

## Women

In 2013, United Nations efforts to advance the status of women worldwide continued to be guided by the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth (1995) World Conference on Women, and the outcome of the General Assembly's twenty-third (2000) special session (Beijing+5), which reviewed progress in their implementation.

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) provided guidance and technical support to Member States on gender equality, the empowerment of women and gender mainstreaming. During its third year of operations, UN-Women continued to consolidate its mandate and functions. In June, the Secretary-General reported that it had successfully integrated the mandates of its four constituent entities, and that the strengthening of its regional architecture was at an advanced stage. The UN-Women Executive Board adopted seven decisions relating to operational activities, the budget, strategic plans, the evaluation function, and internal audit and investigation activities. In September, the Board approved the 2014–2015 integrated biennial budget of \$176.9 million.

The Commission on the Status of Women, at its fifty-seventh session, held a high-level round table and panel discussions on its priority theme, "The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls", and decided to transmit its agreed conclusions on the theme to the Economic and Social Council as input to the Council's annual ministerial review. The Commission also recommended to the Council the adoption of a draft resolution on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women, which the Council adopted in July, along with a resolution on the Commission's future organization and methods of work. The Council also adopted a resolution on mainstreaming a gender perspective in the UN system.

Issues central to women's lives on which the General Assembly adopted resolutions included 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 Assembly's twenty-third special session; women in development; improvement of the situation of women in rural areas; violence against women and migrant workers; taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls; women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control; and the girl child.

The Security Council held two debates on women and peace and security, with statements made by the Secretary-General, the UN-Women Executive Direc-

tor and the Special Envoy of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Angelina Jolie. A Council resolution adopted in June emphasized the importance of addressing sexual violence in armed conflict including in mediation efforts, ceasefires and peace agreements. It encouraged Member States to include the full range of crimes of sexual violence in national penal legislation to enable prosecutions of such acts.

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

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During 2013, the Commission on the Status of Women [YUN 1946–47, p. 529], 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 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; 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.

**Report of Secretary-General.** In response to General Assembly resolution 67/148 [YUN 2012, p. 1082], the Secretary-General, in a July report [A/68/175], reviewed the follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. The report focused on the extent to which gender perspectives were integrated in selected UN inter-governmental processes, and provided a quantitative and qualitative assessment of progress achieved and remaining gaps. It described the activities and role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the

Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) (see p. 1130) in integrating a gender perspective in the post-2015 development agenda. In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/9 [YUN 2006, p. 1356], the report also included an assessment of the impact of the Commission on the Status of Women.

The analysis concluded that intergovernmental bodies were making progress by reflecting, in a more systematic manner, a gender perspective in their work. An upward trend in the percentage of resolutions that included a gender perspective was recorded for the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, while a high number of reports of the Secretary-General continued to address gender equality issues. A gender perspective, however, was not yet systematically integrated into the conclusions and recommendations of those reports. It was also seldom reflected in resolutions dealing with disarmament and related international security questions, political issues and decolonization, administrative and budgetary matters, and international legal matters.

The Secretary-General recommended, among other measures, that the General Assembly reaffirm the relevance of gender mainstreaming as a globally accepted strategy in all issues considered by its main committees and subsidiary bodies.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 70], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee [A/68/449 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 68/140** 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 67/148 of 20 December 2012, and recalling also the section of resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 entitled “Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women”,

*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, the special event of the General Assembly to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other major United Nations summits,

conferences 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,

*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, including the agreed conclusions on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls adopted by the Commission at its fifty-seventh session, and of the need to implement them,

*Welcoming also* the strengthening of the capacity of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and its experience in achieving its mandate,

*Taking note* of the activities carried out by the Fund for Gender Equality and the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women,

*Recognizing* that the participation and contribution of civil society, in particular women's groups and organizations and other non-governmental organizations, are important to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

*Reaffirming* that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting the empowerment of women and achieving gender equality by transforming structures of inequality, which is relevant in all issues considered by its Main Committees and subsidiary bodies, including in resolutions dealing with issues beyond social, humanitarian, cultural, economic and financial matters,

*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,

*Reaffirming further* 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 girls and stereotypical roles of boys and girls, men and women, and stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of international standards and norms to address inequality between men and women,

*Reaffirming* the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: In-

tensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS, adopted at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on AIDS, held on 10 June 2011, in which, inter alia, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women were recognized as fundamental for reducing the vulnerability of women to HIV and AIDS,

*Welcoming* the integration of a gender perspective into the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, and in this regard commending UN-Women for its efforts to ensure coherence throughout the United Nations system in its advocacy for gender equality and the empowerment of women in the context of sustainable development,

*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 improvement in 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, and stressing the need for their participation therein,

*Recalling* Security Council resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960(2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106(2013) of 24 June 2013 and 2122(2013) of 18 October 2013 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, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the declaration adopted on the occasion of the 15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the fifty-fourth 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, welcomes in this

regard 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 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. *Emphasizes* the importance and value of the mandate of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and welcomes the Entity’s leadership in providing a strong voice for women and girls at all levels;

7. *Reaffirms* the important role of UN-Women in leading, coordinating and promoting accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women;

8. *Calls upon* UN-Women to continue to support gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system as an integral part of its work and, in that regard, to place a strong and more systematic focus on support for gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system, including by continuing its efforts to accelerate action across the United Nations system;

9. *Welcomes* the commitment of UN-Women to support Member States in their efforts to develop and strengthen norms, policies and standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women as well as to integrate gender perspectives into sectoral policy and normative frameworks, and encourages the Entity to continue to raise awareness of the need to mainstream and strengthen a gender perspective in the work of intergovernmental bodies, including in their resolutions, and to provide technical assistance, at the request of Member States, in this regard;

10. *Urges* Member States to increase funding for the budget of UN-Women by providing, when legislative and budgetary provisions allow, core, multi-year, predictable, stable and sustainable voluntary contributions, recognizing the importance of adequate funding in enabling UN-Women to implement its strategic plan promptly and effectively and that the mobilization of financial resources for achieving its goals still remains a challenge;

11. *Encourages* all actors, including 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 the recommendations of the Commis-

sion, welcomes in this regard the Commission's continued sharing of experiences, lessons learned and good practices in overcoming challenges to full implementation at the national and international levels and the evaluation of progress in the implementation of priority themes, and encourages the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system, as appropriate, to incorporate the outcomes of the Commission into their work;

12. *Calls upon* Governments and the organs and relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, 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;

13. *Reaffirms* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent and combat all forms of 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 to take 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—UNITE to End Violence against Women";

14. *Reiterates its call upon* 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 into all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and their follow-up processes, including those of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held 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, held in 2013;

15. *Reiterates* that the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session is essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard welcomes ongoing efforts to mainstream a gender perspective into discussions on the post-2015 development framework, and calls for the goal of gender equality and women's empowerment to be considered a priority in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda and for integrating a gender perspective into the new development framework;

16. *Requests* the entities of the United Nations system to systematically incorporate the outcomes of the Commis-

sion on the Status of Women into their work, within their mandates, and, inter alia, to ensure effective support for the efforts of Member States towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and in this regard welcomes the commitment of UN-Women to establish concrete results-based reporting mechanisms and to ensure coherence, consistency and coordination between the normative and operational aspects of its work;

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. *Calls upon* Governments and the United Nations system to encourage women's groups and other non-governmental organizations specializing in gender equality and the empowerment of women to participate in intergovernmental processes, including through increased outreach, funding and capacity-building;

19. *Calls upon* the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system to systematically request the inclusion of a gender perspective in reports of the Secretary-General and other inputs to intergovernmental processes;

20. *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 gender-sensitive analysis and the provision of data disaggregated by sex and age and that conclusions and recommendations for further action address the different situations and needs of women and men, in order to facilitate gender-sensitive policy development, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to convey the importance of reflecting a gender perspective to all stakeholders who provide inputs to his reports;

21. *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;

22. *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 those 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;

23. *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, countries with economies in transition and 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;

24. *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-eighth session and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth 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, with 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, as well as 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;

25. *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, national and local levels, including through improved monitoring and reporting on progress in relation to policies, strategies, resource allocations and programmes and by achieving gender balance;

26. *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;

27. *Encourages* its Main Committees and subsidiary bodies, as well as the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, in the light of the analysis contained in the report of the Secretary-General and of the cross-cutting nature of gender equality and the empowerment of women, to make further progress in the integration of a gender perspective into their work;

28. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the United Nations system the findings of his report in order to strengthen follow-up on these findings and accelerate the implementation of the present resolution;

29. *Recalls* Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/18 of 24 July 2013, in which the Council decided that, at its fifty-ninth session, in 2015, the Commission on the Status of Women will undertake a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as opportunities for strengthening gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda through the integration of a gender perspective;

30. *Urges* all States and all other stakeholders, in that context, to undertake comprehensive reviews of the progress

made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, with a view to strengthening and accelerating their full implementation, and to consider appropriate commemorative activities for the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

31. *Encourages* States and all stakeholders to strengthen the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all sectors and in all areas of development, including through the national and regional preparations for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

32. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, in particular UN-Women, to support and contribute to the review and appraisal process of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the international, regional, national and local levels;

33. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report annually to the General Assembly under the item entitled “Advancement of women”, and 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 and accelerate implementation.

## Critical areas of concern

### Women and poverty

#### Women in development

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/216 [YUN 2011, p. 1062], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/68/271] on women in development, which focused on the issues of decent work, unpaid care work and social protection for women. The report reviewed measures taken by Governments and support provided by the UN system to address those issues.

The Secretary-General noted that significant gender inequalities persisted in women’s access to decent work. Unpaid care work continued to be primarily provided by women and girls, constraining their ability to participate equally in employment and social and political life, and to earn an income commensurate with that of men. Social protection measures did not reach 80 per cent of the population, thereby largely failing to support the poorest and most disadvantaged or provide social safety nets and support to reduce vulnerability and promote resilience to various kinds of economic shocks. Furthermore, the economic crisis, while pushing more women into paid work, had also deepened the informality and the vulnerability of women’s employment. Without investment in the promotion of decent work, support for unpaid care work and the provision of comprehensive social protection and social services, economic recovery would be slower, the risk of recur-

ring crises greater, and efforts to promote more inclusive, sustainable growth less successful.

The report concluded that many Member States were investing in efforts to promote decent work and social protection for women in the context of the economic crisis and the response to it, including through vocational and skills training to enhance women's employability; measures to enhance rural women's access to resources; entrepreneurship development; measures to address the burden of unpaid care work on women; and social protection measures. A more transformative, comprehensive and universal approach, however, was needed in order to achieve gender equality and women's rights. The Secretary-General encouraged Member States to develop and increase investment in gender-responsive legislation, policies, budgets and programmes in the areas of decent work, unpaid care work, and access to social protection and social services. To further address those areas, he encouraged the UN system and other international organizations to promote innovative programme responses and to support Member States in conducting gender analysis, designing gender-responsive legislation and policies; increasing and monitoring their investment in gender-sensitive policies and programmes; and collecting, analysing and disseminating sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/68/442/Add.2], adopted **resolution 68/227** without vote [agenda item 23 (b)].

#### Women in development

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 50/104 of 20 December 1995, 52/195 of 18 December 1997, 54/210 of 22 December 1999, 56/188 of 21 December 2001, 58/206 of 23 December 2003, 59/248 of 22 December 2004, 60/210 of 22 December 2005, 62/206 of 19 December 2007, 64/217 of 21 December 2009 and 66/216 of 22 December 2011, and all its other resolutions on women in development, and the relevant resolutions and agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, including the Declaration adopted at its forty-ninth session,

*Reaffirming* 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",

*Reaffirming also* the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit, at the 2005 World Summit, in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", and at other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming further that their full, effective and accelerated implementation is integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

*Reaffirming further* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which affirms that the equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured, and calls for, inter alia, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women as being effective in and essential to eradicating poverty and hunger, combating diseases and stimulating development that is truly sustainable,

*Recalling* the outcomes of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, 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, the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and the outcomes of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the high-level meeting on HIV and AIDS, the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the high-level meeting on Africa's development needs, the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond, and the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development,

*Recognizing* the agreed conclusions adopted during the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women,

*Welcoming* the strengthening of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in respect of its structures, capacities, the implementation of the regional architecture, and experience on how to achieve its mandate,

*Welcoming also* General Assembly resolution 67/226 of 21 December 2012 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, which reaffirms that gender equality is of fundamental importance for achieving sustained and inclusive economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Assembly and United Nations conferences, and that investing in the development of women and girls has a multiplier effect, in particular on productivity, efficiency and sustained and inclusive economic growth, in all sectors of the economy, especially in key areas such as agriculture, industry and services,

*Noting* the importance of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular its funds and programmes, and the specialized agencies in facilitating the advancement of women in development, and in this context recalling the resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

*Reaffirming* the provisions concerning the pursuit of full and productive employment and access to decent work and social protection for all in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and calling upon States to adopt forward-looking macroeconomic policies that promote sustainable development and lead to sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth,

increase productive employment opportunities and promote agricultural and industrial development,

*Recognizing* that men and women workers should have equal access to education, skills, health care, social security, fundamental rights at work, social and legal protections, including occupational safety and health, and decent work opportunities,

*Recognizing also* that access to basic affordable health care, preventive health-care information and the highest standard of health, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, is critical to women's economic advancement, that lack of economic empowerment and independence increases women's vulnerability to a range of negative consequences, including the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS, and that the neglect of women's full enjoyment of human rights severely limits their opportunities in public and private life, including the opportunities for receiving an education and for achieving economic and political empowerment,

*Reaffirming* the need to eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education by the earliest possible date and at all levels by 2015, and reaffirming also that equal access to education and training at all levels, in particular in business, trade, administration, information and communications technologies and other new technologies, and fulfilment of the need to eliminate gender inequalities at all levels are essential for gender equality, the empowerment of women and poverty eradication and to allowing women's full and equal contribution to, and equal opportunity to benefit from, development,

*Reaffirming also* that women are key contributors to the economy and to combating poverty and inequalities through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace, and that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty,

*Recognizing* that unremunerated work, including domestic and care work, plays an essential role in improving well-being in the household and in the functioning of the economy as a whole, and acknowledging the need to recognize and consider, where appropriate, policies and programmes that would contribute to reducing the unequal burden of unremunerated work, including care work, for which women and girls continue to carry an unequal level of responsibility,

*Recognizing also* that the difficult socioeconomic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, have contributed to the feminization of poverty,

*Recognizing further*, in this context, the importance of respect for all human rights, including the right to development, and of a national and international environment that promotes, for women and girls, inter alia, justice, gender equality, equity, civil and political participation and civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and fundamental freedoms in order to achieve the advancement and empowerment of women,

*Bearing in mind* the challenges and obstacles to changing discriminatory attitudes and gender stereotypes, which perpetuate discrimination against women and girls and stereotypic 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,

*Recognizing* that poverty eradication and the achievement and preservation of peace are mutually reinforcing, and recognizing also that peace is inextricably linked to equality between women and men and to development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, and all sectors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, as well as all women and men, to fully commit themselves and to intensify their contributions to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;
3. *Recognizes* the mutually reinforcing links between gender equality and poverty eradication and the achievement of all of the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the need to elaborate and implement, where appropriate, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, comprehensive gender-sensitive poverty eradication strategies that address social, structural and macroeconomic issues;
4. *Emphasizes* the need to link policies on economic and social development to ensure that all people, including those living in poverty and in vulnerable situations, benefit from inclusive economic growth and development, in accordance with the goals of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development and 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;
5. *Urges* Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations to accelerate their efforts and provide adequate resources to increase the voice and full and equal participation of women in all decision-making bodies at the highest levels of government and in the governance structures of international organizations, including through eliminating gender stereotyping in appointments and promotions, to build women's capacity as agents of change and to empower them to participate actively and effectively in the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of national development, poverty eradication and environmental policies, strategies and programmes;
6. *Encourages* Member States to continue to increase, as appropriate, the participation of civil society, including women's organizations, in government decision-making in national development policy areas;
7. *Encourages* Member States and the United Nations system to ensure systematic attention to, recognition of and support for the crucial role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflict, in mediation and peacebuilding efforts and in the rebuilding of post-conflict societies, inter alia, through promoting women's capacity, leadership and engagement in political and economic decision-making;
8. *Expresses deep concern* about the ongoing adverse impacts, particularly on development, of the world financial and economic crisis, recognizing evidence of an uneven and fragile recovery, and cognizant that the global economy, notwithstanding significant efforts that helped contain tail risks, improve financial market conditions and sustain recovery, still remains in a challenging phase, with downside

risks, inter alia, for women and girls, including high volatility in global markets, high unemployment, particularly among youth, indebtedness in some countries and widespread fiscal strains that pose challenges for global economic recovery and reflect the need for additional progress towards sustaining and rebalancing global demand, and stresses the need for continuing efforts to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and to reform and strengthen the international financial system while implementing the reforms agreed to date, and to address the challenges posed by climate change for women and girls, and in respect of maintaining adequate levels of funding for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women;

9. *Stresses* the importance of the creation by Member States, international organizations, including the United Nations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and other stakeholders of a favourable and conducive national and international environment in all areas of life for the effective integration of women and girls in development, and of their undertaking and disseminating a gender analysis of policies and programmes related to macroeconomic stability, structural reform, taxation, investments, including foreign direct investment, and all relevant sectors of the economy;

10. *Urges* the donor community, Member States, international organizations, including the United Nations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and other stakeholders to strengthen the focus and impact of development assistance targeting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through gender mainstreaming, the funding of targeted activities and enhanced dialogue between donors and partners, and to also strengthen the mechanisms needed to measure effectively the resources allocated to incorporating gender perspectives in all areas of development assistance;

11. *Urges* Member States to incorporate a gender perspective, commensurate with gender-equality goals, into the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of national development strategies, to ensure alignment between national action plans on gender equality and national development strategies and to encourage the involvement of men and boys in the promotion of gender equality, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations system to support national efforts to develop methodologies and tools and to promote capacity-building and evaluation;

12. *Encourages* Member States to ensure inclusive and more effective participation of national mechanisms for gender equality and women's empowerment in the formulation of national development strategies, including strategies aimed at eradicating poverty and reducing inequalities, and calls upon the United Nations system to support national efforts in this regard;

13. *Also encourages* Member States, as appropriate, to strengthen capacities for gender mainstreaming by allocating adequate financial and human resources to national women's machineries as well as to and within line ministries, establishing and/or strengthening dedicated units for gender equality and the empowerment of women, providing capacity development for technical staff and developing tools and guidelines;

14. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and donor countries to strengthen gender-responsive planning and budgeting processes and to develop and

strengthen methodologies and tools for this purpose, as well as for the monitoring and evaluation of investments for gender-equality results, as appropriate, and encourages donors to mainstream a gender perspective in their practices, including joint coordination and accountability mechanisms;

15. *Encourages* Member States to adopt and implement legislation and policies designed to promote the reconciliation of work and family responsibilities, including through increased flexibility in working arrangements, such as part-time work, and the facilitation of breastfeeding for working mothers, to provide care facilities for children and other dependants and to ensure that both women and men have access to maternity or paternity, parental and other forms of leave and are not discriminated against when availing themselves of such benefits;

16. *Expresses deep concern* about the pervasiveness of violence against women and girls, reiterates the need to further intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, and recognizes that violence against women and girls is one of the obstacles to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace and that women's poverty and lack of political, social and economic empowerment, as well as their marginalization, may result from their exclusion from social policies for and the benefits of sustainable development and can place them at increased risk of violence;

17. *Encourages* Governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and other stakeholders to promote and protect the rights of women workers, to take action to remove structural and legal barriers to, as well as eliminate stereotypic attitudes towards, gender equality at work and to initiate positive steps towards promoting equal pay for equal work or for work of equal value and women's full participation in the formal economy, in particular in economic decision-making;

18. *Encourages* the United Nations system and donor countries to support Member States in increasing their investments in policies and programmes with a gender perspective in order to promote women's access to decent work and in delivering gender-responsive social protection and social services;

19. *Urges* Governments to develop, adequately resource and implement active labour-market policies on full and productive employment and decent work for all, including the full participation of women and men in both rural and urban areas;

20. *Urges* the United Nations system and other international organizations, upon the request of Member States, to support and promote innovative programme responses to ensure women's access to decent work, to recognize and contribute to reducing the unequal burden of care work, to promote social protection initiatives and measures for women and girls with a gender perspective, and to support and encourage the scaling-up of existing good-practice programmes and initiatives;

21. *Recognizes* that women and girls account for almost half of all international migrants at the global level, and the need to address the special situation and vulnerability of migrant women and girls by, inter alia, incorporating a gender perspective into policies and strengthening national laws, institutions and programmes to prevent and combat gender-based violence, trafficking in persons and discrimination against women and girls, and calls upon Governments to



strengthen efforts to protect the rights of, and ensure decent work conditions for, domestic workers, including migrant women and girls, in relation to, inter alia, working hours, work conditions and wages, and to promote access to health-care services and other social and economic benefits;

22. *Encourages* Governments and the United Nations system to recognize unremunerated work, including domestic and care work, and to provide support through the development of infrastructure and technologies and the provision of public services, including accessible and quality childcare, incentives such as parental leave, flexible working arrangements and allowances;

23. *Encourages* Member States to adopt and/or review and to fully implement gender-sensitive legislation and policies that reduce, through specifically targeted measures, horizontal and vertical occupational segregation and gender-based wage gaps;

24. *Stresses* the importance of improving and systematizing the collection, analysis and dissemination of data disaggregated by sex and age and of developing gender indicators that are specific and relevant with respect to supporting policymaking and national systems for monitoring and reporting on progress and impact, and in that regard encourages developed countries and relevant entities of the United Nations system to provide support and assistance to developing countries, upon their request, with respect to establishing, developing and strengthening their databases and information systems;

25. *Encourages* Governments to collect, analyse and disseminate sex-disaggregated data and statistics on women's access to decent work, unremunerated work and social protection and to assess the impact of associated policy measures, in cooperation with the United Nations system and other international organizations, upon the request of Governments;

26. *Also encourages* Governments to consider conducting time-use studies and the use of satellite accounts to determine the extent of women's and girls' unremunerated work, including domestic and care work, and the impact of associated policy measures, in cooperation with the United Nations system and other international organizations upon the request of Governments;

27. *Urges* all Member States to undertake a gender analysis of national labour laws and standards and to establish gender-sensitive policies and guidelines for employment practices, including for transnational corporations, with particular attention to export-processing zones, building in this regard on multilateral instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and conventions of the International Labour Organization;

28. *Stresses* the importance of developing national strategies for the promotion of sustainable and productive entrepreneurial activities, and encourages Governments to create a climate that is conducive to increasing the number of women entrepreneurs and the size of their businesses by giving them equal access to financial instruments, providing them with training and advisory services in business, administration and information and communications technologies, facilitating networking and information-sharing and increasing their participation on advisory boards and in other forums so as to enable them to contribute to the formulation and review of policies and programmes being developed by financial institutions;

29. *Urges* all Member States to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women with regard to their access to all types of financial services and products, including bank loans, bank accounts, mortgages and other forms of financial credit, regardless of their economic and social status, to support women's access to legal assistance and to encourage the financial sector to mainstream gender perspectives in their policies and programmes;

30. *Recognizes* the role of microfinance, including microcredit, in the eradication of poverty, the empowerment of women and the generation of employment, notes in this regard the importance of sound national financial systems, and encourages the strengthening of existing and emerging microcredit institutions and their capacities, including through the support of international financial institutions;

31. *Urges* Governments to ensure that microfinance programmes focus on developing savings products that are safe, convenient and accessible to women and support women's efforts to retain control over their savings;

32. *Urges* all Governments to eliminate discrimination against women and girls in the field of education and to ensure their equal access to all levels of education;

33. *Encourages* Member States to adopt and implement, as appropriate, legislation and policies protecting women's labour and human rights in the workplace, including with respect to minimum wages, social protection and equal pay for equal work, promoting collective bargaining and providing for recruitment, retention and promotion policies targeting women;

34. *Reaffirms* the commitment to women's equal rights and opportunities in political and economic decision-making and resource allocation and to the removal of any barriers that prevent women from being full participants in the economy, and the resolve to undertake legislative and administrative reforms to give women equal rights with men to economic resources, including access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, credit, inheritance, natural resources and appropriate new technology;

35. *Urges* Governments to take measures to facilitate equitable access to land and property rights by providing training designed to make the judicial, legislative and administrative system more responsive to gender-equality issues, to provide legal aid for women seeking to claim their rights, to support the efforts of women's groups and networks and to carry out awareness campaigns so as to draw attention to the need for women's equal rights to land and property;

36. *Recognizes* the need to enhance employment and income opportunities for all, especially for women and men living in poverty, and encourages Governments to promote decent work for all segments of society and to ensure that labour-market regulations and social provisions create a more level playing field for women, including by enacting and enforcing minimum wage legislation, eliminating discriminatory wage practices and promoting measures such as public works programmes, in order to enable women to cope with recurrent crises and long-term unemployment;

37. *Also recognizes* the need to empower women, particularly poor women and girls, economically and politically, and in this regard encourages Governments, with the support of their development partners, to invest in appropriate infrastructure and other projects, including the provision of water and sanitation to rural areas and urban slums, in order to increase health and well-being, relieve the workloads of

women and girls and release their time and energy for other productive activities, including entrepreneurship;

38. *Further recognizes* the central role of agriculture in development, and stresses the importance of reviewing agricultural policies and strategies to ensure that women's critical role in food security and nutrition is recognized and addressed as an integral part of both short- and long-term responses to food insecurity, excessive price volatility and food crises in developing countries;

39. *Recognizes* the critical role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women and women in local communities, and their traditional knowledge in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty;

40. *Expresses concern* at the overall expansion of the HIV and AIDS epidemic and the fact that in some regions women and girls are still the most affected by HIV and AIDS, that they are more easily infected, that they bear a disproportionate share of the caregiving burden and that they are more vulnerable to violence, stigmatization and discrimination, poverty and marginalization from their families and communities as a result of HIV and AIDS, and taking into account that despite substantial progress, the 2010 deadline of universal access has not been met, calls upon Governments and the international community to urgently scale up responses towards achieving the goal of universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention programmes, treatment, care and support and, in line with the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS, to ensure that national responses to HIV and AIDS meet the specific needs of women and girls, including those living with and affected by HIV and AIDS across their lifespan;

41. *Reaffirms* the commitment to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as set out in the targets under Goal 5 of the Millennium Development Goals and as supported at the International Conference on Population and Development, by integrating this goal into strategies for attaining the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality, combating HIV and AIDS and eradicating poverty;

42. *Urges* Governments and all sectors of society to promote and to pursue gender-based approaches to the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases based on data disaggregated by sex and age in their effort to address the critical differences in the rapidly growing magnitude of non-communicable diseases, including cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes, which affect people of all ages, gender, race and income levels, as noted in the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, and notes that poor populations and those living in vulnerable situations, in particular in developing countries, bear a disproportionate burden and that non-communicable diseases can affect women and men differently, because, inter alia, women bear a disproportionate share of the burden of caregiving;

43. *Encourages* Governments and all sectors of society to take sustainable measures to ensure equal access to full and productive employment and decent work on an equal basis and without discrimination to persons with disabilities, including by promoting access to inclusive education sys-

tems, skills development and vocational and entrepreneurial training, in order to enable persons with disabilities to attain and maintain maximum independence, as noted in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as well as in the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond, and notes the need to strengthen efforts aimed at addressing the rights and needs of women and children with disabilities;

44. *Expresses deep concern* that maternal health remains one area constrained by some of the largest health inequities in the world, and over the uneven progress in improving child and maternal health, in this context calls upon States to implement their commitments to preventing and reducing child and maternal mortality and morbidity, and welcomes in that regard the Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health as well as national, regional and international initiatives contributing to the reduction in the number of maternal deaths and deaths of the newborn and children under age 5;

45. *Recognizes* that there is a need for all donors to maintain and deliver on their existing bilateral and multilateral official development assistance commitments and targets, and that the full implementation of those commitments will substantially boost resources available to push forward the international development agenda;

46. *Also recognizes* the need to strengthen the capacity of Governments to incorporate a gender perspective into policies and decision-making, and encourages all Governments, international organizations, including the organizations of the United Nations system, and other relevant stakeholders to assist and support the efforts of developing countries in integrating a gender perspective into all aspects of policymaking, including through the provision of technical assistance and financial resources;

47. *Encourages* the international community, the United Nations system, the private sector and civil society to continue to provide the financial resources necessary to assist Governments in their efforts to meet the development targets and benchmarks agreed upon at the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Millennium Summit, the International Conference on Financing for Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the twenty-third and twenty-fourth special sessions of the General Assembly, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and other relevant United Nations conferences and summits;

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

49. *Calls upon* all organizations of the United Nations system, within their organizational mandates, to mainstream a gender perspective and to pursue gender equality in their country programmes, planning instruments, investment frameworks and sector-wide programmes and

to articulate specific country-level goals and targets in this domain in accordance with national development strategies, welcomes the work of UN-Women with United Nations country teams in assisting Member States, at their request, in integrating a gender perspective into national development policies and strategies, in accordance with their national priorities, and stresses its important role in leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system so as to ensure that the commitment to gender equality and gender mainstreaming translates into effective action throughout the world;

50. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations development system, within their organizational intergovernmentally agreed mandates, to implement their institutional accountability mechanisms, to deliver on results on gender equality and to report on gender-sensitive indicators in their strategic frameworks;

51. *Recalls* Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/18 of 24 July 2013, in which the Council decided that at its fifty-ninth session, in 2015, the Commission on the Status of Women would undertake a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as opportunities for strengthening gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda through the integration of a gender perspective;

52. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, including on integrating a gender perspective into national development strategies;

53. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled “Eradication of poverty and other development issues”, the sub-item entitled “Women in development”.

### *Women in rural areas*

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/129 [YUN 2011, p. 1066], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/68/179] on the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas, which reviewed efforts by Member States, UN entities and other actors to empower rural women.

The report noted that rural women constituted one fourth of the world’s population and played a critical role in supporting their households in achieving food and nutrition security, improving rural livelihoods and generating income. They continued, however, to be socially and economically disadvantaged due to their limited access to economic resources and opportunities, exclusion from decision-making and political participation, and disproportionate burden of unpaid work. Among agricultural workers, for example, women were often hired without a formal contract and on a temporary basis. Rural women invested considerable amounts of time in unpaid activities related to

food production and processing, water and fuel collection, and child and elder care. The challenges faced by rural women were further amplified by the combined impact of the economic and financial crises, volatile energy and food prices, climate change, large-scale land deals, a lack of investment in rural and agricultural development, and demographic changes. With only a few exceptions, rural women scored lowest on all the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) compared with women in urban areas and with rural and urban men.

Although Member States and UN entities had taken measures to improve the situation of rural women, expanding their access to employment, entrepreneurship and training, social participation, leadership opportunities, local services, productive resources, land rights and technologies, the majority worldwide still lived in difficult conditions. Further actions were needed to address the causes of inequality between rural women and men, and between urban and rural women. The Secretary-General encouraged Member States to strengthen the implementation of existing commitments on rural development and rural women’s empowerment and rights; strengthen policy environments for prioritizing rural and agricultural development; undertake legislative and administrative reforms to ensure women’s equal access to economic resources; support women smallholder farmers; ensure and improve equal access to opportunities for decent employment in agricultural and non-agricultural sectors; and ensure that the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals took into account the empowerment of rural women.

### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 18 December [meeting 70], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/68/449 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 68/139** without vote [agenda item 28 (a)].

### **Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 56/129 of 19 December 2001, 58/146 of 22 December 2003, 60/138 of 16 December 2005, 62/136 of 18 December 2007, 64/140 of 18 December 2009 and 66/129 of 19 December 2011,

*Affirming* the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and also that all forms of discrimination, including discrimination against women, are contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other human rights instruments,

*Recalling* the provisions pertaining to women in rural areas contained in the outcome documents of relevant international conferences and summits, in particular 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 entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”;

*Recognizing* that rural women are critical agents in poverty reduction, that they are crucial to the achievement of food and nutrition security in poor and vulnerable households and to environmental sustainability and that, in other ways, they are also critical to the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals, and concerned that rural women continue to be economically and socially disadvantaged because of their limited access to economic resources and opportunities, their limited or lack of access to land, water and other resources, their limited or lack of access to credit, extension services and agricultural inputs, their exclusion from planning and decision-making and their disproportionate burden of unpaid care work,

*Recognizing also* the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security endorsed in May 2012 by the Committee on World Food Security, which embrace gender equality as one of the main guiding principles of implementation in order to help address the ongoing disparities with regard to land,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Urges* Member States, in collaboration with the organizations of the United Nations system, and civil society, as appropriate, to continue their efforts to implement the outcome of and to ensure an integrated and coordinated follow-up to the relevant United Nations conferences and summits, including their reviews, and to attach greater importance to the improvement of the situation of rural women, including indigenous women, in their national, regional and global development strategies by, inter alia:

(a) Creating an enabling environment for improving the situation of rural women and ensuring systematic attention to their needs, priorities and contributions, including through enhanced cooperation and a gender perspective, and their full participation in the development, implementation and follow-up of macroeconomic policies, including development policies and programmes and poverty eradication strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist, based on the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”;

(b) Pursuing the political and socioeconomic empowerment of rural women and supporting their full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels, including through affirmative action, where appropriate, and support for women’s and farmers’ organizations in which smallholder women farmers are members, labour unions or other associations and civil society groups promoting rural women’s rights;

(c) Promoting consultation with and the participation of rural women, including indigenous women, women with disabilities and older women, through their organizations and networks, in the design, development and implementa-

tion of gender equality and rural development programmes and strategies;

(d) Ensuring that perspectives of rural women are taken into account and that they participate in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies and activities related to emergencies, including natural disasters, humanitarian assistance, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction, and taking appropriate measures to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against rural women in this regard;

(e) Integrating a gender perspective into the design, implementation and evaluation of and follow-up to development policies and programmes, including budget policies, paying increased attention to the needs of rural women so as to ensure that they benefit from policies and programmes adopted in all spheres and that the disproportionate number of rural women living in poverty is reduced;

(f) Mainstreaming gender considerations in the governance of natural resources, leveraging the participation and influence of women in managing the sustainable use of natural resources, and enhancing the capacities of Governments, civil society and development partners to better understand and address gender issues in the management and governance of natural resources;

(g) Strengthening measures, including resource generation, to accelerate progress towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 5 on improving maternal health by addressing the specific health and nutrition needs of rural women and taking concrete measures to enhance and provide access to the highest attainable standards of health for women in rural areas, as well as quality, affordable and universally accessible primary health care and support services, including in such areas of sexual and reproductive health as prenatal and postnatal health care, emergency obstetric care, family planning information and increasing knowledge, awareness and support for the prevention of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and by promoting and protecting their reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and their review outcomes;

(h) Promoting sustainable infrastructure, access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation and safe cooking and heating practices to improve the health and nutrition of rural women and children;

(i) Investing in and strengthening efforts to meet the basic needs of rural women, including needs relating to their food and nutrition security and that of their families, and to promote adequate standards of living for them as well as decent conditions for work and access to local, regional and global markets through improved availability, access to and use of critical rural infrastructure, such as energy and transport, science and technology, local services, capacity-building and human resources development measures and the provision of a safe and reliable water supply and sanitation, nutritional programmes, affordable housing programmes, education and literacy programmes and health and social support measures, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and their review outcomes, HIV prevention, treatment, care, including psychosocial aspects, and support services;

(j) Designing and implementing national policies and legal frameworks that promote and protect the enjoyment by rural women and girls of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and creating an environment that does not tolerate violations or abuses of their rights, including domestic violence, sexual violence and all other forms of gender-based violence;

(k) Ensuring that the rights of older women in rural areas are taken into account with regard to their equal access to basic social services, appropriate social protection/social security measures, equal access to and control of economic resources and their empowerment through access to financial and infrastructure services, with special focus on the provision of support to older women, including indigenous women, who often have access to few resources and are more vulnerable;

(l) Valuing and supporting the critical role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women in rural areas, in the conservation and sustainable use of traditional crops and biodiversity for present and future generations as an essential contribution to food and nutrition security;

(m) Promoting the rights of women and girls with disabilities in rural areas, including by ensuring access on an equal basis to productive employment and decent work, economic and financial resources and disability-sensitive infrastructure and services, in particular in relation to health and education, as well as by ensuring that their priorities and needs are fully incorporated into policies and programmes, inter alia, through their participation in decision-making processes;

(n) Developing specific assistance programmes and advisory services to promote economic skills of rural women in banking, modern trading and financial procedures and providing microcredit and other financial and business services to a greater number of women in rural areas, in particular female heads of households, for their economic empowerment;

