon* Governments to address, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters the trafficking of women and girls for all forms of exploitation and in this regard to enhance preventive measures, including legislative measures, to deter exploiters of trafficked persons, as well as ensure their accountability;

8. *Also calls upon* Governments to take appropriate measures to address the factors that increase vulnerability to being trafficked, including poverty and gender inequality, as well as other factors that encourage the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriage, forced labour and organ removal, in order to prevent and eliminate such trafficking, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing perpetrators, including public officials engaging in or facilitating human trafficking, through, as appropriate, criminal and/or civil measures;

9. *Calls upon* Governments, the international community and all other organizations and entities that deal with conflict, post-conflict, disaster and other emergency situations to address the heightened vulnerability of women and girls to trafficking and exploitation and associated gender-based violence;

10. *Urges* Governments to devise, enforce and strengthen effective gender- and age-sensitive measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual and economic exploitation, as part of a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy that integrates a human rights perspective, and to draw up, as appropriate, national action plans in this regard;

11. *Also urges* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to support and allocate resources to strengthen preventive action, in particular education for women and men, as well as for girls and boys, on gender equality, self-respect and mutual

respect, and campaigns, carried out in collaboration with civil society, to increase public awareness of the issue at the national and grass-roots levels;

12. *Reiterates* the importance of continued coordination among, inter alia, the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the Special Rapporteur of the Council on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Special Rapporteur of the Council on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication in their activities in fulfilment of their mandates;

13. *Encourages* Governments to take appropriate measures to eliminate sex tourism demand, especially for children, through all possible preventive actions;

14. *Urges* Governments to develop educational and training programmes and policies and to consider, as appropriate, enacting legislation aimed at preventing sex tourism and trafficking, giving special emphasis to the protection of young women and children;

15. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen national programmes and to engage in bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation, including by forging regional initiatives or plans of action, to address the problem of trafficking in persons through, inter alia, the enhancement of information-sharing, gender- and age-specific data collection and other technical capacities, and mutual legal assistance, as well as the combating of corruption and laundering of proceeds derived from trafficking, including for purposes of commercial sexual exploitation, and to ensure, as appropriate, that such agreements and initiatives are particularly responsive to the problem of trafficking as it affects women and girls;

16. *Calls upon* all Governments to criminalize all forms of trafficking in persons, recognizing its increasing occurrence for purposes of sexual exploitation, commercial sexual exploitation and abuse, sex tourism and forced labour, and to bring to justice and punish the offenders and intermediaries involved, including public officials involved with trafficking in persons, whether local or foreign, through the competent national authorities, either in the country of origin of the offender or in the country in which the abuse occurs, in accordance with due process of law, as well as to penalize persons in authority found guilty of sexually assaulting victims of trafficking in their custody;

17. *Urges* Governments to take all appropriate measures to ensure that victims of trafficking are not penalized or prosecuted for acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked and that they do not suffer from revictimization as a result of actions taken by Government authorities, and encourages Governments to prevent, within their legal framework and in accordance with national policies, victims of trafficking in persons from being prosecuted for their illegal entry or residence;

18. *Invites* Governments to consider setting up or strengthening a national coordinating mechanism, for example, a national rapporteur or an inter-agency body, with the participation of civil society, as appropriate, including non-governmental organizations, to encourage the exchange of information and to report on data, root causes, factors and trends in trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, and to include data on victims of trafficking disaggregated by sex and age;

19. *Encourages* Governments and relevant United Nations bodies, within existing resources, to take appropriate measures to raise public awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons, particularly women and girls, including the factors that make women and girls vulnerable to trafficking; to discourage, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation, including sexual exploitation and forced labour; to publicize the laws, regulations and penalties relating to this issue; and to emphasize that trafficking is a serious crime;

20. *Calls upon* concerned Governments to allocate resources, as appropriate, to provide access to appropriate programmes for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking, including through job training, legal assistance in a language that they can understand and health care, including for HIV/AIDS, and by taking measures to cooperate with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims;

21. *Encourages* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to undertake or strengthen campaigns aimed at clarifying opportunities, limitations and rights in the event of migration, as well as information on the risks of irregular migration and the ways and means used by traffickers, so as to enable women to make informed decisions and to prevent them from becoming victims of trafficking;