(o) Supporting women entrepreneurs and women smallholder farmers, including those in subsistence farming, by facilitating their access to extension and financial services, agricultural inputs and land, water sanitation and irrigation, markets and innovative technologies;

(p) Mobilizing resources, including at the national level and through official development assistance, for increasing women's access to existing savings and credit schemes, as well as targeted programmes that provide women with capital, knowledge and tools that enhance their economic capacities;

(q) Ensuring and improving equal access for rural women to employment in agricultural and non-agricultural sectors, supporting and promoting opportunities in small enterprises, sustainable social enterprises and cooperatives and improving working conditions;

(r) Investing in infrastructure and in time- and labour-saving technologies, especially in rural areas, benefiting women and girls by reducing their burden of domestic activities, affording the opportunity for girls to attend school and for women to engage in self-employment or to participate in the labour market;

(s) Taking steps to ensure that women's unpaid work and contributions to on-farm and off-farm production, including income generated in the informal sector, are recognized, supporting remunerative non-agricultural employment of rural women, improving working conditions, increasing access to productive resources and recognizing that women's full integration into the formal economy is essential in order to address the structural and underlying causes of the difficult conditions of rural women;

(t) Promoting programmes and services to enable rural women and men to reconcile their work and family responsibilities and to encourage men to share, equally with women, household, childcare and other care responsibilities;

(u) Developing strategies to decrease women's vulnerability to environmental factors while promoting rural women's role in protecting the environment;

(v) Considering the adoption, where appropriate, of national legislation to protect the knowledge, innovations and practices of women in indigenous and local communities relating to traditional medicines, biodiversity and indigenous technologies;

(w) Addressing the lack of timely, reliable data disaggregated by sex and age, including by intensifying efforts to include women's unpaid work in official statistics, and developing a systematic and comparative research base on rural women that will inform policy and programme decisions;

(x) Strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices to collect, analyse and disseminate comparable data disaggregated by sex and age, including on time use, and gender statistics in rural areas to serve as a basis for gender-responsive policy design and strategy development in rural areas;

(y) Designing, revising and implementing laws to ensure that rural women are accorded full and equal rights to own and lease land and other property, including through the equal right to inheritance, and undertaking administrative reforms and all necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies and access to markets and information, and to ensure their equal access to justice and legal support;

(z) Supporting a gender-sensitive education system that considers the specific needs of rural women in order to eliminate gender stereotypes and discriminatory tendencies affecting them, including through community-based dialogue involving women and men and girls and boys;

(aa) Promoting education, training and relevant information programmes for rural and farming women through the use of affordable and appropriate technologies and the mass media, and taking concrete measures to improve rural women's skills, productivity and employment opportunities through technical, agricultural and vocational education and training;

3. *Encourages* Member States, United Nations entities and all other relevant stakeholders to promote access to social protection for female-headed rural households;

4. *Requests* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular those dealing with issues of development, to address and support the empowerment of rural women and their specific needs in their programmes and strategies;

5. *Stresses* the need to identify the best practices for ensuring that rural women have access to and full participation in the area of information and communications technology, to address the priorities and needs of rural women and girls as active users of information and to ensure their participation in developing and implementing global, regional and national information and communications technology strategies, taking appropriate educational measures to eliminate gender stereotypes regarding women in the field of technology;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to consider the concluding observations and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women con-

cerning their reports to the Committee when formulating policies and designing programmes focused on the improvement of the situation of rural women, including those to be developed and implemented in cooperation with relevant international organizations;

7. *Invites* Governments to promote the economic empowerment of rural women, including through entrepreneurship training, and to adopt gender-responsive rural development strategies, including budget framework and relevant assessment measures, as well as to ensure that the needs and priorities of rural women and girls are systematically addressed and that they can effectively contribute to poverty alleviation, hunger eradication and food and nutrition security;

8. *Encourages* Governments and international organizations to implement the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, with a view to accelerating progress on gender equality and women's empowerment in rural areas, and to ensure that the discussions concerning the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda take into account gender equality as well as the empowerment of rural women;

9. *Invites* the Commission on the Status of Women to give consideration to the issue of the empowerment of rural women in a timely and appropriate manner;

10. *Invites* Governments, relevant international organizations and the specialized agencies to continue to observe the International Day of Rural Women annually, on 15 October, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/136, and to address rural women's concerns and contributions in celebrating the International Year of Family Farming, 2014;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

## Violence against women

**Reports of Secretary-General.** In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/9 [YUN 2006, p. 1356] and 2009/15 [YUN 2009, p. 1155], the Secretary-General submitted a report [E/CN.6/2013/3] on multisectoral services and responses for women and girls subjected to violence, which examined the extent to which Governments had implemented such services and responses, identified gaps and good practices, and presented recommendations for future action for consideration by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-seventh (2013) session (see p. 1127).

The report indicated that an estimated seven out of 10 women experienced physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime; women and girls comprised 98 per cent of all people in forced sexual exploitation; between 100 and 140 million girls had been subject to female genital mutilations; and in some countries, between 40 and 70 per cent of female murder victims were killed by intimate partners. Violence against women and girls had both short- and long-term adverse consequences on their health and rights, including their reproductive rights. It hindered social and

economic development and reduced productivity. It could also have an intergenerational impact.

Multisectoral services and responses in many countries, when available, were generally limited to those required in the immediate aftermath of violence and were sometimes only provided in urban areas. Member States referred to the presence of a range of such services, including all or a combination of free 24-hour hotlines, police responses, protection orders, access to legal aid, shelters, health care and psychosocial counselling. Some States specifically mentioned services for children and/or girls, or initiatives aimed at children who witnessed violence. There were, however, still critical gaps in the strategies and plans of many States in responding to violence against women and girls. While various models had been implemented and much guidance developed to ensure better cooperation and coordination in addressing violence against women and girls, the level of coordination of services and responses varied from country to country.

Within the UN system, coordination efforts included an initiative by the Standing Committee on Violence against Women (formerly known as the Task Force on Violence against Women of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality) [YUN 2007, p. 1157], which had enhanced the timely exchange of information, coordination and collaboration among UN entities. The Secretary-General's campaign "UNITE to End Violence against Women" [YUN 2008, p. 1261] continued to coordinate inter-agency cooperation on many aspects of responding to violence against women.

The Secretary-General presented a series of recommendations for the Commission on the Status of Women to consider and called on Governments and other stakeholders to take action in the following areas: global legal and policy framework; laws, policies, coordination and resources; and the provision of multisectoral services and responses for women and girls subjected to violence, including ensuring the quality of, access to and effectiveness of such efforts.

In accordance with resolution 2009/15 [YUN 2009, p. 1155], the Secretary-General submitted a report [E/CN.6/2013/4] on prevention of violence against women and girls, which drew on the findings of the expert group meeting on the same topic (Bangkok, Thailand, 17–20 September 2012) organized by UN-Women along with other UN entities, and on the consensus of the stakeholders' forum on preventing and eliminating violence against women held at UN Headquarters (13–14 December 2012). States had been increasingly adopting more comprehensive laws, which also included prevention measures. Several programmes had been developed to involve men and boys, including in bystander programmes, which encouraged men to address attitudes that perpetuated negative gender stereotypes with their peers. Within the UN system, the social mobilization and advocacy

platform of the Secretary-General's UNiTE campaign had registered over 5.5 million national actions to end such violence worldwide. Another initiative included the "Stop Rape Now: United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict" campaign, which comprised 13 UN entities and its multi-donor trust fund to support initiatives to address and prevent sexual violence in conflict.

The report concluded that despite progress, the implementation of global and national legal and policy frameworks to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls had been slow and uneven. Efforts had mainly focused on responses for survivors after violence had occurred, while more work had to be done to prevent such violence. A systematic, coordinated and holistic approach was required, including legislative and policy measures, protection of survivors, and data collection and research. Prevention interventions needed to be comprehensive, multisectoral and address the root causes of violence; be integrated into broader policies and programmes related to public health, including sexual and reproductive health; and be adapted to the socioeconomic context of different countries and to different forms of violence.

The Secretary-General recommended that the Commission on the Status of Women call on Governments and other stakeholders to take action in several areas, including to review, revise and amend or abolish laws and policies that discriminated against women and girls; develop educational programmes and promote specialized training of teachers to foster a culture of gender equality, human rights and non-violence; ensure the safety of public and private workplaces; engage all segments of society in prevention efforts, including traditional and religious leaders; and conduct data collection and research, monitoring and evaluation in a systematic and coordinated manner.

**Commission action.** On 4 March, the Commission on the Status of Women, at its fifty-seventh session [E/2013/27] (New York, 4–15 March), held an interactive high-level round table on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls [E/CN.6/2013/CRP.3], which focused on the sharing of national experiences, lessons learned and good practices, and was guided by a secretariat note [E/CN.6/2013/5]. In total, 68 government representatives made statements, as did representatives from the European Union, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Labour Organization (ILO). Representatives from the UN system and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) responded to the interactive dialogue. The discussion was guided by a secretariat note.

The Commission adopted agreed conclusions on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls and transmitted them to the Economic and Social Council as an input into the an-

nual ministerial and development cooperation forum. The series of conclusions related to four broad areas: strengthening implementation of legal and policy frameworks and accountability; addressing structural and underlying causes and risk factors; strengthening multisectoral services, programmes and responses; and improving the evidence.

**Trust Fund 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/26/17-E/CN.6/2014/8] of UN-Women (see p. 1130) on the 2013 activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women. The Fund awarded \$8 million in new grants to 17 initiatives in 18 countries and territories. In terms of grant value, 48 per cent of the funds allocated went to programmes in Asia and the Pacific; 15 per cent to Latin America and the Caribbean; 12 per cent to Africa; 11 per cent to Europe and Central Asia; 9 per cent to cross-regional programmes; and 5 per cent to initiatives in the Arab States and North Africa. Grants amounting to 33 per cent of the total (\$2.6 million) were awarded to five grantees working on adolescent and young girls, which would benefit more than 43,000 girls by 2017. Five new grantees were strengthening the implementation of laws and policies to end violence against women in Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Morocco, Myanmar and Serbia.

By the end of the year, the Fund had a portfolio of 78 active grants covering 71 countries and territories, with a total value of \$56.8 million.

### *Violence against women migrant workers*

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/128 [YUN 2011, p. 1072], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/68/178] on measures taken by 19 Member States, 5 UN entities and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), over the two-year period from July 2011 to June 2013, to address violence against migrant workers, with a focus on their access to justice. Member States highlighted a range of measures taken to combat violence and discrimination against women migrant workers, including efforts to adhere to the provisions of international instruments, enhance national legislation, improve policies, collect data, undertake research, put in place preventive measures and measures to protect and assist victims of violence, such as access to justice, and establish bilateral and multilateral cooperation. States also provided information on anti-trafficking policies and programmes. The report noted that since the 2011 report [YUN 2011, p. 1071], the number of States parties to international instruments relevant to tackling violence and discrimination against women migrant workers, including the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189),

had increased, and Member States had ratified, signed or were part of negotiations on regional instruments dealing with the discrimination and violence against women. Initiatives of UN entities and IOM included supporting the increased availability of data on migrant women and children, including on violence against them; collaborating with national authorities to ensure that laws and policies addressed protection, assistance and prevention of violence against women migrant workers and trafficked women migrants; and supporting advocacy, awareness-raising and capacity-building efforts.

The report concluded that States had taken national, regional and global action to tackle violence and discrimination against women migrant workers. Key gaps, however, persisted in the implementation of global normative and policy frameworks to protect them from discrimination and violence; and in the systematic, nationwide collection and dissemination of disaggregated data, on migrant workers in general and women migrant workers in particular. Information on access to justice by women migrant workers was especially lacking.

The Secretary-General recommended, among other measures, that States continue to ratify and implement relevant international instruments, with a special focus on the ILO Domestic Workers Convention; ensure that legislative provisions and judicial processes were in place to guarantee women's access to justice; ensure that national laws protected women migrant workers, including domestic workers; and continue to conclude and implement bilateral and multilateral arrangements for the protection of the rights of women workers. He also called on the UN system and related entities to continue to step up their efforts and strengthen partnerships with all stakeholders that supported women migrant workers.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 70], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/68/449 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 68/137** without vote [agenda item 28 (a)].

#### Violence against women migrant workers

##### *The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* all of its previous resolutions on violence against women migrant workers and those adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,

*Reaffirming* the provisions concerning women migrant workers contained in the outcome documents of the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development and their reviews,

*Reaffirming also* the provisions concerning women migrants contained in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and calling upon States to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants regardless of migration status, especially those of women and children, and to encourage their active participation, as appropriate, in processes that contribute to decision-making, planning and implementation of policies and programmes for sustainable development at all levels,

*Acknowledging* the role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), including in supporting national efforts, to increase women's access to economic opportunities, including for women migrant workers, and to end violence against them, in the light of the UN-Women strategic plan, 2014–2017, which has among its six goals increasing women's access to economic opportunities, and preventing violence against women and girls and expanding access to services for survivors, and acknowledging the policy and programmatic work of UN-Women on empowering women migrant workers,

*Welcoming* the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women during its fifty-seventh session, and taking note, in particular, of the commitment, as appropriate, to further adopt and implement measures to ensure the social and legal inclusion and protection of women migrants, including women migrant workers in countries of origin, transit and destination, promote and protect the full realization of their human rights and their protection against violence and exploitation, implement gender-sensitive policies and programmes for women migrant workers and provide safe and legal channels that recognize their skills and education, provide fair labour conditions and, as appropriate, facilitate their productive employment and decent work as well as integration into the labour force,

*Recalling* the declaration of the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held on 3 and 4 October 2013, which reaffirmed the need to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, especially those of women and children, and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and through a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability,

*Recalling also* that the declaration recognized that women and girls account for almost half of all international migrants at the global level and the need to address the special situation and vulnerability of migrant women and girls by, inter alia, incorporating a gender perspective into policies and strengthening national laws, institutions and programmes to combat gender-based violence, including trafficking in persons and discrimination against them, and emphasized in this regard the need to establish appropriate measures for the protection of women migrant workers in all sectors, including those involved in domestic work,

*Welcoming* the adoption of Convention No. 189 and Recommendation No. 201 on decent work for domestic workers by the International Labour Conference on 16 June 2011, at its 100th session, and the entry of the Convention into



force on 5 September 2013, and inviting States to consider ratifying it, encouraging States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to take note of and consider general recommendation No. 26 on women migrant workers adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in November 2008, and encouraging States parties to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families to take note of and consider general comment No. 1 on migrant domestic workers adopted by the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in December 2010, acknowledging that they are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

*Recognizing* the increasing participation of women in international migration, driven in large part by socioeconomic factors, and that this feminization of migration requires greater gender sensitivity in all policies and efforts related to the subject of international migration,

*Stressing* the shared responsibility of and need for cooperation among all stakeholders, in particular countries of origin, transit and destination, relevant regional and international organizations, the private sector and civil society, in promoting an environment that prevents and addresses violence against women migrant workers, including in the context of discrimination, through targeted measures, and in this regard recognizing the importance of joint and collaborative approaches and strategies at the national, bilateral, regional and international levels,

*Recognizing* that women migrant workers are important contributors to social and economic development through the economic and social impacts, as a result of their work, on countries of origin and destination, and underlining the value and dignity of their labour, including the labour of domestic workers,

*Recognizing also* the particular vulnerability and needs of women and their children at all stages of the migration process, extending from the moment of deciding to migrate, and including transit, engagement in formal and informal employment and integration into the host society, as well as during their return to and reintegration in their countries of origin,

*Expressing deep concern* at the continuing reports of grave abuses and violence committed against migrant women and girls, including gender-based violence, sexual violence, domestic and family violence, racist and xenophobic acts, discrimination, abusive labour practices, exploitative conditions of work and contemporary forms of slavery, *inter alia*, all forms of forced labour and trafficking in persons,

*Recognizing* that the intersection of, *inter alia*, gender, age, class, race and ethnic discrimination and stereotypes can compound the discrimination faced by women migrant workers and that gender-based violence is a form of discrimination,

*Reaffirming* the commitment to protect and promote the human rights of all women, including, without discrimination, indigenous women who migrate for work, and in this regard noting the attention paid in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against indigenous women, as appropriate,

*Noting* that the priority theme of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women will be

“Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls” and that migration can enable equitable, inclusive and sustainable growth and human development for countries of origin and destination, migrants and their families, and in this regard recognizing the potential role and contribution of women migrant workers towards accelerating progress in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and attaining equitable, inclusive and sustainable growth and human development,

*Concerned* that many migrant women who are employed in the informal economy and in less skilled work are especially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, underlining in this regard the obligation of States to protect the human rights of migrants so as to prevent and address abuse and exploitation, and observing with concern that many women migrant workers take on jobs for which they may be overqualified and in which, at the same time, they may be more vulnerable because of poor pay and inadequate social protection,

*Emphasizing* the need for objective, comprehensive and broad-based information, including sex- and age-disaggregated data and statistics, and gender-sensitive indicators for research and analysis, and a wide exchange of experience and lessons learned by individual Member States and civil society in the formulation of targeted policies and concrete strategies to specifically address violence against women migrant workers, including in the context of discrimination,

*Realizing* that the movement of a significant number of women migrant workers may be facilitated and made possible by means of fraudulent or irregular documentation and sham marriages with the object of migration, that this may be facilitated through, *inter alia*, the Internet and that those women migrant workers are more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation,

*Recognizing* the importance of exploring the link between migration and trafficking in persons in order to further efforts towards protecting women migrant workers from violence, discrimination, exploitation and abuse,

*Encouraged* by some measures adopted by some countries of destination to alleviate the plight of women migrant workers residing in their areas of jurisdiction and to promote access to justice, such as the establishment of gender-sensitive protection mechanisms for migrant workers, facilitating their access to mechanisms for reporting complaints or providing assistance during legal proceedings,

*Underlining* the important role of relevant United Nations treaty bodies in monitoring the implementation of human rights conventions and of the relevant special procedures, within their respective mandates, in addressing the problem of violence against women migrant workers and in protecting and promoting their human rights and welfare,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Invites* Member States to consider ratifying relevant International Labour Organization conventions, including Convention No. 189 on decent work for domestic workers, and to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants

by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, as well as all other human rights treaties that contribute to the protection of the rights of women migrant workers, and also encourages Member States to implement the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons;

3. *Takes note* of the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the human rights of migrants submitted to the Council at its seventeenth and twentieth sessions, in particular their elaboration of the vulnerabilities and challenges faced by irregular migrants, including negative public perceptions and limited access to protection, assistance and justice;