22. *Also encourages* Governments to intensify collaboration with non-governmental organizations to develop and implement gender- and age-sensitive programmes for effective counselling, training and reintegration into society of victims of trafficking and programmes that provide shelter and helplines to victims or potential victims;

23. *Urges* Governments to provide or strengthen training for, and to raise awareness among, law enforcement, judicial, immigration and other relevant officials on the prevention and combating of trafficking in persons, including the sexual exploitation of women and girls, and in this regard calls upon Governments to ensure that the treatment of victims of trafficking, especially by law enforcement officials, immigration officers, consular officials, social workers and other first response officials, is conducted with full respect for the human rights of those victims and with gender and age sensitivity and observes the principles of non-discrimination, including the prohibition of racial discrimination;

24. *Invites* Governments to take steps to ensure that criminal justice procedures and witness protection programmes are sensitive to the particular situation of trafficked women and girls and that they are supported and assisted, as appropriate, in making complaints to the police or other authorities without fear and being available when required by the criminal justice system, and to ensure that during this time they have access to gender- and age-sensitive protection and, as appropriate, social, medical, financial and legal assistance, including the possibility of obtaining compensation for damages suffered;

25. *Also invites* Governments to encourage media providers, including Internet service providers, to adopt or strengthen self-regulatory measures to promote the responsible use of media, particularly the Internet, with a view to eliminating the exploitation of women and children, in particular girls, which could foster trafficking;

26. *Invites* the business sector, in particular the tourism, travel and telecommunications industries, including mass media organizations, to cooperate with Governments in eliminating trafficking in women and children, in particular girls, including through the dissemination by the media of information regarding the dangers of trafficking, the means used by traffickers, the rights of trafficked persons and the services available to victims of trafficking;

27. *Stresses* the need for the systematic collection of sex- and age-disaggregated data and comprehensive studies at both the national and the international levels and the development of common methodologies and internationally defined indicators to make it possible to develop relevant and comparable figures, and encourages Governments to enhance information-sharing and data-collection capacity as a way of promoting cooperation to combat the trafficking problem;

28. *Invites* Governments, United Nations bodies, agencies and special mechanisms, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to undertake collaborative and joint research and studies on trafficking in women and girls that can serve as a basis for policy formulation or change;

29. *Invites* Governments, with the support of the United Nations, when necessary, and other intergovernmental organizations, taking into account best practices, to formulate training manuals and other informational materials and provide training for law enforcement, judicial and other relevant officers, and medical and support personnel, with a view to sensitizing them to the special needs of women and girl victims;

30. *Encourages* Governments, relevant intergovernmental bodies and international organizations to ensure that military, peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel deployed in conflict, post-conflict and other emergency situations are provided with training on conduct that does not promote, facilitate or exploit trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual exploitation, and to raise the awareness of such personnel of the potential risks to victims of conflict and other emergency situations, including natural disasters, of being trafficked;

31. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenants on Human Rights to include information and statistics on trafficking in women and girls as part of their national reports to their respective committees and to work towards developing a common methodology and statistics to obtain comparable data;

32. *Invites* States to continue to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;

33. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report that compiles successful interventions and strategies, as well as the gaps, in addressing the gender dimensions of the problem of trafficking in persons and provides recommendations on the strengthening of human rights-based, gender- and age-sensitive approaches within comprehensive and balanced efforts to address trafficking in persons.

UN machinery

Convention on the elimination of discrimination against women

As at 31 December, 186 States were parties to the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 34/180 [YUN 1979, p. 895]. At year's end, 60 States had also accepted the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention in respect of the meeting time of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which was adopted by the States parties in 1995 [YUN 1995, p. 1178]. The amendment would enter into force when accepted by a two-thirds majority of States parties.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention, adopted by the Assembly in resolution 54/4 [YUN 1999, p. 1100] and which entered into force in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 1123], had 100 States parties as at 31 December. Cambodia acceded on 13 October.

CEDAW

In 2010, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), established in 1982 [YUN 1982, p. 1149] to monitor compliance with the 1979 Convention, held three regular sessions [A/65/38 & A/66/38].

At its forty-fifth session (Geneva, 18 January–5 February) [A/65/38], CEDAW reviewed the initial or periodic reports of Botswana, Egypt, Malawi, the Netherlands, Panama, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan on measures taken to implement the Convention. CEDAW considered a Secretariat report on ways and means of expediting its work [CEDAW/C/2010/45/4]; a Secretary-General's report on the status of submission of reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention [CEDAW/C/2010/45/2]; a note by the Secretary-General on the reports of specialized agencies [CEDAW/C/2010/45/3]; and a report by ILO on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of its activities [CEDAW/C/2010/45/3/Add.4]. The Committee adopted its methodology to assess reports of States parties received under its follow-up procedure [A/65/38 (dec. 45/II)], as well as the report of the follow-up rapporteur [YUN 2009, p. 1152]. It decided that States parties whose reports were to be submitted within two years should be invited to follow the harmonized guidelines on reporting under the international human rights treaties, including the guidelines on a common core document and treaty-specific documents [dec. 45/II]

approved at the fifth Inter-Committee meeting of the human rights treaty bodies in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 769]. The Committee adopted statements on the situation in Haiti [dec. 45/III]; the inclusion of Afghan women in the process of peacebuilding, security and reconstruction in Afghanistan [dec. 45/IV]; the 15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action [dec. 45/V]; its relationship with NGOs [dec. 45/VI]; and its relationship with parliamentarians [dec. 45/VII].

At its forty-sixth session (New York, 12–30 July) [A/66/38], CEDAW reviewed the initial or periodic reports of Albania, Argentina, Australia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Russian Federation and Turkey. The Committee considered a report on the status of submission of reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention [CEDAW/C/2010/46/2 & Corr.1]. It also had before it a note by the Secretary-General on the reports of specialized agencies [CEDAW/C/2010/46/3] and the reports of specialized agencies on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities [CEDAW/C/2010/46/3/Add.2,4]. CEDAW adopted a statement [A/66/38 (dec. 46/III)] on the tenth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325(2000) [YUN 2000, p. 1113]. It decided that its Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which convened three times a year for 10 working days, would meet immediately prior to the scheduled sessions of the Committee, except when the election of new experts to the Committee resulted in the expiration of the mandate of Working Group members. In that case, the Working Group would hold its meetings after the session of the Committee at which the members of the Working Group were appointed [A/66/38 (dec. 46/I)]. It extended the mandate of the follow-up rapporteur and her alternate [YUN 2009, p. 1152] until 31 December, and decided that their mandates would be extended for an additional two-year term, ending on 31 December 2012. Thereafter, the duration of the mandate of the rapporteur and his or her alternate would be two years [dec. 46/IV]. The Committee postponed examination of the exceptional report of India until its forty-seventh session [dec. 46/II].

At its forty-seventh session (Geneva, 4–22 October) [A/66/38], CEDAW reviewed the initial or periodic reports of Burkina Faso, the Czech Republic, Malta, Tunisia and Uganda, as well as the exceptional report of India. The Committee considered a report on the status of submission of reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention [CEDAW/C/2010/47/2]. It also had before it a note by the Secretary-General on the reports of specialized agencies [CEDAW/C/2010/47/3] and the report of specialized agencies on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the

scope of their activities [CEDAW/C/2010/47/3/Add.1–4]. The Committee decided to include “Follow-up procedures to concluding observations” as a regular item in its agenda [A/66/38 (dec. 47/IV)]; request an exceptional report from the Democratic Republic of the Congo [dec. 47/VIII]; and elaborate a general recommendation on women in armed conflict and post-conflict situations and establish a working group in that regard at its forty-eighth (2011) session [dec. 47/I]. It adopted general recommendations on older women and the protection of their human rights [dec. 47/VI], and on the core obligations of States parties under article 2 of the Convention [dec. 47/V], which identified the general legal obligations of States parties under the Convention and provided ways for them to implement its substantive provisions domestically. The Committee adopted a statement on the establishment of UN-Women [dec. 47/VII] and decided to send congratulatory letters to Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of UN-Women, and Margot Wallström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, on their recent appointments [dec. 47/II].

The Committee endorsed the reports of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on its sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth sessions (annexed to the reports). In respect of issues arising from article 2 of the Optional Protocol, the Committee took action on communication No. 18/2008; decided on the admissibility of communication No. 19/2008 [dec. 47/III]; and decided to register a new case as communication No. 25/2010.