4. *Encourages* all United Nations special rapporteurs on human rights whose mandates touch on the issues of violence against women migrant workers to improve the collection of information on and analysis of those areas within their mandates relating to the current challenges facing women migrant workers, and also encourages Governments to cooperate with the special rapporteurs in this regard;

5. *Calls upon* all Governments to incorporate a human rights, gender-sensitive and people-centred perspective in legislation, policies and programmes on international migration and on labour and employment, consistent with their human rights obligations and commitments under human rights instruments, for the prevention of and protection of migrant women against violence and discrimination, exploitation and abuse, to take effective measures to ensure that such migration and labour policies do not reinforce discrimination, and, where necessary, to conduct impact assessment studies of such legislation, policies and programmes in order to identify the impact of measures taken and the results achieved in regard to women migrant workers;

6. *Calls upon* Governments to adopt or strengthen measures to protect the human rights of women migrant workers, including domestic workers, regardless of their immigration status, including in policies that regulate the recruitment and deployment of women migrant workers, to consider expanding dialogue among States on devising innovative methods to promote legal channels of migration, inter alia, in order to deter irregular migration, to consider incorporating a gender perspective into immigration laws in order to prevent discrimination and violence against women, including in independent, circular and temporary migration, and to consider permitting, in accordance with national legislation, women migrant workers who are victims of violence to apply for residency permits independently of abusive employers or spouses, and to eliminate abusive sponsorship systems;

7. *Urges* Governments to enhance bilateral, regional, interregional and international cooperation to address violence against women migrant workers, fully respecting international law, including international human rights law, as well as to strengthen efforts to reduce the vulnerability of women migrant workers by facilitating effective access to justice and effective action in the areas of law enforcement, prosecution, prevention, capacity-building and victim protection and support, by exchanging information and good practices in combating violence and discrimination against women migrant workers and by fostering sustainable development alternatives to migration in countries of origin;

8. *Also urges* Governments to take into account the best interests of the child by adopting or strengthening measures to promote and protect the human rights of migrant girls, including unaccompanied girls, regardless of their immigration status, so as to prevent labour and economic exploitation, discrimination, sexual harassment, violence and sexual abuse in the workplace, including in domestic work;

9. *Further urges* Governments to strongly encourage all stakeholders, especially the private sector, including employment agencies involved in recruiting women migrant workers, to strengthen the focus on and funding support for the prevention of violence against women migrant workers, in particular by promoting the access of women to meaningful and gender-sensitive information and education on, inter alia, the costs and benefits of migration, rights and benefits to which they are entitled in the countries of origin and employment, overall conditions in countries of employment and procedures for legal migration, as well as to ensure that laws and policies governing recruiters, employers and intermediaries promote adherence to and respect for the human rights of migrant workers, particularly women;

10. *Encourages* all States to remove obstacles that may prevent the transparent, safe, unrestricted and expeditious transfer of remittances of migrants to their countries of origin or to any other countries, including, where appropriate, by reducing transaction costs and implementing woman-friendly remittance transfer, savings and investment schemes, including diaspora investment schemes, in conformity with applicable national legislation, and to consider, as appropriate, measures to solve other problems that may impede women migrant workers' access to and management of their economic resources;

11. *Calls upon* States to address the structural and underlying causes of violence against women migrant workers through education, dissemination of information and awareness-raising, by promoting their empowerment and, where relevant, their integration into the formal economy, in particular in economic decision-making, and by promoting their participation in public life, as appropriate;

12. *Calls upon* Governments to recognize the right of women migrant workers, regardless of their immigration status, to have access to emergency health care, and in this regard to ensure that women migrant workers are not discriminated against on the grounds of pregnancy and childbirth and, in accordance with national legislation, to address the vulnerabilities to HIV experienced by migrant populations and support their access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support;

13. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to adopt and implement legislation and policies that protect all women migrant workers, including those in domestic service, to include therein, and improve where necessary, relevant monitoring and inspection measures in line with applicable International Labour Organization conventions and other instruments to ensure compliance with international obligations and to grant women migrant workers in domestic service access to gender-sensitive, transparent mechanisms for bringing complaints against employers, including terminating their contracts in case of labour and economic exploitation, discrimination, sexual harassment, violence and sexual abuse in the workplace, while stressing that such instruments should not punish women migrant workers,

and calls upon States to promptly investigate and punish all violations of their rights;

14. *Calls upon* Governments, in cooperation with international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders, to provide women migrant workers who are victims of violence, irrespective of their immigration status, in line with domestic legislation, with the full range of emergency assistance and protection and, to the extent possible, gender-sensitive services that are culturally and linguistically appropriate, in accordance with relevant international human rights instruments and applicable conventions;

15. *Also calls upon* Governments to ensure that legislative provisions and judicial processes are in place for women's access to justice, to enhance, develop or maintain legal frameworks and specific gender-sensitive policies to explicitly meet the needs and rights of women migrant workers and to take appropriate steps to reform existing legislation and policies to capture their needs and protect their rights;

16. *Further calls upon* Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, to put in place penal and criminal sanctions, in order to punish perpetrators of violence against women migrant workers and intermediaries, and gender-sensitive redress and justice mechanisms that victims can access effectively and that allow their views and concerns to be presented and considered at appropriate stages of proceedings, including other measures that will allow victims to be present during the judicial process, when possible, and to protect women migrant workers who are victims of violence from revictimization, including by authorities;

17. *Urges* all States to adopt effective measures to put an end to the arbitrary arrest and detention of women migrant workers and to take action to prevent and punish any form of illegal deprivation of the liberty of women migrant workers by individuals or groups;

18. *Encourages* Governments to formulate and implement training programmes for their law enforcement officials, immigration officers and border officials, diplomatic and consular officials, judiciary, prosecutors, public sector medical staff and other service providers, with a view to sensitizing those public sector workers to the issue of violence against women migrant workers and imparting to them the necessary skills and attitude to ensure the delivery of proper, professional and gender-sensitive interventions;

19. *Also encourages* Governments to promote coherence between migration, labour and anti-trafficking policies and programmes concerning women migrant workers, based on a human rights, gender-sensitive and people-centred perspective, to ensure that the human rights of women migrant workers are protected throughout the migration process and to enhance efforts to prevent violence against women migrant workers, prosecute perpetrators and protect and support victims and their families;

20. *Calls upon* States, in accordance with the provisions of article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, to ensure that, if a woman migrant worker is arrested or committed to prison or custody pending trial, or is detained in any other manner, the competent authorities respect her freedom to communicate with and have access to the consular officials of the country of her nationality and, in this regard, to inform without delay, if that woman migrant worker so requests, the consular post of her State of nationality;

21. *Invites* the United Nations system and other concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to cooperate with Governments, within existing resources, towards a better understanding of the issues concerning women and international migration, and to improve the collection, dissemination and analysis of sex- and age-disaggregated data and information in order to assist in the formulation of migration and labour policies that are, inter alia, gender-sensitive and that protect human rights, as well as to aid in policy assessment and to continue to support national efforts to address violence against women migrant workers in a coordinated way that ensures effective implementation, enhances their impact and strengthens positive outcomes for women migrant workers;

22. *Encourages* Governments to formulate national policies concerning women migrant workers that are based on up-to-date, relevant sex-disaggregated data and analysis, in close consultation with women migrant workers and relevant stakeholders throughout the policy process, and also encourages Governments to ensure that this process is adequately resourced and that the resulting policies have measurable targets and indicators, timetables and monitoring and accountability measures, in particular for employment agencies, employers and public officials, and provide for impact assessments and ensure multi-sector coordination within and between countries of origin, transit and destination through appropriate mechanisms;

23. *Encourages* concerned Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin, transit and destination, to avail themselves of the expertise of the United Nations, including the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to develop and enhance appropriate sex-disaggregated national data collection, analysis and dissemination methodologies that will generate comparable data, and tracking and reporting systems on violence against women migrant workers and, wherever possible, on violations of their rights at all stages of the migration process, and:

(a) To further study the costs of violence against women, including migrant workers, to the women themselves, their families and their communities;

(b) To analyse the opportunities available to women migrant workers and their impact on development;

(c) To support the improvement of macrodata on remittances, for appropriate policy formulation and implementation;

24. *Requests* Governments and international organizations to take appropriate measures to give due consideration to the declaration of the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held in New York on 3 and 4 October 2013, in order to ensure that the human rights and human development aspects of women's migration are adequately integrated into national, regional and international development policy and practice, such as poverty reduction strategies and strategies aimed at accelerating progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

25. *Encourages* the United Nations system and related entities to continue and step up their efforts and promote partnerships with all stakeholders, including civil society organizations, and to coordinate their work in support, as appropriate, of effective implementation of relevant inter-

national and regional instruments in order to enhance their impact through concrete positive outcomes for the advancement of women migrant workers' rights;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide a comprehensive, analytical and thematic report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the problem of violence against women migrant workers and on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account updated information from the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, UN-Women and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as the reports of special rapporteurs that refer to the situation of women migrant workers and other relevant sources, such as the International Organization for Migration, including non-governmental organizations.

### *Crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women*

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its twenty-second session (Vienna, 22–26 April) [E/2013/30 & Corr.1] (see p. 1196), recommended to the Economic and Social Council for approval a revised draft resolution on taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls for adoption by the General Assembly.

#### **ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION**

On 25 July [meeting 47], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice [E/2013/30 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 2013/36** without vote [agenda item 14 (c)].

#### **Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls**

*The Economic and Social Council*

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

[For text, see General Assembly resolution 68/191 below.]

#### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 18 December [meeting 70], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/68/457], adopted **resolution 68/191** without vote [agenda item 108].

#### **Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls**

*The General Assembly,*

*Deeply concerned* that the global prevalence of different manifestations of the gender-related killing of women and girls is reaching alarming proportions,

*Concerned* about violent gender-related killing of women and girls, while recognizing efforts made to address that form of violence in different regions, including in countries where the concept of femicide or feminicide has been incorporated into national legislation,

*Aware* that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms the principle of the inadmissibility of discrimination and proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration, especially to the right to life, liberty and security of person, without distinction of any kind, including distinction based on sex,

*Emphasizing* the importance of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, which defines violence against women as 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 spheres,

*Conscious* of the commitments undertaken by States parties through the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which requires State parties to take all appropriate political, social, economic and cultural measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men, taking into account the Optional Protocol to the Convention,

*Taking into consideration* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, which identifies violence against women as an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace, while emphasizing that such violence both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*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 the elimination of such discrimination 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 by victims of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Bearing in mind* the actions and measures that Member States should take to meet their international obligations with respect to putting an end to violence against women and girls,

*Recalling* the relevant General Assembly resolutions addressing various aspects of violence against women and girls of all ages,

*Stressing* the significance of the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as a way to assist countries in strengthening their national crime prevention and criminal justice capacities to respond to all forms of violence against women,

*Taking note* of the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and Consequences and Human Rights Council resolution 20/12 of 5 July 2012 on acceler-

ating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: remedies for women who have been subjected to violence,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the agreed conclusions of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women of 15 March 2013, in which, inter alia, the Commission urged all Governments to strengthen national legislation, where appropriate, to punish violent gender-related killing of women and girls and integrate specific mechanisms or policies to prevent, investigate and eradicate such deplorable forms of gender-based violence,

*Taking note with appreciation also* of the various initiatives taken at the regional level to prevent and address violence against women, including, for example, the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Region, the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings,

*Expressing its appreciation* for the work undertaken by the United Nations system in preventing and responding to all forms of violence against women and girls,

*Viewing with appreciation* the considerable input of many civil society organizations, as well as academia, in addressing the different forms of violence against women and girls, through research and direct action in their respective communities,

*Alarmed* by the fact that violence against women and girls is among the least punished crimes in the world,

*Deeply concerned* about the high level of impunity with regard to gender-related killing of women and girls, and recognizing the key role of the criminal justice system in preventing and responding to gender-related killing of women and girls, including in ending impunity for such crimes,

*Reaffirming* the commitment to working together to put an end to such crimes, in full compliance with international and national legal instruments,

1. *Urges* Member States to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish acts of violence against women and girls, in accordance with national laws;

2. *Also urges* Member States to consider undertaking institutional initiatives, as appropriate, to improve the prevention of gender-related killing of women and girls and the provision of legal protection, including appropriate remedies, reparation and compensation, to the victims of such crimes, in accordance with applicable national and international law and taking into account, as appropriate, the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power;

3. *Invites* Member States to adopt a variety of measures, including preventive measures and the enactment and implementation of legislation, that address gender-related killing of women and girls and to periodically review those measures with a view to improving them;

4. *Urges* Member States, acting at all levels, to end impunity by ensuring accountability and punishing perpetrators of those heinous crimes against women and girls;

5. *Also urges* Member States, as appropriate, to consider designing, implementing and evaluating comprehensive programmes aimed at preventing all forms of violence against women and girls and reducing related vulnerabilities of victims, as well as those risks unique to perpetrators of gender-related killing of women and girls, including by conducting research focused on public education and interventions that target those vulnerabilities and risks;

6. *Invites* Member States to strengthen the criminal justice response to gender-related killing of women and girls, in particular measures to support the capacity of Member States to investigate, prosecute and punish all forms of such crime and provide reparation and/or compensation to victims and their families or dependents, as appropriate, in accordance with national laws;

7. *Also invites* Member States to address the existing problems of underreporting by enhancing data collection and analysis, as well as sharing relevant data, in accordance with national laws, and related information on gender-related killing of women and girls, in order to inform the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of laws, policies and programmes;

8. *Calls upon* Member States to give due consideration to the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in order to strengthen national responses to gender-related killing of women and girls;

9. *Encourages* relevant United Nations entities and agencies, in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to support Member States in developing and implementing strategies and policies, upon request, at the national, regional and international levels to address and prevent gender-related killing of women and girls;

10. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network to facilitate the gathering and dissemination of relevant and reliable data and other related information to be provided by Member States on their efforts to implement the present resolution;

11. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network to continue conducting and coordinating relevant research on gender-related killing of women and girls, particularly in connection with the standardization of the collection and analysis of data;

12. *Encourages* relevant United Nations entities and agencies, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN-Women and other specialized funds and programmes of the United Nations, to raise awareness among Member States regarding gender-related killing of women and girls;

13. *Invites* Member States to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with information related to best practices and other relevant information related to the investigation and prosecution of these crimes, in accordance with national legislation, and in that regard encour-

ages civil society organizations and academia to share relevant information with the Office;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene an open-ended intergovernmental expert group meeting to discuss ways and means to more effectively prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish gender-related killing of women and girls, with a view to making practical recommendations, drawing also on current best practices, in consultation with relevant United Nations entities and human rights mechanisms, and welcomes the offer of the Government of Thailand to act as host to that meeting;

15. *Invites* Member States to give due consideration to ending violence against women and girls, as well as to the realization of gender equality and empowerment of women in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

16. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary contributions for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

## Women and armed conflict

### *Women, peace and security*

Pursuant to presidential statement S/PRST/2010/22 [YUN 2010, p. 1161], in which the Security Council requested an annual report on the implementation of resolution 1325(2000) [YUN 2000, p. 1113], and presidential statement S/PRST/2012/23 [YUN 2012, p. 1101], requesting information on achievements, gaps and challenges in implementing that resolution, the Secretary-General submitted a September report [S/2013/525] on women and peace and security. The report was based on contributions from 29 Member States, 8 regional organizations and 32 UN system entities. It focused on four broad areas of action: prevention, participation, protection, and peacebuilding and recovery.

The Secretary-General noted that measurable progress had taken place in all areas of the women, peace and security agenda in the form of increased provision of technical resources such as expertise and training. In the areas of prevention and protection, there had been a significant heightening of policy and operational focus on monitoring, prevention and prosecution of violence against women in conflict. In the previous year, increased attention had been paid to prevention in relation to conflict-related sexual violence, including a resolution adopted in June by the Security Council to strengthen monitoring and prevention (see p. 1112). Data on women's participation in formal conflict resolution had also indicated increases in the presence of women in negotiating parties' delegations in processes supported by the United Nations, in addition to the inclusion of gender-sensitive language in some peace agreements. Although good practices had emerged in all areas, the Secretary-General observed that there were still deficits in opportunities for women to exer-

cise leadership; in resources provided to address their needs, and in the capacity and commitment of peace and security actors to place women's participation and protection at the centre of all approaches. Specific measures were required to create mechanisms for sustained consultation between women and national and international decision makers. He recommended that Member States, regional organizations and UN entities begin reviewing existing implementation plans and targets, assess progress and prepare to formulate new and ambitious targets, where needed, in time for the fifteenth anniversary of resolution 1325(2000) in 2015.

On supporting implementation of the resolutions on women and peace and security, the Secretary-General recommended that when establishing and renewing mission mandates, a more consistent approach to the inclusion of gender-specific provisions could be sought by the Security Council. He encouraged Member States and the UN system to place gender experts with specific technical skills in the substantive sections of UN peace operations; deploy women protection advisers to monitor and report on sexual violence in all relevant situations; and provide training to staff on conflict analysis from a gender perspective. He requested the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN-Women to assess the impact of State-building and decentralization in post-conflict contexts on women's rights and capacity to participate in local decision-making and public service delivery. In the light of the Council's intention to convene in 2015 a high-level review of progress in its implementation, he further recommended that an independent global study be carried out on the implementation of resolution 1325(2000), highlighting good practice examples, implementation gaps and challenges, and emerging trends and priorities for action.

**Security Council consideration (October).** On 18 October [S/PV.7044], the Council considered the Secretary-General's report and a concept paper submitted by Azerbaijan [S/2013/587] on women, the rule of law and transitional justice in conflict-affected situations. Following the adoption of resolution 2122(2013) (see p. 1109), the Secretary-General welcomed the call for concrete actions to increase the number of women in peacemaking and to improve the way gender issues were addressed by peace and security institutions, including the Council. He noted that those priorities were featured in his seven-point action plan on gender-responsive peacebuilding [YUN 2012, p. 8]. The UN-Women Executive Director stated that the resolution was about the leadership of women as peacemakers and that it was up to the United Nations, UN-Women and Member States to ensure that women were at the peace table as mediators. On the topic of the debate, she said that the Council had paid increased attention to transitional justice, recognizing that victims had a right to truth, justice and reparations. She observed

that in some contexts, however, the law itself was gender-biased and failed to criminalize some forms of violence against women. Even where laws were consistent with international human rights standards, authorities might be inconsistent in their application. She also welcomed the adoption in June of resolution 2106(2013) (see p. 1112) to strengthen capacities to stop the use of sexual violence as a tactic of warfare.

#### SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 18 October [meeting 7044], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2122(2013)**. The draft [S/2013/614] was submitted by 46 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, 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960(2010) of 16 December 2010 and 2106(2013) of 24 June 2013 and all relevant statements by its President,

*Recalling* the commitments of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and reaffirming the obligations of States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto, and urging States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to them,

*Bearing in mind* the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the primary responsibility of the Security Council under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security, and noting that the focus of the present resolution is, in this regard, the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda,

*Reaffirming* that women's and girls' empowerment and gender equality are critical to efforts to maintain international peace and security, and emphasizing that persisting barriers to full implementation of resolution 1325(2000) will only be dismantled through dedicated commitment to women's empowerment, participation and human rights and through concerted leadership, consistent information and action and support, to build women's engagement in all levels of decision-making,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General of 4 September 2013 and the progress and emergence of good practice across several areas, including in prevention and protection, and the significant heightening of policy and operational focus on the monitoring, prevention and prosecution of violence against women in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, but remaining deeply concerned about persistent implementation deficits in the women and peace and security agenda, including in protection from human rights abuses and violations, opportunities for women to exercise leadership, resources provided to address their needs and which will help them to exercise their rights, and the capacities and commitment of all actors involved in the implementation of resolution 1325(2000) and subsequent resolutions to advance women's participation and protection,

*Expressing concern* at women's exacerbated vulnerability in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, particularly in relation to forced displacement, as a result of unequal

citizenship rights, gender-biased application of asylum laws, and obstacles to registering and accessing identity documents which occur in many situations,

*Expressing deep concern* at the full range of threats and human rights violations and abuses experienced by women in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, recognizing that those women and girls who are particularly vulnerable or disadvantaged may be specifically targeted or at increased risk of violence, and recognizing in this regard that more must be done to ensure that transitional justice measures address the full range of violations and abuses of the human rights of women and the differentiated impacts on women and girls of these violations and abuses, as well as forced displacement, enforced disappearances and destruction of civilian infrastructure,

*Recognizing* the importance of Member States and United Nations entities seeking to ensure that humanitarian aid and funding includes provision for the full range of medical, legal, psychosocial and livelihood services to women affected by armed conflict and post-conflict situations, and noting the need for access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health services, including regarding pregnancies resulting from rape, without discrimination,

*Reiterating its strong condemnation* of all violations of international law committed against and/or directly affecting civilians, including women and girls, in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, including those involving rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence, killing and maiming, obstructions to humanitarian aid and mass forced displacement,

*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, and reaffirming that parties to armed conflict bear the primary responsibility to ensure the protection of civilians,

*Reaffirming* that sustainable peace requires an integrated approach based on coherence between political, security, development, human rights, including gender equality, and rule of law and justice activities, and in this regard emphasizing the importance of the rule of law as one of the key elements of conflict prevention, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and peacebuilding,

*Recognizing* the need for more systematic attention to the implementation of women and peace and security commitments in its own work, particularly to ensure the enhancement of women's engagement in conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding, and noting in this regard the need for timely and systematic reporting on women and peace and security,

*Taking note* of the critical contributions of civil society, including women's organizations, to conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding and, in this regard, the importance of sustained consultation and dialogue between women and national and international decision makers,

*Recognizing* the need to address the gaps and strengthen links between the United Nations peace and security in the field, human rights and development work as a means to address root causes of armed conflict and threats to the security of women and girls in the pursuit of international peace and security,

*Recognizing also* that the economic empowerment of women greatly contributes to the stabilization of societies

emerging from armed conflict, and welcoming the declaration of the Peacebuilding Commission on women's economic empowerment for peacebuilding, of 26 September 2013,

*Acknowledging* the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty, and noting the provisions in article 7, paragraph 4, of the Treaty that exporting States parties shall take into account the risk of covered conventional arms or items being used to commit or facilitate serious acts of gender-based violence or serious acts of violence against women and children,

*Looking forward* to the important contribution that implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty can make to reducing violence perpetrated against women and girls in armed conflict and post-conflict situations,

*Welcoming* the efforts of Member States, and recognizing the efforts of regional and subregional organizations, in implementing resolution 1325(2000) and subsequent resolutions on women and peace and security at the regional, national and local levels, including the development of action plans and implementation frameworks, and encouraging Member States to continue to pursue such implementation, including through strengthened monitoring, evaluation and coordination,

1. *Recognizes* the need for consistent implementation of resolution 1325(2000) in its own work, and intends to focus more attention on women's leadership and participation in conflict resolution and peacebuilding, including by monitoring progress in implementation and addressing challenges linked to the lack and quality of information and analysis on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, the role of women in peacebuilding and the gender dimensions of peace processes and conflict resolution;

2. *Also recognizes* the need for timely information and analysis on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, the role of women in peacebuilding and the gender dimensions of peace processes and conflict resolution for situations on the agenda of the Security Council, and therefore:

(a) Welcomes more regular briefings by the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict on issues of relevance to women and peace and security;

(b) Requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat and relevant senior officials, as part of their regular briefings, to update the Council on issues relevant to women and peace and security, including implementation;

(c) Requests the Secretary-General and his Special Envoys and Special Representatives to United Nations missions, as part of their regular briefings, to update the Council on progress in inviting women to participate, including through consultations with civil society, including women's organizations, in discussions pertinent to the prevention and resolution of conflict, the maintenance of peace and security and post-conflict peacebuilding;

(d) Requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs to systematically include information and related recommendations on issues of relevance to women and peace and security in their reports to the Council;

(e) Invites all United Nations-established commissions of inquiry investigating situations on the agenda of

the Council to include in their briefings information on the differentiated impacts of armed conflict on women and girls, especially emphasizing recommendations to advance accountability, justice and protection for victims, during armed conflict and in post-conflict and transitional contexts;

3. *Expresses its intention* to increase its attention to issues related to women and peace and security in all relevant thematic areas of work on its agenda, including in particular the protection of civilians in armed conflict, post-conflict peacebuilding, the promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security, peace and security in Africa, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, and the maintenance of international peace and security;

4. *Reiterates its intention*, when establishing and renewing the mandates of United Nations missions, to include provisions on the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women in conflict and post-conflict situations, including through the appointment of gender advisers as appropriate, and further expresses its intention to include provisions to facilitate women's full participation and protection in election preparation and political processes, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, security sector and judicial reforms, and wider post-conflict reconstruction processes where these are mandated tasks within the mission;

5. *Requests* United Nations peacekeeping mission leadership to assess the human rights violations and abuses of women in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, and requests peacekeeping missions, in keeping with their mandates, to address the security threats and protection challenges faced by women and girls in armed conflict and post-conflict settings;

6. *Recognizes* the importance of interactions of civil society, including women's organizations, with members of the Council at headquarters and during Council field missions, and commits to ensuring that its periodic field visits to conflict areas include interactive meetings with local women and women's organizations in the field;

7. *Also recognizes* the continuing need to increase the participation of women and the consideration of gender-related issues in all discussions pertinent to the prevention and resolution of armed conflict, the maintenance of peace and security, and post-conflict peacebuilding, and in this regard the Council:

(a) Requests the Special Envoys and Special Representatives of the Secretary-General to United Nations missions, from early on in their deployment, to regularly consult with women's organizations and women leaders, including socially and/or economically excluded groups of women;

(b) Encourages concerned Member States to develop dedicated funding mechanisms to support the work and enhance capacities of organizations that support women's leadership development and full participation in all levels of decision-making, regarding the implementation of resolution 1325(2000), inter alia, through increasing contributions to local civil society;

(c) Requests the Secretary-General to strengthen the knowledge of negotiating delegations to peace talks, and members of mediation support teams on the gender dimensions of peacebuilding by making gender expertise and gender experts available to all United Nations mediation teams, further requests the Secretary-General to support the



appointment of women at senior levels as United Nations mediators and within the composition of United Nations mediation teams, and calls upon all parties to such peace talks to facilitate the equal and full participation of women at decision-making levels;

8. *Stresses* the importance of those Member States conducting post-conflict electoral processes and constitutional reform continuing their efforts, with support from United Nations entities, to ensure the full and equal participation of women in all phases of electoral processes, noting that specific attention must be paid to women's safety prior to and during elections;

9. *Encourages* troop- and police-contributing countries to increase the percentage of women military and police in deployments to United Nations peacekeeping operations, and further encourages troop- and police-contributing countries to provide all military and police personnel with adequate training to carry out their responsibilities, and relevant United Nations entities to make available appropriate guidance or training modules, including in particular the United Nations predeployment scenario-based training on prevention of sexual and gender-based violence;

10. *Stresses* the need for continued efforts to address obstacles in women's access to justice in conflict and post-conflict settings, including through gender-responsive legal, judicial and security sector reform and other mechanisms;

11. *Urges* all parties concerned, including Member States, United Nations entities and financial institutions, to support the development and strengthening of the capacities of national institutions, in particular of judicial and health systems, and of local civil society networks in order to provide sustainable assistance to women and girls affected by armed conflict and post-conflict situations;

12. *Calls upon* Member States to comply with their relevant obligations to end impunity and to thoroughly investigate and prosecute persons responsible for war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity or other serious violations of international humanitarian law, and further notes that the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern 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;

13. *Recalls*, in this regard, applicable provisions of international law on the right to reparations for violations of individual rights;

14. *Urges* Member States and United Nations entities to ensure the full and meaningful participation of women in efforts to combat and eradicate the illicit transfer and misuse of small arms and light weapons;

15. *Reiterates its intention* to convene a high-level review in 2015 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); further recognizes with concern that without a significant implementation shift, women and women's perspectives will continue to be underrepresented in conflict prevention, resolution, protection and peacebuilding for the foreseeable future, and as such encourages those Member States, regional organizations as appropriate, and United Nations entities that have developed frameworks and plans to support the implementation of resolution 1325(2000) to start reviewing

existing implementation plans and targets, and for Member States to assess and accelerate progress and prepare to formulate new targets, in time for the 2015 high-level review;

16. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in preparation for the high-level review, to commission a global study on the implementation of resolution 1325(2000), highlighting good practice examples, implementation gaps and challenges, as well as emerging trends and priorities for action, and further invites the Secretary-General to submit, within his annual report to the Council in 2015, the results of this study and to make this available to all States Members of the United Nations;

17. *Expresses its intention* to make the implementation of the women and peace and security mandate of the Council a focus of one of its periodic field visits in advance of the 2015 high-level review;

18. *Requests* that the Secretary-General continue to submit annual reports to the Council providing a progress update on the implementation of resolution 1325(2000), submit his next report by October 2014 and include in that report an update of progress across all areas of the women and peace and security agenda, highlighting gaps and challenges;

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

### *Sexual violence and armed conflict*

In response to Security Council resolution 1960(2010) [YUN 2010, p. 1164], and to presidential statement S/PRST/2012/23 [YUN 2012, p. 1101], the Secretary-General submitted a March report [A/67/792-S/2013/149] on sexual violence in conflict, covering the period from December 2011 to December 2012. The report highlighted actions taken and challenges faced by States in conflict and post-conflict situations to protect women, men and children from sexual violence; the implementation of the monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements; the deployment of women's protection advisers; the engagement by the UN Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict; efforts of the UN system; and recommendations to strengthen efforts to combat the crime.

Although the primary sources of information for the report were UN peacekeeping and political missions and UN country teams, consultations also involved concerned Member States, NGOs and the 13 UN entities comprising the United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action) [YUN 2007, p. 1168]. On 2 September 2012, Zainab Hawa Bangura (Sierra Leone) replaced Margot Wallström (Sweden) as the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Sexual Violence in Conflict and the chairperson of UN Action. The new Special Representative would focus on consolidating the gains made on the five-point priority agenda established by her predecessor, namely, to address impunity, empower war-affected women so that they seek redress and realize their rights, strengthen the political will to comprehensively address sexual violence, harmonize and scale up the international response, and enhance understanding of sexual violence as a tactic and consequence of war. As

an additional priority, she would emphasize the need to foster national ownership, leadership and responsibility in addressing sexual violence.

The report identified emerging concerns regarding sexual violence as it related to international peace and security, including the perpetration of sexual violence against men and boys, the plight of children born as a result of rape, and the practice of forced marriages by armed groups. It also drew attention to the correlation between sexual violence and flawed disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform programmes; the use of sexual violence to forcibly displace populations; the correlation between spikes in incidents of sexual violence and military activity linked to the illegal extraction of natural resources; and the use of rape and sexual slavery by armed actors. Information was provided on parties to armed conflict credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for sexual violence in 12 countries, and on initiatives taken in seven countries to address sexual violence in post-conflict situations.

In other developments, the report indicated that there had been a number of prosecutions of members of security forces and armed groups responsible for committing acts of sexual violence. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights had developed and piloted a training programme on monitoring and investigating conflict-related sexual violence for human rights officers and other personnel. The Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict, established by Council resolution 1888(2009) [YUN 2009, p. 1137], continued to develop a roster of experts capable of complementing its work and to coordinate its efforts with other international entities. The Security Council's unique ability to impose targeted sanctions and raise the stakes for perpetrators was also highlighted as an important aspect of deterrence.

The Secretary-General called upon all parties to conflict responsible for or credibly suspected of acts of sexual violence to cease such violations and to make specific and time-bound protection commitments that included: clear orders through chains of command and codes of conduct prohibiting sexual violence; timely investigation of alleged violations; immediate identification and release from their ranks of those most vulnerable to sexual violence, especially women and children; designation of a high-level interlocutor responsible for ensuring implementation of commitments; and cooperation with the United Nations to monitor compliance. He also called on the Council, *inter alia*, to increase pressure on perpetrators of sexual violence in conflict through the adoption of targeted and graduated measures by relevant sanctions committees; consider establishing a mechanism or procedure to monitor commitments by parties; systematically reflect sexual violence in conflict in all relevant country resolutions and in authorizations and renewals of

mandates of peace operations; remain seized of the status of deployment of women's protection advisers to UN peace operations and special political missions; and call for and monitor efforts to address sexual violence concerns in the context of security sector reform processes. He encouraged Member States, donors and regional organizations to ensure the provision of medical, legal and other multisectoral services to survivors, and that such services were tailored to the specific needs of girls and boys; ensure that reparations were established and made available for the victims of sexual violence in conflict; consider accepting sexual violence in conflict as a form of persecution that should lead to the recognition of refugee status for affected individuals; facilitate improved data collection and analysis on the linkages between illicit small arms and light weapons and conflict-related sexual violence; and draw upon the expertise of the Team of Experts (see above) to strengthen the rule of law and capacity of civilian and military justice systems to address sexual violence.

**Security Council consideration (June).** On 24 June [S/PV.6984], the Council considered the Secretary-General's report and a concept paper submitted by the United Kingdom [S/2013/335] on women and peace and security: sexual violence in conflict, subtitled "Addressing impunity: effective justice for crimes of sexual violence in conflict". Prior to the adoption of resolution 2106(2013) (see below), the Secretary-General, the UN-Women Executive Director, UNHCR Special Envoy Angelina Jolie (United States) and a representative from the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice made statements.

#### SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 24 June [meeting 6984], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2106(2013)**. The draft [S/2013/368] was submitted by 46 Member States.

##### *The Security Council,*

*Reaffirming its commitment* to the continuing and full implementation, in a mutually reinforcing manner, of resolutions 1265(1999) of 17 September 1999, 1296(2000) of 19 April 2000, 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, 1612(2005) of 26 July 2005, 1674(2006) of 28 April 2006, 1738(2006) of 23 December 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, 1894(2009) of 11 November 2009, 1960(2010) of 16 December 2010, 1998(2011) of 12 July 2011 and 2068(2012) of 19 September 2012, and all relevant statements by its President,

*Thanking* the Secretary-General for his report of 14 March 2013 and taking note of the analysis and recommendations contained therein, but remaining deeply concerned over the slow implementation of important aspects of resolution 1960(2010) to prevent sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, and noting, as documented in the report of the Secretary-General, that sexual violence occurs in such situations throughout the world,

*Recognizing* the declaration on preventing sexual violence in conflict, adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of

the Group of Eight in London on 11 April 2013, and the commitments it makes in this regard,

*Recognizing also* that consistent and rigorous prosecution of sexual violence crimes, as well as national ownership and responsibility in addressing the root causes of sexual violence in armed conflict are central to deterrence and prevention, as is challenging the myths that sexual violence in armed conflict is a cultural phenomenon or an inevitable consequence of war or a lesser crime,

*Affirming* that women's political, social and economic empowerment, gender equality and the enlistment of men and boys in the effort to combat all forms of violence against women are central to long-term efforts to prevent sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations and emphasizing the importance of the full implementation of resolution 1325(2000) while noting the ongoing work on a set of indicators for the implementation of resolution 1325(2000) and subsequent resolutions on women and peace and security, and recognizing the efforts of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in this area,

*Noting with concern* that sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations disproportionately affects women and girls, as well as groups that are particularly vulnerable or may be specifically targeted, while also affecting men and boys and those secondarily traumatized as forced witnesses of sexual violence against family members, and emphasizing that acts of sexual violence in such situations not only severely impede the critical contributions of women to society, but also impede durable peace and security as well as sustainable development,

*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, and reaffirming that parties to armed conflict bear the primary responsibility to ensure the protection of civilians,

*Reaffirming its respect* for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

*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,

*Noting* the provision in the Arms Trade Treaty that exporting States parties shall take into account the risk of covered conventional arms or items being used to commit or facilitate serious acts of gender-based violence or serious acts of violence against women and children,

*Recalling* that international humanitarian law prohibits rape and other forms of sexual violence,

*Recalling also* the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces as a tool to enhance compliance with international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law, including to address sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General, and stressing that the present resolution 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 within 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 these situations,

1. *Affirms* that sexual violence, when used or commissioned as a method or 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, emphasizes in this regard that effective steps to prevent and respond to such acts significantly contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security, and stresses women's participation as essential to any prevention and protection response;

2. *Notes* that sexual violence can constitute a crime against humanity or a constitutive act with respect to genocide, further recalls that rape and other forms of serious sexual violence in armed conflict are war crimes, calls upon Member States to comply with their relevant obligations to continue to fight impunity by investigating and prosecuting those subject to their jurisdiction who are responsible for such crimes, encourages Member States to include the full range of crimes of sexual violence in national penal legislation to enable prosecutions for such acts, and recognizes that effective investigation and documentation of sexual violence in armed conflict is instrumental both in bringing perpetrators to justice and ensuring access to justice for survivors;