On 21 December, by **decision 65/533**, the Assembly took note of the report of CEDAW on its forty-fifth session [A/65/38].

Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women, at its fifty-fourth session (New York, 1–12 March) [E/2010/27], recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a draft resolution on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (see p. 1171), a draft decision containing the declaration on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women (see p. 1136), and a draft decision on the report of the Commission’s fifty-fourth session and the provisional agenda and documentation for its fifty-fifth (2011) session. As part of its priority theme for the session, the Commission conducted a review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action [YUN 1995, p. 1170] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (Beijing+5) [YUN 2000, p. 1084] and adopted a resolution submitting the declaration on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women to the Council

for transmission to the General Assembly for endorsement [E/2010/27 (res. 54/1)]. It also transmitted to the Council, as input for its 2010 annual ministerial review, the summaries of the high-level round table and panel discussions convened during its session in the context of its priority theme [dec. 54/101] (see p. 1135). The Commission brought to the Council’s attention a decision by which it took note of the UNIFEM report on its activities to eliminate violence against women [A/HRC/13/71-E/CN.6/2010/8] and the Secretary-General’s report on the joint workplan of DAW and OHCHR [A/HRC/13/70-E/CN.6/2010/7], as well as resolutions it had adopted on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS [E/2010/27 (res. 54/2)] (see p. 1140); the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts [res. 54/3] (see p. 1159); women’s economic empowerment [res. 54/4] (see p. 1167); eliminating maternal mortality and morbidity through the empowerment of women [res. 54/5] (see p. 1143); ending female genital mutilation [res. 54/7] (see p. 1144); and strengthening the institutional arrangements of the United Nations for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women by consolidating the four existing offices into a composite entity [res. 54/6] (see p. 1179).

By **decision 2010/233** of 20 July, the Council took note of the Commission’s report on its fifty-fourth session and approved the provisional agenda for its fifty-fifth (2011) session.

Communication. In an 8 November letter [E/CN.6/2011/10] to the Commission Chairperson, the Economic and Social Council President summarized the outcome of the Council’s 2010 substantive session and annual ministerial review (see p. 1135) and attached a list of resolutions adopted by the Council calling for action by its functional commissions.

Other reports. Documents issued in 2010, to be addressed during the Commission’s 2011 session, included reports of the Secretary-General on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS [E/CN.6/2011/7]; progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes [E/CN.6/2011/5]; the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women [E/CN.6/2011/6]; access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women’s equal access to full employment and decent work [E/CN.6/2011/3]; and a note by the Secretariat on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education [E/CN.6/2011/11].

Communications on the status of women

At a closed meeting on 10 March [E/2010/27], the Commission considered the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

[E/CN.6/2010/CRP.4]. The Group had considered 45 confidential communications received by DAW, of which 21 had been replied to by Governments. No non-confidential communications were received. The Group observed that the communications most frequently concerned sexual violence, including rape, gang rape, forced prostitution, and incitement to sexual violence through gender stereotyping and the promotion of rape in new media, and failure by States to prevent such violations, provide protection and support for victims, and punish the perpetrators; other forms of violence, including domestic violence (especially domestic violence committed with firearms), trafficking, forced and early marriage and harmful traditional practices, with a lack of due diligence by States to investigate, prosecute and punish perpetrators; abuse of power by military and law enforcement personnel, humiliation and lack of due process; physical and psychological threats and pressure on victims of violence, their families and witnesses by private individuals and law enforcement officials to prevent them from filing complaints, or to force retraction of complaints; inhumane treatment in detention and inadequate conditions of imprisonment for women, and failure by States to address such situations; serious and systematic violations of the human rights of women and girls, including rape, torture, killings and so-called “honour” crimes, as well as failure by States to prevent such violations, prosecute and punish perpetrators, and provide protection and support for victims and their families; harassment and death threats against female human rights defenders, and disproportionate penalties and restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression of female human rights defenders and of the press when reporting on women’s rights violations, by State and non-State actors as a means of pressuring them to stop their work, as well as failure by States to prevent such violations, provide protection to victims, and prosecute and punish the perpetrators; violations of the right to health, including sexual and reproductive health, of women, especially indigenous, low-income and marginalized women; and legislation and practices that discriminated against women in the areas of civil and political rights, especially the right to privacy, freedom of expression, freedom of movement, and participation in decision-making processes and in public life on an equal basis with men.