3. *Also 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 reiterates its intention to continue forcefully to fight impunity and uphold accountability with appropriate means;

4. *Draws attention* to the importance of a comprehensive approach to transitional justice in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, encompassing the full range of judicial and non-judicial measures, as appropriate;

5. *Recognizes* the need for more systematic monitoring of and attention to sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations and other women and peace and security commitments in its own work, and in this regard expresses its intent to employ, as appropriate, all means at its disposal to ensure women's participation in all aspects of mediation, post-conflict recovery and peacebuilding and to address sexual violence in conflict, including in the establishment and review of peacekeeping and political mandates, public statements, country visits, fact-finding missions, international commissions of inquiry, consultations with regional bodies and in the work of relevant Security Council sanctions committees;

6. *Also recognizes* the need for more timely, objective, accurate and reliable information as a basis for prevention and response, and requests the Secretary-General and relevant United Nations entities to accelerate the establishment and implementation of monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence, including rape in situations of armed conflict and post-conflict and other situations relevant to the implementation of resolution 1888(2009), as appropriate, and taking into account the specificity of each country;

7. *Calls for* the further deployment of women's protection advisers in accordance with resolution 1888(2009) to facilitate the implementation of Council resolutions on women and peace and security and calls upon the Secretary-General

to ensure that the need for and the number and roles of women's protection advisers are systematically assessed during the planning and review of each United Nations peacekeeping and political mission, and to ensure that these experts are adequately trained and deployed in a timely manner, and recognizes the role of United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict in facilitating coordinated responses of relevant peacekeeping, humanitarian, human rights, political and security actors and emphasizes the need for enhanced coordination, information sharing, analysis, response planning and implementation across these sectors;

8. *Recognizes* the distinct role of gender advisers in ensuring that gender perspectives are mainstreamed in policies, planning and implementation by all mission elements, and calls upon the Secretary-General to continue to deploy gender advisers to the relevant United Nations peacekeeping and political missions as well as humanitarian operations and to ensure comprehensive gender training of all relevant peacekeeping and civilian personnel;

9. *Acknowledges* the efforts of United Nations entities in ensuring United Nations commissions of inquiry in armed conflict and post-conflict situations have, where necessary, sexual and gender-based crimes expertise to accurately document such crimes, and encourages all Member States to support these efforts;

10. *Reiterates its demand* for the complete cessation with immediate effect by all parties to armed conflict of all acts of sexual violence and its call for these parties to make and implement specific time-bound commitments to combat sexual violence, which should include, inter alia, issuance of clear orders through chains of command prohibiting sexual violence and accountability for breaching these orders, the prohibition of sexual violence in codes of conduct, military and police field manuals or equivalent, and to make and implement specific commitments on timely investigation of alleged abuses and further calls upon all relevant parties to armed conflict to cooperate in the framework of such commitments, with appropriate United Nations mission personnel who monitor their implementation, and calls upon the parties to designate, as appropriate, a high-level representative responsible for ensuring implementation of such commitments;

11. *Emphasizes* the important role that can be played by women, civil society, including women's organizations, and formal and informal community leaders in exerting influence over parties to armed conflict with respect to addressing sexual violence;

12. *Reiterates* the importance of addressing sexual violence in armed conflict whenever relevant, in mediation efforts, ceasefires and peace agreements, requests the Secretary-General, Member States and regional organizations, where appropriate, to ensure that mediators and envoys, in situations where it is used as a method or tactic of war, or as part of a widespread or systematic attack against civilian populations, engage on sexual violence issues, including with women, civil society, including women's organizations, and survivors of sexual violence, and ensure that such concerns are reflected in specific provisions of peace agreements, including those related to security arrangements and transitional justice mechanisms, urges the inclusion of sexual violence in the definition of acts prohibited by ceasefires and in provisions for ceasefire monitoring, and stresses the need for the exclusion of sexual violence

crimes from amnesty provisions in the context of conflict resolution processes;

13. *Urges* existing sanctions committees, where within the scope of the relevant criteria for designation, and consistent with resolution 1960(2010), to apply targeted sanctions against those who perpetrate and direct sexual violence in conflict, and 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 serious sexual violence;

14. *Recognizes* the role of United Nations peacekeeping contingents in preventing sexual violence, and in this respect calls for all predeployment and in-mission training of troop- and police-contributing country contingents to include training on sexual and gender-based violence, which also takes into account the distinct needs of children, and further encourages troop- and police-contributing countries to increase the number of women recruited and deployed in peace operations;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue and strengthen efforts to implement the policy of zero tolerance on sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel, and urges concerned Member States to ensure full accountability, including prosecutions, in cases of such conduct involving their nationals;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General and relevant United Nations entities to assist national authorities, with the effective participation of women, in addressing sexual violence concerns explicitly in:

(a) Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes, including by establishing protection mechanisms for women and children in cantonment sites, as well as for civilians in close proximity to cantonment sites and in communities of return, and by offering trauma and reintegration support to women and children formerly associated with armed groups, as well as ex-combatants;

(b) Security sector reform processes and arrangements, including through the provision of adequate training for security personnel, encouraging the inclusion of more women in the security sector and effective vetting processes in order to exclude from the security sector those who have perpetrated or are responsible for acts of sexual violence;

(c) Justice sector reform initiatives, including through legislative and policy reforms that address sexual violence; training in sexual and gender-based violence of justice and security sector professionals and the inclusion of more women at professional levels in these sectors; and judicial proceedings that take into account the distinct needs and protection of witnesses as well as survivors of sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, and their family members;

17. *Recognizes* that women who have been forcefully abducted into armed groups and armed forces, as well as children, are especially vulnerable to sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations and, as such, demands that parties to armed conflict immediately identify and release such persons from their ranks;

18. *Encourages* concerned Member States to draw upon the expertise of the United Nations Team of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1888(2009), as appropriate, to strengthen the rule of law and the capacity of civilian and military justice systems to address sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations as part of broader efforts to strengthen institutional safeguards against impunity;

19. *Recognizing* the importance of providing timely assistance to survivors of sexual violence, urges United Nations entities and donors to provide non-discriminatory and comprehensive health services, including sexual and reproductive health, psychosocial, legal and livelihood support and other multi-sectoral services for survivors of sexual violence, taking into account the specific needs of persons with disabilities, calls for support to national institutions and local civil society networks in increasing resources and strengthening capacities to provide the above-mentioned services to survivors of sexual violence, encourages Member States and donors to support national and international programmes that assist victims of sexual violence, such as the Trust Fund for Victims established by the Rome Statute and its implementing partners, and requests the relevant United Nations entities to increase the allocation of resources for the coordination of gender-based violence response and service provision;

20. *Notes* the link between sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations and HIV infection, and the disproportionate burden of HIV and AIDS on women and girls as a persistent obstacle and challenge to gender equality, and urges United Nations entities, Member States and donors to support the development and strengthening of capacities of national health systems and civil society networks in order to provide sustainable assistance to women and girls living with or affected by HIV and AIDS in armed conflict and post-conflict situations;

21. *Underlines* the important roles that civil society organizations, including women's organizations, and networks can play in enhancing community-level protection against sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations and supporting survivors in accessing justice and reparations;

22. *Requests* that the Secretary-General continue to submit annual reports to the Council on the implementation of women and peace and security resolutions and the present resolution, and to submit his next report by March 2014;

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

## Women in power and decision-making

### *Women and political participation*

In response to General Assembly resolution 66/130 [YUN 2011, p. 1078], the Secretary-General, in a July report [A/68/184], provided data on the political participation of women at all levels; described measures taken by Member States to ensure women's equal participation; and provided recommendations for further action to accelerate the achievement of gender equality in political participation. Examples in the report were based on the responses from 42 Member States and seven UN entities. It also drew on the report of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and practice (see p. 716).

While some progress had been achieved over the previous three decades, women remained marginalized from political decision-making in every region of the world, which was reflected in the low numerical presence of women in elected and appointed bodies. At the legislative level, only 35 national parliaments comprised 30 per cent or more women as at June 2013. The

majority of Member States (115) registered between 10 and 29 per cent women members of parliament. In 64 per cent of the States there were no legislated gender quotas. Regular reporting on the proportion of women Heads of State and Government showed an incremental increase. In 2013, 8 women served as elected Heads of State and 13 served as Heads of Government, compared to 6 Heads of State and 3 Heads of Government in 2000. Women's representation in executive or ministerial positions was lower than in parliament. Worldwide, in 2012, women accounted for just 16.7 per cent of ministerial positions. Data on women in the judiciary, as well as sex-disaggregated data on nominated public office holders and voter participation, was scarce or uneven.

The report concluded that important strides had been made by countries to promote women's political participation, yet many obstacles remained. Member States cited gender-based discrimination, stereotypes and traditionally prescribed roles, unfavourable legal frameworks, lack of financial resources, lack of support by political parties and male incumbency as persistent challenges. The Secretary-General indicated that a greater level of concerted action was needed to ensure women's equal participation with men in political and public life. He encouraged Member States to show stronger political commitment by adopting comprehensive strategies that addressed the barriers to women's participation in decision-making, by ensuring a solid framework for gender equality; strengthening the legislative basis of gender balance at the national, sub-national and local levels; introducing political finance or other incentives to political parties to increase the number of women candidates nominated; increasing the proportion of women in appointed positions; and ensuring that data on women's political participation at all levels is systematically collected, and that sex-disaggregated data is reported on candidates, voter registration and voter turnout. He also made recommendations to political parties, as gatekeepers to the political process, and to UN system entities to support and complement the efforts of Member States to provide data on women's political participation; and training to support women's participation in electoral processes and political and other leadership activities.

By **decision 68/532** of 18 December, the General Assembly took note of the report.

### *Women and disarmament*

In response to General Assembly resolution 67/48 [YUN 2012, p. 470] the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/68/166] on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, which provided information on measures taken by Member States and activities within the UN system to implement the resolution. Responses to the Secretary-General's request for information on ways and means of promoting the role of women in those three areas were received from 11 Mem-

ber States, the European Union and six UN entities. An addendum [A/68/166/Add.1] contained the reply by Italy.

On 5 December, the General Assembly, in **resolution 68/33** (see p. 467), requested the relevant UN system entities to assist States, upon request, in promoting the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, including in preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons; and requested the Secretary-General to report on implementation of the resolution at its sixty-ninth (2014) session.

## **Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women**

### *Inter-Agency Network*

The United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE), at its twelfth annual session (New York, 27 February–1 March) [IANWGE/2013/Report], focused on the post-2015 development framework. It discussed system-wide efforts for addressing violence against women in a coherent manner; gender balance and accountability for the UN system's work on gender equality and the empowerment of women, including the roll-out of the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (un-swap); and capacity-development for effective gender mainstreaming. Members of IANWGE were also briefed on the preparations and key issues for the fifty-seventh (2013) session of the Commission on the Status of Women (see p. 1127); the advances towards the United Nations Coordination Framework on Women's Economic Empowerment; and the preparatory work towards the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women [YUN 1995, p. 1168] and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action [ibid, p. 1170]. The IANWGE task forces reported on progress made in 2012 and their work plans for 2013.

On gender balance and status of women in the UN system, the Network reported that, notwithstanding positive trends, progress remained insufficient and that part of the reason for slow progress was attitudinal. Recommendations were made for UN-Women to consider holding an emergency general meeting on special measures in 2013 or 2014; and for senior managers to investigate and address the underlying causes of the high proportion of women on temporary contracts relative to their proportions on contracts of one year or more. Participants also emphasized the need for child-care provisions and breastfeeding facilities.

On the work of the task forces, it was decided that the Task Force on Women's Access to Justice would present its final report of the mapping exercise of programming in non-conflict situations at the IANWGE intersessional meeting and was not expected to continue its work in the future. The Task Force on Gender and

Migration would focus its 2013 activities in preparation for the high-level dialogue on international migration and development in October (see p. 1025). Other topics considered at the session included UNDP Seal, a corporate certification process that recognized good performance of UNDP offices in delivering transformational gender equality results; ways to strengthen collaboration between IANWGE and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (see p. 1126); the follow-up to General Assembly resolution 67/226 [YUN 2012, p. 859], which had placed an unprecedented emphasis on gender equality and the empowerment of women as central to the UN operational activities; and the way forward, including the organization of the joint biennial workshop of IANWGE and the Gender Equality Network of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (Paris, 6–7 November).

### *Mainstreaming a gender perspective in the UN system*

In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/24 [YUN 2012, p. 1107], the Secretary-General, in a May report [E/2013/71], assessed progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the UN system, with an emphasis on accountability for system-wide work on gender equality and the empowerment of women, including the roll-out of the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (un-swap) under the leadership of UN-Women. He also provided an overview of remaining gaps and challenges and included recommendations for accelerated action, for consideration by the Council. The report drew on information provided by 55 UN entities under un-swap and the 2012 annual reports of 123 resident coordinators. The System-wide Action Plan set 15 performance indicators clustered in six broad areas: accountability; results-based management; oversight through monitoring, evaluation and reporting; human and financial resources; staff capacity; and coherence, coordination and knowledge management. The results of the first year of reporting would establish the baseline against which all future progress would be measured. UN system entities, departments and offices had until 2017 to meet the performance standards.

Considerable, consistent and determined effort was required for a majority of UN entities to meet the performance standards by 2017. The UN system as a whole met or exceeded requirements in only 31 per cent of ratings on performance indicators. The UN Secretariat met or exceeded requirements in 29 per cent of ratings, and specialized entities with a technical focus met or exceeded requirements in 12 per cent of ratings. Of all reporting entities, 13 per cent had developed policies or plans aligned with the System-wide Action Plan in 2012, and a further 20 per cent were expected to do so in 2013. Of the funds and programmes, 86 per cent had a gender equality policy, and the rest were work-

ing on introducing one. To further drive this trend, UN-Women prepared guidance on developing gender equality policies aligned with the System Action Plan. It was anticipated that most UN system entities would have developed such policies by 2017. Where indicators were not met, reporting under the System Action Plan required the submission of remedial plans, including timelines, resources and responsibility for follow-up action. These plans were a central part of internal and external dialogue to address gaps and challenges. Based on analysis by UN-Women, the quality of remedial plans could be strengthened, as only 34 per cent of plans were considered of good quality, 22 per cent were adequate and 44 per cent were inadequate. Factors most critical for progress included commitment of senior management; endorsement of a gender equality policy; adequate staffing, resources and capacity for promoting gender equality; and clarity of responsibility and accountability.

The UN system had made efforts to strengthen internal capacity related to gender equality and the empowerment of women through web-based and online courses; and the number of UN country teams investing in their own capacities to support gender-equality had more than doubled—from 24 in 2004 to 64 in 2012. The review of resident coordinator reports indicated increased efforts to incorporate gender perspectives within the UN system programming cycle at the country level. Accountability mechanisms for senior managers and staff, as well as results-based management frameworks had also been used. Despite the progress achieved, more needed to be done to address gaps and challenges.

The Secretary-General recommended that the Economic and Social Council call upon the UN system to continue to roll out the System Action Plan and report on progress made in its implementation, including on remedial action plans; invest in remedying the gaps identified through the System Action Plan reporting to support progress towards meeting the standards set; and ensure that the various accountability mechanisms of the UN system provided for more coherent, accurate, and effective monitoring, evaluation and reporting on gender equality results and on the tracking of gender-related resource allocation and expenditure.

#### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 24 July [meeting 45], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2013/16** [draft: E/2013/L.14] without vote [agenda item 7 (c)].

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

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*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 1998/43 of 31 July 1998, 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, 2009/12 of 28 July 2009, 2010/29 of 23 July 2010, 2011/6 of 14 July 2011 and 2012/24 of 27 July 2012,

*Reaffirming* also 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, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming further that their full, effective and accelerated implementation is integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

*Reaffirming* further the commitment made at the 2005 World Summit 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 and to further undertake to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender,

*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, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 67/226 of 21 December 2012, entitled “Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system”, including in particular section III.D on gender equality and empowerment of women,

*Recalling* the section of General Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010, entitled “Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women”,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General, and appreciates that it is the first report on gender mainstreaming to provide a systemic and comprehensive approach to data collection through the United Nations system;

2. *Also welcomes* the recommendations contained in the report, 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 United Nations resolutions, in particular those of the Economic and Social Council;

3. *Stresses* that the Inter-agency Network on Women and Gender Equality constitutes a key forum for achieving more effective coordination, coherence and gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system and for the exchange and cross-fertilization of ideas and practical experiences on gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system, and looks forward to the continued implementation of the policy and strategy for gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the important work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) for more effective and coherent gender mainstreaming across the United Nations and its role in leading, coordinating and promoting accounta-

bility of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women, as established by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/289, and recognizes its role in assisting Member States upon their request;

5. *Requests* the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds and programmes, within their respective mandates, to accelerate mainstreaming the issue of gender in accordance with previous Economic and Social Council resolutions, in particular resolution 2008/34, and General Assembly resolutions 64/289 and 67/226, 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 reporting, monitoring and evaluation so as to allow for 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;

6. *Also requests* the United Nations system to continue and increase support to Member States, with their agreement and consent, in the implementation of national policies for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, inter alia, by providing support and capacity development to national machineries for the advancement of women and related national entities;

7. *Welcomes* the roll-out of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, under the leadership of UN-Women, and the use of reporting under it to inform the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, in order to provide the baseline for measuring the progress of the United Nations system on gender mainstreaming at the corporate level;

8. *Recognizes* that large gaps remain between policy and practice and that building United Nations staff capacities alone is not sufficient for the entire United Nations to meet its commitments and obligations with respect to gender mainstreaming;

9. *Encourages* the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and senior managers to continue directing their attention to promoting gender mainstreaming in the United Nations system;

10. *Requests* the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds and programmes, within their respective organizational mandates, to continue working collaboratively to enhance and accelerate gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system including by:

(a) Continuing to roll out the System-wide Action Plan and reporting on progress made in its implementation, including of entity-specific remedial action plans, as a system-wide accountability mechanism for performance in gender mainstreaming;

(b) Prioritizing remedial action plans and investing in human and financial resources, as appropriate, to address the gaps identified through the System-wide Action Plan reporting towards meeting set standards;

(c) Supporting efforts by the governing bodies of United Nations entities to devote adequate attention to gender mainstreaming in their plans and activities;

(d) Ensuring that the various accountability mechanisms of the United Nations system provide for more coherent, accurate and effective monitoring, evaluation and reporting on gender equality results and common indicators on gender equality and the empowerment of women, and on the tracking of gender-related resource allocation and expenditure, including through the use of gender markers;

(e) Continuing to better align gender equality programming with national priorities across sectors, as requested by the Member State concerned, with the aim of mainstreaming gender perspectives into all legislation, policies and programmes;

(f) Strengthening the coordination of gender-responsive operational activities among entities of the United Nations system through existing coordination mechanisms at the country level and in partnership, where appropriate, with national stakeholders;

(g) Instituting greater accountability in evaluations conducted, inter alia, by United Nations country teams through the inclusion of gender perspectives in such evaluations;

(h) Expanding and strengthening the use by country teams, in the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, of the United Nations Development Group performance indicators on gender equality (gender scorecard), as a planning and reporting tool for assessing the effectiveness of gender mainstreaming;

(i) Substantially increasing the investment in and focus on outcomes and outputs relating to gender equality and the empowerment of women in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework programmes, including by strengthening the predictability of funding, broadening the donor base and increasing the flexibility of non-core resources;

(j) Acquiring appropriate technical expertise for gender mainstreaming into programme planning and implementation to ensure that gender dimensions are systematically addressed and, in this regard, drawing on the gender equality expertise available in the United Nations system, including at UN-Women, to assist in the preparation of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and other relevant programming frameworks;

(k) Collecting, analysing, disseminating and using accurate, reliable, comparable and relevant data, disaggregated by sex and age, in a regular and systematic manner, in order to guide country programming, to support the preparation of organization-wide and country-level documents, such as the strategic, programmatic and results-based frameworks and evaluations, and to continue to promote and refine their tools for measuring progress and impact;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2014 a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including on the promotion of accountability at both the national and the global levels and on progress made in the implementation of the System-wide Action Plan.