During its consideration of communications, the Working Group expressed concern about violence against women and girls and mistreatment of woman human rights defenders; forced and early marriage and harmful traditional practices; the climate of impunity and abuse of power, including where violence against women was perpetrated or condoned by law enforcement personnel; the failure of States to exercise due diligence; and violations of the right of women to health, including sexual and reproductive health.

The Working Group was encouraged that some Governments had investigated the allegations and taken steps in response, including by enacting new legislation, introducing policies to better protect and assist women and victims of violence, developing national plans of action, introducing training modules to sensitize government officials to women’s issues, and improving public awareness to promote gender equality and the advancement of women.

UN-Women

In July, the General Assembly established the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (to be known as UN-Women) (**resolution 64/289**) (see p. 1396). The new entity, to become fully operational on 1 January 2011, would combine the mandates and assets of the four existing gender equality entities—OSAGI, DAW, UNIFEM and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW). On 14 September, the Secretary General appointed Michelle Bachelet (Chile) as the head of UN-Women.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to resolution 63/311 [YUN 2009, p. 1368], the Secretary-General submitted a January report [A/64/588] in which he presented a comprehensive proposal for a composite entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women. Included in the report was the mission statement for the new entity, an organizational chart, and provisions related to the funding and establishment of an Executive Board to oversee operations. The report proposed that the composite entity be a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly, to which it would report through the Economic and Social Council. The Commission on the Status of Women would play a crucial role in guiding the entity’s work. Combining the mandates and assets of the four existing gender equality entities—namely, OSAGI, DAW, UNIFEM, and INSTRAW—the composite entity would be the centre of the gender equality architecture of the UN system. To ensure clarity of roles and responsibilities and support for a more coherent, scaled-up response, work would be conducted through the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination at the global level, the regional directors’ teams and the Regional Coordination Mechanism at the regional level, and the resident coordinator system at the country level.

The composite entity would have eight functions: provide support to UN bodies (the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council) in which commitments, norms and policy recommendations on gender equality and gender mainstreaming were discussed and agreed upon; support national efforts to promote and enhance gender equality and

women's empowerment through country-driven programming, working with UN country teams, including on gender mainstreaming, capacity development and the provision of targeted technical cooperation in line with national priorities; undertake global, regional and national advocacy efforts on issues critical to gender equality and women's empowerment to ensure that under-recognized and under-resourced issues receive national, regional and global attention; support Member States in implementing and monitoring the 12 critical areas of the Beijing Platform for Action, the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the Assembly, Security Council resolutions 1325(2000) and 1820(2008) and other resolutions, as well as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; undertake research and analytical work to support overall objectives, and act as a hub/centre of knowledge and experience on gender equality and women's empowerment from throughout the UN system; lead and coordinate UN system strategies, policies and actions on gender equality and women's empowerment to promote system-wide gender mainstreaming; strengthen UN accountability, including through oversight, monitoring and reporting on system-wide performance on gender equality; and monitor and report on system-wide compliance with intergovernmental mandates on gender balance.

With regard to the funding implications of the new entity, from assessed and voluntary contributions, the Secretary-General suggested that approximately \$125 million per annum was needed for a basic staff complement, related operating costs and "start-up" capacity at the country, regional and Headquarters levels, as well as an additional \$375 million per annum in the initial phase to respond to country-level requests for UN support.

The report presented two options for establishing the entity's Executive Board. One was to establish an autonomous segment of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board, while the other would be to establish a new Executive Board, including a Board secretariat. It was recommended that the Assembly consider deciding on an option to establish the entity's Executive Board; abolishing and liquidating UNIFEM; requesting the Economic and Social Council to abolish INSTRAW; requesting the Council to find ways to establish coordination and the regular exchange of information between the Executive Board of the new entity and the Commission to enhance policy coherence; approving the creation of the post of Under-Secretary-General (USG) to head the entity; authorizing the head of the entity to prepare the necessary financial regulations and rules for consideration by the new Executive Board; deciding that costs for the entity's functions should continue to be borne by the regular UN budget; deciding that the costs for the entity's

operations should be financed by voluntary contributions; and encouraging Member States in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions towards funding the entity.