## Human rights of women

### *Palestinian women*

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/25 [YUN 2012, p. 420], a report of the Secretary-General [E/CN.6/2013/6] reviewed the situ-



ation of and assistance to Palestinian women from October 2011 to September 2012 (see p. 417).

On 24 July, the Council took action on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women in **resolution 2013/17** (see p. 419).

### The girl child

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/140 [YUN 2011, p. 1084], an August report of the Secretary-General [A/68/263] reviewed international obligations and global commitments with respect to the girl child emanating from human rights treaties, international conferences and legal and policy developments. It addressed progress and challenges in the areas of poverty; education; health; HIV and AIDS; food and nutrition; water, sanitation and hygiene; violence, exploitation and abuse; work and labour; humanitarian crises and conflict; and participation opportunities. The report also specifically considered the situation of and response to girls living in child-headed households, and assessed progress towards the fulfilment of the right of girls.

The report indicated that in some parts of the world, girls continued to be more burdened by household poverty than boys. They might be taken out of school, forced to work in inappropriate environments or married early in order to ease the hardship of the family. Regarding child-headed households, they existed in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe, yet the nature and scale of the phenomenon was unclear due to a lack of relevant data. In the vast majority of countries, indicators were not sex-disaggregated. Girls living in child-headed households were neither officially acknowledged nor recognized as a group with specific needs. The degree to which their rights were fulfilled was unknown and evidence suggested that they were particularly vulnerable, in comparison both to boys and to other girls. While they assumed adult responsibilities, children in child-headed households might not have had the same legal rights as adults. Governments had to ensure that girls who headed households were legally recognized, with birth registration, land and property ownership rights, and access to legal representation. Legislation had to ensure that they could access financial, social and health services and take measures to reduce the likelihood that they would be forced to leave or miss school. At the community level, social protection measures had to be established to strengthen community systems, enhance peer support and better protect girls from violence.

Among the achievements in promoting the rights of girls, numerous States had adopted laws, policies, action plans and strategies to address the multiple forms of violence against girls, such as human trafficking, sexual violence and exploitation, female genital mutilation/cutting and child marriage. Joint programmes between the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force

on Adolescent Girls and Governments and civil society were under way in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Liberia and Malawi. Other programmes included the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative [YUN 2000, p. 1081] and the Together for Girls initiative.

Regarding improving the collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data across countries and regions, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics had identified a set of 52 gender indicators for global reporting, and the UN Statistics Division had finalized guidelines for producing, analysing and disseminating statistics on violence against girls and women. Other progress included improvement in adolescent girls' access to reproductive health and HIV prevention, efforts to bring water closer to home so girls did not miss school or risk being harmed while walking long distances to collect water, and efforts to address sanitation and hygiene in schools. In 2012, the first International Day of the Girl Child (11 October) [YUN 2011, p. 1089] drew specific attention to the practice of child marriage. On that occasion, the Executive Directors of UNICEF, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UN-Women issued a joint statement calling for dedicated resources to accelerate efforts to end child marriage, and UNFPA committed an additional \$20 million to reach the most marginalized adolescent girls in 12 countries with high prevalence of child marriage.

The Secretary-General emphasized the need to identify the underlying causal factors of girls' vulnerabilities in order to design appropriate programmatic responses. Policies and programmes should aim to expand the life choices available to girls and contribute to the development of girls and their communities. He called on States to make deliberate, formalized efforts to ensure the inclusion of girls from child-headed households and from other marginalized groups; and recommended addressing educational inequalities as a matter of urgency through the improvement of educational systems, targeted interventions to improve girls' enrolment, sustained political commitment to girls' equity, and community-based interventions. He added that Governments should ensure girls' access to health and nutrition information services, including sexual and reproductive health and HIV testing and affordable treatment; an understanding of gender norms should be used to inform the design of policies and interventions to improve the survival, development and participation of the girl child and to ensure the realization of her rights; and accountability mechanisms should be introduced to provide appropriate information and support for children to express their views in matters that affected them.

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 70], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee

[A/68/452 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 68/146** without vote [agenda item 65 (a)].

### The girl child

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its resolution 66/140 of 19 December 2011 and all relevant resolutions on the girl child, and recalling the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women, in particular those relevant to the girl child,

*Recalling* all human rights and other instruments relevant to the rights of the child, in particular the girl child, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Optional Protocols thereto and the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages,

*Reaffirming* the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the commitments relevant to the girl child made in the outcome documents of the 2005 World Summit and 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 welcoming the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals held in 2013,

*Recalling* its resolution 66/170 of 19 December 2011 on the International Day of the Girl Child and its role in raising awareness of the situation of girls around the world,

*Reaffirming* the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled “A world fit for children”,

*Reaffirming also* the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted at the twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, entitled “Global Crisis—Global Action”, and the Political Declarations on HIV/AIDS adopted by the high-level meetings of the General Assembly in 2006 and 2011,

*Reaffirming further* all other relevant outcomes of major United Nations summits and conferences relevant to the girl child, as well as their 5-, 10- and 15-year reviews, including 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 Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, and reiterating that their full and effective implementation is essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

*Recognizing* that education, adequate health care, nutrition, skills development and combating discrimination and violence against girls, inter alia, are all necessary for the empowerment of the girl child, in this regard recalling the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-seventh session, which highlight the intrinsic linkages between empowerment of the girl child and the prevention and elimination of violence, and Commission on Population and Development resolution 2012/1 of 27 April 2012, which highlights actions concern-

ing development and the human rights of adolescents and youth, and further recalling the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective across the United Nations system in relation to the girl child,

*Recalling* the Secretary-General’s 2008–2015 campaign “UNITE to End Violence against Women” and the call upon Governments, civil society, women’s organizations, young people, the private sector, the media and the entire United Nations system to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of violence against women and girls,

*Taking note* of the appointment by the Secretary-General of the first Envoy on Youth in line with the imperative, contained in his five-year action agenda, on “Working for and with women and young people”,

*Recognizing* that chronic poverty remains one of the biggest obstacles to meeting the needs of and promoting and protecting the rights of children, including the girl child,

*Recognizing also* that urgent national and international action is required to eliminate poverty, in particular extreme poverty, and noting that the ongoing effects of the global financial and economic crisis, volatile energy and food prices and continuing food insecurity as a result of various factors are felt directly by households, especially those headed by girls,

*Recognizing further* that the phenomenon of child-headed households is linked to other economic, social and political realities, such as armed conflict, natural disasters, lack of economic empowerment and health inequities, and that a comprehensive approach to these problems is needed to resolve the issue of child-headed households,

*Deeply concerned* about the serious social problem of child-headed households, in particular those headed by girls, and that the impact of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, including illness and mortality, the erosion of the extended family, the exacerbation of poverty, unemployment and underemployment and migration, as well as urbanization, have contributed to the increase in the number of child-headed households,

*Recognizing* that child-headed households may result from the death of parents and/or legal guardians, and that children can become de facto heads of households owing to parental illness, whether physical or mental, parental neglect, the migration of parents or other such factors,

*Deeply concerned* about the extreme vulnerability of children who are heads of households, particularly girls, who may be exceptionally negatively affected by the economic and care burdens placed on them at a young age, which in turn may lead to their having difficulty completing their education and increase their vulnerability to poverty, discrimination, trafficking and physical abuse,

*Deeply concerned also* about the vulnerability of children raised in child-headed households, in particular the girl child, who suffer from the lack of adult support and may be particularly vulnerable to poverty, mental and psychosocial trauma and physical vulnerability owing to, inter alia, food insecurity and poor nutrition, limited access to safe water and adequate sanitation, and communicable and non-communicable diseases,

*Deeply concerned further* that children in child-headed households may be subjected to stigma and discrimination owing to the fact that parental death is a result of HIV/AIDS, and that children heading households may be at greater risk of HIV because of their vulnerability to violence and exploitation as they seek to support their households,

*Deeply concerned* that, in situations of poverty, armed conflict, natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies, the incidence of child-headed households increases and makes the girl child particularly vulnerable to sexual violence, abuse, exploitation and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, which have a serious impact on the quality of their lives and leave them open to further discrimination, violence and neglect, thus limiting their potential for full development,

*Recognizing* that women and girls are more vulnerable to HIV infection and that they bear a disproportionate burden of the impact of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, including the care of and support for those living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, and that this negatively affects girls by depriving them of their childhood and diminishing their opportunities to receive an education, often resulting in their having to head households and increasing their vulnerability to the worst forms of child labour and to sexual exploitation,

*Noting with concern* that an estimated 68 million girls are engaged in child labour and that many of them face the double burden of having to combine economic activities with domestic chores, which deprive them of their childhood and diminish their opportunities to benefit from education and decent employment in the future,

*Recognizing* that the needs of girls vary, according to a number of factors, including their age, and that the risks of violence and discrimination that they face change over their life cycles, from childhood through adolescence,

*Recognizing also* that girl children are often at greater risk of being exposed to and encountering various forms of discrimination and violence, which continue to hinder efforts towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and reaffirming the need to achieve gender equality to ensure a just and equitable world for girls, including through partnering with men and boys, as an important strategy for advancing the rights of the girl child,

*Recognizing further* that the empowerment of and investment in girls, which is critical for economic growth, and the achievement of all Millennium Development Goals, including the eradication of poverty and extreme poverty, as well as the meaningful participation of girls in decisions that affect them, are key in breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and in promoting and protecting the full and effective enjoyment of their human rights, and recognizing that empowering girls requires their active participation in decision-making processes and the active support and engagement of their parents, legal guardians, families and care providers, boys and men, as well as the wider community,

*Deeply concerned* about all forms of violence against children, in particular the phenomena that disproportionately affect girls, such as commercial sexual exploitation and child pornography, child, early and forced marriage, rape, sexual abuse, domestic violence and trafficking in persons, and, in addition, about the corresponding lack of accountability and impunity, which reflect discriminatory norms that reinforce the lower status of girls in society,

*Deeply concerned also* that violence against women and girls is underrecognized, particularly at the community level, and underreported or unrecorded as a result of stigma, fear, social tolerance and the often illegal and covert nature of such activities,

*Deeply concerned further* about discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child,

which often result in less access for girls to education, and to quality education, nutrition, including food allocation, and physical and mental health-care services, in girls enjoying fewer of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence than boys, and in leaving them more vulnerable than boys to the consequences of unprotected and premature sexual relations and often being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and violence, abuse, rape, incest, honour-related crimes and harmful practices, such as female infanticide, child, early and forced marriage, prenatal sex selection and female genital mutilation,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the adoption by the Human Rights Council of its resolution 24/23 of 27 September 2013 entitled “Strengthening efforts to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage: challenges, achievements, best practices and implementation gaps”,

*Deeply concerned* that, despite its widespread practice, child, early and forced marriage is still underreported, recognizing that this requires further attention and that child, early and forced marriage exposes the girl child to greater risk of HIV and sexually transmitted infections, often leads to premature sexual relations, early pregnancy and early childbearing and increases the risk of obstetric fistula and high levels of maternal mortality and morbidity, and furthermore entails complications during pregnancy and childbirth, which often lead to disability, stillbirth and maternal death, particularly for young women and girls, which require appropriate prenatal and postnatal health-care services for mothers, including in the area of skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care, and noting with concern that this reduces girls’ opportunities to complete their education, gain comprehensive knowledge, participate in the community or develop employable skills and is likely to have a long-term adverse impact on their employment opportunities and their and their children’s quality of life and violates and impairs the full enjoyment of their human rights,

*Deeply concerned also* that female genital mutilation violates and impairs the full enjoyment of the human rights of women and girls and that it is an irreparable and irreversible harmful practice, and that the goal of ending female genital mutilation in the next generation, as reaffirmed by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/146 of 20 December 2012, remains unfinished business,

*Stressing* the need for the international community, the relevant United Nations entities, the specialized agencies, civil society and international financial institutions to continue to actively support, through the allocation of enhanced financial resources and technical assistance, targeted comprehensive programmes that address the needs and priorities of child-headed households and women and girls at risk of or subjected to child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation,

*Emphasizing* that increased access to education for young people, especially adolescent girls, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, as well as health care, hygiene and sanitation, dramatically lowers their vulnerability to preventable diseases and infections, in particular HIV and other sexually transmitted infections,

*Recognizing* that women and girls with disabilities are subject to multiple forms of discrimination, including in respect of their access to education, health-care services and employment, and the importance of the implementation of

the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in this regard,

1. *Stresses* the need for the full and urgent implementation of the rights of the girl child as provided to her under human rights instruments, and urges States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocols thereto as a matter of priority;

2. *Urges* all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) of the International Labour Organization to consider doing so;

3. *Urges* all Governments and the United Nations system to strengthen efforts bilaterally and with international organizations and private sector donors in order to achieve the goals of the World Education Forum and to implement the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative, and calls for the reaffirmation and implementation of the commitments contained in the Education for All goals and the Millennium Development Goals, particularly those related to gender and education;

4. *Calls upon* all States to place enhanced emphasis on quality education, including communications and technology education, where available, for the girl child, including catch-up and literacy education for those who did not receive formal education, to promote access to skills and entrepreneurship training for young women and to tackle male and female stereotypes in order to ensure that young women entering the labour market have opportunities to obtain full and productive employment, equitable compensation and decent work;

5. *Calls upon* States and the international community to recognize the right to education on the basis of equal opportunity and non-discrimination by making primary education compulsory and available free to all children and ensuring that all children have access to education of good quality, as well as making secondary education generally available and accessible to all, in particular through the progressive introduction of free education, bearing in mind that special measures to ensure equal access, including affirmative action, improving the safety of girls on the way to and from school, ensuring all schools are accessible, safe, secure and free from violence and providing separate and adequate sanitation facilities contribute to achieving equal opportunity and combating exclusion and ensuring school attendance, in particular for girls and children from low-income families and children who become heads of households;

6. *Calls upon* States, with the support of international organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, to develop policies and programmes, giving priority to formal, informal and non-formal education programmes, including age-appropriate sex education, with appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians, that support girls and enable them to acquire knowledge, develop self-esteem and take responsibility for their own lives, and to place special focus on programmes to educate women and men, especially parents, about the importance of girls' physical and mental health and well-being;

7. *Urges* States to acknowledge the different needs of girls and boys during their childhood and adolescence and,

as appropriate, to make differential investments that are responsive to their changing needs;

8. *Calls upon* all States, the United Nations system and civil society to take measures to address the obstacles that continue to affect the achievement of the goals set forth in the Beijing Platform for Action, as contained in paragraph 33 of the further actions and initiatives, including reviewing remaining laws that discriminate against women and girls in order to modify or abolish them and, where appropriate, strengthening national mechanisms to implement policies and programmes for the girl child and, in some cases, to enhance coordination among responsible institutions for the realization of the human rights of girls, and to mobilize all necessary resources and support in order to achieve those goals;

9. *Urges* States to strengthen efforts to urgently eradicate all forms of discrimination against women and girls and, where applicable, to remain dedicated to the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto;

10. *Also urges* States to improve the situation of girl children living in poverty, in particular extreme poverty, deprived of nutrition, water and sanitation facilities, with limited or no access to basic physical and mental health-care services, shelter, education, participation and protection, taking into account that, while a severe lack of goods and services hurts every human being, it is particularly threatening and harmful to the girl child, leaving her unable to enjoy her rights, to reach her full potential and to participate as a full member of society, with a particular focus on children living in child-headed households, including the child head of household;

11. *Further urges* States to ensure that the applicable requirements of the International Labour Organization for the employment of girls and boys are respected and effectively enforced and that girls who are employed have equal access to decent work and equal payment and remuneration, are protected from economic and sexual exploitation, discrimination, sexual harassment, violence and abuse in the workplace, are aware of their rights and have access to formal and non-formal education, skills development and vocational training, and also urges States to develop gender-sensitive measures, including national action plans, where appropriate, to eliminate the worst forms of child labour, commercial sexual exploitation, hazardous forms of child labour, trafficking and slavery-like practices, including forced and bonded labour, and to recognize that girls, including in child-headed households, face greater risks in this regard;

12. *Calls upon* States, with the support of relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, as appropriate, to take all measures necessary to ensure the right of girls to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, and to develop sustainable health systems, strengthen existing ones to ensure primary health care with an integrated HIV response and make them more accessible to adolescent girls;

13. *Urges* all States to promote gender equality and equal access to basic social services, such as education, nutrition, water and sanitation, birth registration, health care, vaccinations and protection from diseases representing the major causes of mortality, including non-communicable dis-

eases, and to mainstream a gender perspective into all development policies and programmes, including those specific to the girl child;