Commission action. In a March resolution [E/2010/27 (res. 54/6)], the Commission welcomed resolution 63/311 [YUN 2009, p. 1368] and its provisions on strengthening institutional arrangements for the support of gender equality and the empowerment of women by consolidating the four existing UN offices into a composite entity.

Gender architecture reform. On 2 July, the General Assembly, in **resolution 64/289** (see p. 1396) on system-wide coherence, decided to establish the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, to be known as UN-Women, to be operational on 1 January 2011. It also decided to establish an Executive Board as the governing body of the Entity. The Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission would provide policy guidance to the Entity, while the Assembly, the Council and the Executive Board would provide operational policy guidance. The Entity Executive Board would comprise 41 members and would carry out the functions outlined in annex I to resolution 48/162 [YUN 1993, p. 1118]. The Entity would be headed by a USG, to be appointed by the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, for a term of four years. The resources required for the Entity's normative intergovernmental processes would be funded from the UN regular budget and approved by the Assembly, while the resources required for the operational intergovernmental processes and activities would be funded from voluntary contributions and approved by the Executive Board. The Assembly decided to dissolve UNIFEM as of 2 July and requested the Council to dissolve INSTRAW as of the date of adoption of the pertinent resolution (see below).

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 20 July [meeting 42], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2010/7** [draft: E/2010/L.21] without vote [agenda item 14 (a)].

Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1998(LX) of 12 May 1976 establishing the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010, in particular the section entitled "Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women", and the establishment, as a composite entity, of the United Nations

Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, to be known as UN-Women,

Noting the transitional arrangements set out in paragraphs 81 to 88 of resolution 64/289, in particular paragraphs 82, 83, 84, 87 and 88,

Expressing its deep gratitude for the support offered by the host country during all the years of operation of the Institute,

Decides to dissolve the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women as of the date of the adoption of the present resolution.

Election of UN-Women Executive Board. On 9 September, the Council decided that the election of the 41 members of the UN-Women Executive Board would be held as soon as possible and by early November 2010. It also decided to discuss further the issue of the staggering of terms, so as to reach an agreement on the modalities prior to the elections (**decision 2010/261**).

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 25 October [meeting 49], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2010/35** [draft: E/2010/L.40] without vote [agenda item 1].

Procedures for the election of the members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 and Economic and Social Council decision 2010/261 of 9 September 2010,

Noting that the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) shall consist of forty-one members, as follows:

- (a) Ten from African States,
- (b) Ten from Asian States,
- (c) Four from Eastern European States,
- (d) Six from Latin American and Caribbean States,
- (e) Five from Western European and other States,
- (f) Six from contributing countries,

1. *Decides* that the term of membership of the thirty-five members of the Executive Board of UN-Women elected from the five regional groups, pursuant to paragraphs 60 (a) to (e) of General Assembly resolution 64/289, shall be staggered and that such a decision shall be taken for the first election by the drawing of lots, for members to serve two-year and three-year terms, as follows:

Regional groups	Number of seats for		
	Two years	Three years	Total
African States	5	5	10
Asian States	5	5	10
Eastern European States	2	2	4
Latin American and Caribbean States	3	3	6
Western European and other States	2	3	5
TOTAL seats	17	18	35

2. *Also decides* that the six contributing countries serving as members of the Executive Board, pursuant to paragraph 60 (f) of General Assembly resolution 64/289, shall be elected for a three-year term;

3. *Further decides* that the term of office of the forty-one members of the Executive Board elected at the first election shall begin on the date of the election and run until 31 December of the year in which their term ends;

4. *Decides* that in subsequent elections members shall be elected for a term of office of three years, beginning on 1 January of the year following their election and running until 31 December of the year in which their term ends.

UN-Women financing. In response to Assembly **resolution 64/289** (see p. 1396), the Secretary-General submitted an October report [A/65/531] containing a revised proposal for the use of regular UN budget resources approved for the biennium 2010–2011 for the normative support functions of UN-Women, including options for administrative arrangements; an organizational chart; and a new appropriation under section 37 of the 2010–2011 budget, entitled UN-Women, with a proposed modality of budget implementation. Recalling the Secretary-General's previous estimate of \$500 million in funding requirements for the UN-Women start-up phase, the report provided information on the expected levels of total resources required for 2011, estimated at \$500,939,900. The report included information on current and estimated future voluntary contributions to UN-Women. A proposal for the use of voluntary resources for the support budget for the biennium 2010–2011, together with a revised draft strategic plan and organizational chart, would be submitted in a separate report to the UN-Women Executive Board.

UN-Women would be financed from two sources, namely, the regular UN budget for its normative intergovernmental processes and voluntary contributions for its operational activities. It would have financial regulations and rules similar to those of other UN funds and programmes and consistent with the UN Financial Regulations and Rules. The head of UN-Women would present a proposal for financial regulations for consideration and adoption by the Executive Board, and would appoint and administer the Entity's staff. Two possible administrative arrangements for UN-Women were proposed. Option 1 would be a unified system allowing for the integrated administration of all regular budget resources based on the use of a grant modality. Under that option, the normal budget review and approval processes, as well as the normal reporting processes, would be maintained, thereby ensuring the Assembly's control of posts and non-post resources funded from the regular budget. After approval of the biennial budget by the Assembly, the regular budget resources would be provided to UN-Women in the form of a grant, which would be administered and disbursed by the

Entity in accordance with its own financial regulations and rules and using its own enterprise resource planning system. Option 2 would be the use of two separate administrative systems, one for the regular budget and one for voluntary contributions. The Secretary-General requested that the Assembly approve the grant modality of budget implementation (option 1) under the new regular budget section 37, UN-Women.

To create a new regular budget section to finance the normative and analytical activities of UN-Women, the Secretary-General proposed a reduction of the initial 2010–2011 appropriation approved in Assembly resolution 64/244 A [YUN 2009, p. 1403] for section 9, economic and social affairs. Noting that the initial appropriation was in the amount of \$166,217,100, he proposed a reduction of \$6,615,700, representing the appropriation for the 2011 meetings of the Commission of the Status of Women (\$115,800); the 2011 resources for subprogramme 2 of section 9, Gender issues and advancement of women (\$6,346,900); and the proportional share of resources under programme support related to backstopping activities of subprogramme 2 of section 9 of the programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011 (\$153,000). As a result, the revised 2010–2011 appropriation would amount to \$159,601,400. The amount of \$6,615,700 would be transferred to the new budget section 37, UN-Women, and the additional appropriation of \$367,800, representing the 2011 costs of the establishment of three new posts (1 USG, 1 D-2 and 1 General Service) would also be required, bringing the total proposed 2011 appropriation to \$6,983,500. Recalling that a contingency fund had been established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditure derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget, the Secretary-General proposed that the additional appropriation of \$367,800 for the three new posts represented a charge against the contingency fund. Further, an amount of \$62,300 under section 36, Staff assessment, would be offset by an equivalent amount under section 1, Income from staff assessment. The report elaborated on the proposed new section of the programme budget by providing tables and analysis on UN-Women's main areas of work and subprogrammes; capacity gaps at the regional and country levels; post requirements and staffing considerations; and provisions and resource requirements related to its policymaking organs, executive direction and management, programme support activities, and non-post contractual and general operations. The Secretary-General requested that the Assembly approve the transfers and appropriations detailed above, as well as the establishment of the new posts and the proposed programme of work and resource requirements under section 37, UN-Women.

In November [A/65/593], the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), having considered the Secretary-General's report, concurred with his recommendations.

On 24 December, the Assembly, in **resolution 65/259** (see p. 1429) on questions relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011, requested the Secretary-General to elaborate, in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013, the normative intergovernmental processes undertaken by UN-Women, in order to specify whether the Entity's activities would support or be considered normative intergovernmental processes, operational intergovernmental processes and operational activities, or a combination thereof. In that regard, the Secretary-General was requested to reflect, in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013, on the necessary budget allocation resulting from such information to ensure an appropriate funding source for the required resources. The Assembly approved the use of a grant arrangement for the UN-Women regular budget portion and decided that posts financed by the regular budget grant would be requested on a post-by-post basis in future budget proposals. It decided to establish three new posts (1 USG, 1 D-2 and 1 General Service) under section 37, UN-Women, of the programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011; approve an additional amount of \$430,100 under the programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011, comprising \$367,800 under section 37, and \$62,300 under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment; and that the additional amount of \$430,100 would represent a charge against the biennium 2010–2011 contingency fund.

Report of Executive Director. In response to **resolution 64/289** (see above), the UN-Women Executive Director submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women her first annual report [E/CN.6/2011/2] on the normative aspects of UN-Women's work and its implementation of policy guidance provided by the Commission. The report discussed the Executive Director's vision and strategic direction for UN-Women, and the administrative and institutional changes needed to consolidate the previous four gender equality offices into a structure integrating the role of leading, coordinating and promoting UN accountability on gender equality and the empowerment of women. UN-Women's strategy would focus on expanding support to Member States at the national level in line with national priorities; strengthening coherence between the normative support provided to global intergovernmental processes and the technical and thematic advice provided to national partners at the country level; and providing support for gender mainstreaming across the UN system.

The change-management process was under way, and the Executive Director expected significant progress by the end of 2010 in terms of transitioning staff into UN-Women and establishing new work units. The UN-Women Executive Board had been elected by the Economic and Social Council on 10 November, and its organizational session was scheduled for 15 December. She had initiated a field assessment exercise to provide a basis for determining the specific capacities required in different country/regional typologies to ensure the effective implementation of UN-Women's mandate. Noting that the Commission had been requested by the Assembly to work with the UN-Women Executive Board to provide guidance and direction, she concluded that, for the benefit of women and girls everywhere, such interaction should aim to close the gaps between intergovernmental goals and commitments and their effective implementation.

Executive Board meeting. The Executive Board of UN-Women, at its organizational session (New York, 15 and 22 December) [UNW/2011/1], elected the five members of its Bureau for 2011, agreed to hold its first regular session in January 2011 and approved the tentative workplan for that session.

UN Development Fund for Women

The Secretary-General, in August, transmitted to the General Assembly a report on UNIFEM activities in 2009 [YUN 2009, p. 1157]. It was the last report submitted in fulfilment of the mandate contained in resolution 39/125 [YUN 1984, p. 893], as UNIFEM was dissolved and integrated into UN-Women in accordance with Assembly **resolution 64/289** (see p. 1396).

On 21 December, the Assembly took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the 2009 activities of UNIFEM (**decision 65/533**).

UNDP/UNFPA Board action. On 22 January, the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board [E/2010/35 (dec. 2010/6)] took note of the functions, management results, indicators and resource requirements of the UNIFEM budget estimates for the biennium 2010–2011 [DP/2010/7]. It approved gross resources in the amount of \$39.8 million, representing the total biennial support budget for 2010–2011 funded

from regular resources and noted that the estimated \$7.1 million income from support costs would be used to offset the gross regular resources appropriation, resulting in an estimated “net” regular resources appropriation of \$32.7 million. It approved the amount of \$1.6 million from regular resources to cover United Nations-mandated security costs, and \$0.6 million for costs related to the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards [YUN 2006, p. 1583] and enhancement of the Atlas system [YUN 2004, p. 1082], as described in the budget estimates. The Board decided that the appropriated amount would be used to achieve the results specified in the functions identified in the budget estimates, and requested UNIFEM to monitor the levels of income from all sources, particularly other resources, and to use prudence in planning staffing increases. It requested the Executive Director to improve the UNIFEM biennial support budget, 2012–2013, as a step towards a single, integrated budget for UNIFEM, by improving the linkages between resources and results; providing summary explanations of any proposed budgetary changes and their attribution to volume and to nominal and statutory changes; and providing information on cost recovery by describing how projected cost recoveries from extrabudgetary resources were calculated, including updated information on UNIFEM variable and fixed indirect costs to allow for appropriate analysis of the cost-recovery rate. On the same date [E/2010/35 (dec. 2010/12)], the Board took note of the ACABQ report on the UNDP and UNIFEM estimates for the biennial support budget, 2010–2011 [DP/2010/4], which contained observations on progress made by UNIFEM in improving the results-based format of the biennial support budget.

On 30 June [E/2010/35 (dec. 2010/20)], the Board took note of the annual report of the UNIFEM Executive Director [DP/2010/29 & Corr.1] and its results-based focus and requested UNIFEM to include in future reports more elements related to the analysis of results achieved, lessons learned and remaining challenges. It also noted the ongoing discussions regarding the creation of a new gender entity and requested UNIFEM to take all necessary actions to ensure that the modalities regarding transitional arrangements were completed within the deadline agreed upon by the Assembly.