14. *Calls upon* States to strengthen the capacity of national health systems, and in this regard calls upon the international community to assist national efforts, including by allocating adequate resources in order to provide essential services needed to prevent obstetric fistula and to treat those cases that occur by providing the continuum of services, including family planning, prenatal and postnatal care, skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric care and post-partum care, to adolescent girls, including those living in poverty and in underserved rural areas where obstetric fistula is most common;

15. *Urges* all States to enact and strictly enforce laws ending child, early and forced marriage and ensure that marriage is entered into only with the informed, free and full consent of the intending spouses, to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage, to raise the minimum age for marriage, engage all stakeholders, where necessary, and ensure that these laws to end child, early and forced marriage are well known, to further develop and implement comprehensive policies, plans of action and programmes for the survival, protection, development and advancement of the girl child in order to promote and protect the full enjoyment of her human rights and to ensure equal opportunities for girls, including by making such plans an integral part of her total development process;

16. *Calls upon* States to support and implement, including with dedicated resources, multisectoral policies and programmes that end the practice of child, early and forced marriage and ensure the provision of viable alternatives and institutional support, especially educational opportunities for girls, with an emphasis on keeping girls in school through post-primary education, including those who are already married or pregnant, ensuring physical access to education, including by increasing financial incentives to families, promoting the empowerment of girls, improving educational quality, ensuring safe and hygienic conditions in schools and, where applicable, establishing safe residential facilities;

17. *Urges* States to ensure that the rights of children in child-headed households are respected and that the heads of such households exercise all the rights of the child and to further ensure that children in child-headed households, particularly girls, receive the support they need to ensure their continued attendance in school consistent with their age;

18. *Also urges* States to ensure that efforts to enact and implement legislation to protect, support and empower child-headed households, in particular those headed by girls, include provisions to ensure their economic well-being, access to health-care services, nutrition, clean water and sanitation, shelter and education, and inheritance, and that the family is protected and assisted to stay together;

19. *Calls upon* States to put in place concrete measures to ensure that while children heading households, especially girls, exercise all the rights of the child, they also receive appropriate assistance to enable them to fulfil their de facto responsibilities as household heads by ensuring and protecting their property and inheritance rights;

20. *Also calls upon* States to include an integrated approach in supporting and empowering child-headed households, given the mental and psychosocial trauma, stigma

and physical and economic stress children may experience as a result of becoming heads of households at a very young age;

21. *Urges* States to forge partnerships with relevant stakeholders, particularly by working with and involving communities in developing programmes and mechanisms designed to ensure the safety, protection and empowerment of children, especially girls, in child-headed households, as well as to ensure that they receive the support they need from their communities;

22. *Calls upon* States to strengthen research on families and household formation and structure, with a particular emphasis on the existence of de facto child-headed households and the long-term economic and psychological impact that being a child head of household or a child raised by another child has on the children and on social sustainability;

23. *Also calls upon* States to strengthen research, data collection and analysis on the girl child, disaggregated by household structure, sex, age, disability status, economic situation, marital status and geographical location, in order to provide a better understanding of the situations of girls, especially of the multiple forms of discrimination that they face, and to inform the development of necessary policies and programme responses, which should take a holistic age-appropriate approach to addressing the full range of the forms of discrimination that girls may face, in order to protect their rights effectively;

24. *Urges* States to take all measures necessary to ensure the full enjoyment by girls with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children, to adopt, implement and strengthen appropriate policies and programmes designed to address their needs and to take into account the conclusions contained in the outcome document adopted at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, held on 23 September 2013;

25. *Urges* all States to enact and enforce legislation to protect girls from all forms of violence, discrimination and exploitation in all settings, including female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, female genital mutilation, rape, domestic violence, incest, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, child prostitution and child pornography, trafficking and forced migration, forced labour and child, early and forced marriage, and to develop age-appropriate safe, confidential and disability-accessible programmes and medical, social and psychological support services to assist girls who are subjected to violence and discrimination;

26. *Calls upon* all States to enact and enforce the necessary legislative or other measures, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and the media, to prevent the distribution over the Internet of child pornography, including depictions of child sexual abuse, ensuring that adequate mechanisms are in place to enable reporting and removal of such material and that its creators, distributors and collectors are prosecuted, as appropriate;

27. *Urges* States to formulate comprehensive, multi-disciplinary and coordinated national plans, programmes or strategies to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, which should have dedicated resources, be widely disseminated and provide targets and timetables for implementation, as well as effective domestic enforcement procedures through the establishment

of monitoring mechanisms involving all parties concerned, including consultations with women's organizations, giving attention to the recommendations relating to the girl child of the Special Rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children;

28. *Also urges* States to ensure that children who are capable of forming their own views have the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting them, with the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child, to ensure that this right is fully and equally enjoyed by the girl child, to involve girl children, including those with special needs, as well as girls with disabilities, and their representative organizations in decision-making processes, as appropriate, and to include them as full partners in identifying their own needs and in developing, planning, implementing and assessing policies and programmes to meet those needs;

29. *Recognizes* that a considerable number of girl children are particularly vulnerable, including orphans, children living on the street, internally displaced and refugee children, children affected by trafficking and sexual and economic exploitation, children living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, and children who are incarcerated or who live without parental support, and therefore urges States, with the support of the international community, where relevant, to take appropriate measures to address the needs of such children by implementing national policies and strategies to build and strengthen governmental, community and family capacities to provide a supportive environment for such children, including by providing appropriate counselling and psychosocial support, and ensuring their safety, enrolment in school and access to shelter, good nutrition and health and social services on an equal basis with other children;

30. *Encourages* States to promote actions, including through bilateral and multilateral technical cooperation and financial assistance, for the social reintegration of children in difficult situations, in particular girls, considering, inter alia, views, skills and capacities that those children have developed in the conditions in which they lived and, where appropriate, with their meaningful participation;

31. *Urges* all States and the international community to respect, promote and protect the rights of the girl child, taking into account the particular vulnerabilities of the girl child in pre-conflict, conflict and post-conflict situations and in natural disasters, as well as in other humanitarian emergencies, all of which may result in the creation of child-headed households, and further urges States to take special measures for the protection of girls in all phases of humanitarian emergencies, from relief to recovery, and in particular to protect them from sexually transmitted infections, including HIV infection, gender-based violence, including rape, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, torture, abduction, trafficking and forced labour, paying special attention to refugee and displaced girls, and to take into account their special needs in disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation assistance and reintegration processes;

32. *Deplores* all cases of sexual exploitation and abuse of women and girls in humanitarian crises, including those cases involving humanitarian workers and peacekeepers, and urges States to take effective measures to address gender-

based violence in humanitarian emergencies and to make all possible efforts to ensure that their laws and institutions are adequate to prevent, promptly investigate and prosecute acts of gender-based violence;

33. *Also deplores* all acts of sexual exploitation, abuse of and trafficking in women and children by military, police and civilian personnel involved in United Nations operations, welcomes the efforts undertaken by United Nations agencies and peacekeeping operations to implement a zero-tolerance policy in this regard, and requests the Secretary-General and personnel-contributing countries to continue to take all appropriate action necessary to combat these abuses by such personnel, including through the full implementation without delay of those measures adopted in the relevant General Assembly resolutions based on recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations;

34. *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, and expresses its view that it will, inter alia, contribute to the promotion of the rights of girls, enhance cooperation and a better co-ordination of efforts in fighting trafficking in persons and promote increased ratification and full implementation of 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;

35. *Calls upon* Member States to devise, enforce and strengthen effective child- and youth-sensitive measures to combat, eliminate and prosecute all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual and economic exploitation, as part of a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy within wider efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, including by taking effective measures against the criminalization of girls who are victims of exploitation and ensuring that girls who have been exploited receive access to the necessary psychosocial support;

36. *Calls upon* Governments, civil society, including the media, and non-governmental organizations to promote human rights education and full respect for and the enjoyment of the human rights of the girl child, inter alia, through the translation, production and dissemination of age-appropriate and gender-sensitive information material on those rights to all sectors of society, in particular to children;

37. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Co-ordination, to ensure that all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, individually and collectively, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the World Health Organization, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Labour Organization, take

into account the rights and the particular needs of the girl child in country programmes of cooperation in accordance with national priorities, including through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

38. *Requests* all human rights treaty bodies and the human rights mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, including the special procedures, to adopt regularly and systematically a gender perspective in the implementation of their mandates and to include in their reports information on the qualitative analysis of violations of the human rights of women and girls, and encourages the strengthening of cooperation and coordination in that regard;

39. *Requests* States to ensure that, in all policies and programmes designed to provide comprehensive HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support, particular attention and support are given to the girl child at risk, living with or affected by HIV, including pregnant girls and young and adolescent mothers and girls with disabilities, and child heads of households, with a view to achieving Millennium Development Goal 6, in particular to halt and begin to reverse by 2015 the spread of HIV;

40. *Invites* States to promote initiatives aimed at reducing the prices of antiretroviral drugs, especially second-line drugs, available to the girl child, including bilateral and private sector initiatives as well as initiatives on a voluntary basis taken by groups of States, including those based on innovative financing mechanisms that contribute to the mobilization of resources for social development, including those that aim to provide further access to drugs at affordable prices to developing countries on a sustainable and predictable basis, and in this regard takes note of the International Drug Purchase Facility, UNITAID;

41. *Calls upon* all States to integrate food and nutritional support with the goal that children, especially girl children, have access at all times to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life;

42. *Calls upon* States to ensure that social protection programmes, including hiv-sensitive programmes, are provided to orphans and other vulnerable children, with particular attention to addressing the needs and vulnerabilities of girl children and protecting their rights;

43. *Urges* States and the international community to increase resources at all levels, particularly in the education and health sectors, so as to enable young people, especially girls, to gain the knowledge, attitudes and life skills that they need to overcome their challenges, including the prevention of HIV infection and early pregnancy, and to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health;

44. *Stresses* the need to strengthen the commitment of States and the United Nations system in their responsibility to mainstream the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, in particular the girl child, into the development agenda at the national, regional and international levels, including in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

45. *Urges* States, the international community, relevant United Nations entities, civil society and international financial institutions to continue to actively support, through the allocation of financial resources and technical assistance, efforts to address the situation of child-headed households;

46. *Calls upon* States and the international community to create an environment in which the well-being of the girl child is ensured, inter alia, by cooperating, supporting and participating in global efforts for poverty eradication at the global, regional and country levels, recognizing that strengthened availability and effective allocation of resources are required at all levels in order to ensure that all the internationally agreed development and poverty eradication goals, including those set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, are realized within their time frame, and reaffirming that investment in children, particularly girls, and the realization of their rights are among the most effective ways to eradicate poverty and should be given due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

47. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage with a particular focus on challenges, achievements, best practices and implementation gaps, as well as the summary report of the panel discussion to be held at the twenty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council, and decides to consider both documents at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

48. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including a status analysis and emphasis on the importance of implementing policies and achieving targets on water, sanitation and hygiene as they relate to the girl child, using information provided by Member States, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, with a view to assessing the impact of the present resolution on the well-being of the girl child.

**Child, early and forced marriage.** Also on 18 December, the Assembly, in **resolution 68/148** (see p. 718), decided to convene during its sixty-eighth (2013) session a panel discussion on child, early and forced marriage worldwide (see p. 718).

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## UN machinery

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### Convention on elimination of discrimination against women

As at 31 December, 187 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, 68 States had 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 (CEDAW), which was adopted by State parties in 1995 [YUN 1995, p. 1178]. In 2013, Greece accepted the amendment, which would enter into force when accepted by a two-thirds majority of State parties.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention, which was adopted by the Assembly in resolution 54/4

[YUN 1999, p. 1100] and entered into force in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 1123], remained at 104 State parties, as at 31 December.

In accordance with Assembly resolution 66/131 [YUN 2011, p. 1091], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/68/121] on the status of the Convention, covering the period from 2 July 2011 to 1 July 2013.

## CEDAW

In 2013, 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/68/38 & A/69/38].

**Fifty-fourth session.** At its fifty-fourth session (Geneva, 11 February–1 March) [A/68/38], CEDAW considered and prepared concluding observations on the initial or periodic reports of Angola, Austria, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Pakistan, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. CEDAW also considered a report of the International Labour Organization (ILO) [CEDAW/C/54/2]. The Committee elected its chair [A/68/38 (dec.54/I)] and its remaining officers [dec.54/II]; confirmed the members of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol [dec.54/III] and the members of the pre-session working group for the fifty-sixth session [dec.54/IV]; adopted the general recommendation on article 16 of the Convention [dec.54/V]; decided to shorten and merge several standard paragraphs contained in its concluding observations [dec.54/VI]; decided to allow public webcasting of its dialogue with States parties during a trial period covering its fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions, in July and October respectively, and to amend its rules of procedure accordingly [dec.54/VII]; decided to incorporate the 2012 guidelines on independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies (Addis Ababa guidelines) [YUN 2012, p. 619] in its rules of procedures [dec.54/VIII]; amended its methodology of the follow-up procedure to concluding observations [dec.54/IX]; and approved an internal document containing standard operating procedures for the conduct of inquiries under article 8 of the Optional Protocol [dec.54/X].

The Committee also adopted a decision containing a resolution requesting the General Assembly to provide the necessary resources for the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol (to be renamed Working Group on the Optional Protocol) to meet for five additional days per year, starting from 2014, and to extend its membership from five to seven members during the requested five additional days in order to enable the Working Group to examine information received under article 8 of the Optional Protocol [dec.54/XI]. The Committee further adopted a decision containing a resolution requesting the General Assembly to provide the necessary resources to

enable the Committee to hold one of its annual sessions at UN Headquarters in New York, starting from 2014 [dec.54/XII & dec.54/XIII]; adopted a statement on the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the strengthening of the UN human rights treaty bodies [dec.54/XIV]; decided to hold a half day of general discussions on rural women at its fifty-sixth session [dec.54/XV]; decided to make public the reports on its sessions by posting them on its website after each session, starting from the fifty-fourth session [dec.54/XVI]; and appointed its gender and HIV/AIDS focal point [dec.54/XXIV]. The Committee also expanded its working group on harmful practices, managed jointly with the Committee on the Rights of the Child [dec.54/XVII]; the working group on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations [dec.54/XVIII]; the working group on access to justice [dec.54/XIX]; the working group on working methods [dec.54/XX]; the working group on the gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum and statelessness [dec.54/XXI]; the working group on the right to education [dec.54/XXII]; and the task force on inquiries [dec.54/XXIII].

On 25 July, by **decision 2013/253**, the Economic and Social Council took note of the Secretariat note [E/2013/75] transmitting the outcomes of the fifty-first [YUN 2012, p. 1115], fifty-second [ibid.] and fifty-third [ibid.] sessions of CEDAW.

**Fifty-fifth session.** At its fifty-fifth session (Geneva, 8–26 July) [A/69/38], CEDAW considered and prepared concluding observations on the initial or periodic reports of Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cabo Verde, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Serbia and the United Kingdom. The Committee also considered a note by the secretariat on ways and means of expediting the Committee's work [CEDAW/C/55/2], a report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) [CEDAW/C/55/3], and a report of ILO [CEDAW/C/55/4]. The Committee adopted a statement on the role of women in the process of political transition in Egypt, Libya and Tunisia [A/69/38 (dec.55/I)] and a statement on strengthened cooperation with UN-Women [dec.55/II]. CEDAW also decided to finalize the adoption of the draft general recommendation on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations during its fifty-sixth session [dec.55/III]; to allocate at least one full meeting during its fifty-sixth session for the first reading of its draft general recommendation on gender equality in the context of asylum, refugee status and statelessness [dec.55/IV]; to transform the focal point on UN-Women into a standing Working Group and entrust it with the elaboration of a joint CEDAW/UN-Women action plan for 2014–2015 [dec.55/V]; and to establish a standing Working Group on the Inter-Parliamentary Union [dec.55/VI]. The Committee confirmed three members



of the CEDAW/Human Rights Committee Working Group [dec.55/VII]; appointed the focal point for sexual and reproductive rights and two alternates [dec.55/VIII]; decided that each expert should sign up for a minimum of four country task forces per session, with the exception of country rapporteurs, and that the Secretariat should circulate a list on the membership of all country forces prior to each session [dec.55/IX]. It also decided to consider establishing an intersessional mechanism for urgent matters, and requested the Secretariat to prepare a working paper for the fifty-sixth session on the practices of other treaty bodies in that regard [dec.55/X]; decided that a final table of briefing and meeting requests should be sent to the members of the Bureau one month prior to a session [dec.55/XI]; and expanded the working group on access to justice [dec.55/XII].

**Fifty-sixth session.** At its fifty-sixth session (Geneva, 30 September–18 October) [A/69/38], CEDAW considered and prepared concluding observations on the initial or periodic reports of Andorra, Benin, Cambodia, Colombia, the Republic of Moldova, Seychelles and Tajikistan. The Committee also considered a report of UNESCO [CEDAW/C/56/2]. The Committee adopted general recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations [A/69/38 (dec.56/I)]; extended the term of the rapporteur on follow-up to concluding observations and appointed an alternate rapporteur, both for a period of one year, until 31 December 2014 [dec.56/II]; confirmed the five members of the pre-session working group for the fifty-eighth (2014) session [dec.56/III]; and decided to continue the practice of publicly webcasting its dialogues with States parties, and other public meetings beyond the trial period stipulated in decision 54/VII (see p. 1126) for an indefinite period [dec.56/IV]. The Committee also decided to revise the standard paragraph on national parliaments in its concluding observations [dec.56/V]; and to hold a half-day general discussion on the right to education during its fifty-eighth session [dec.56/VI]. CEDAW also expanded the working group on rural women [dec.56/VII] and the one on gender equality in the context of climate change and natural disasters [dec.56/VIII].

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 70], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/68/449 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 68/138** without vote [agenda item 28 (a)].

#### Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 66/131 of 19 December 2011,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

2. *Also welcomes* the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its fifty-second to fifty-fourth sessions;

3. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to address and to engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth and seventieth sessions under the item on the advancement of women;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the status of the Convention.

#### Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women, at its fifty-seventh session (New York, 4–15 March) [E/2013/27], recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a draft resolution on the Commission's future organization and methods of work (see p. 1128); a draft resolution on the situation of assistance to Palestinian women (see p. 419); and a draft decision on the report of the Commission on its fifty-seventh session and provisional agenda and documentation for its fifty-eighth (2014) session. As part of its focus on the year's priority theme—the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls—the Commission held a high-level round table (see p. 1101) and several panel discussions; adopted agreed conclusions (*ibid.*) and transmitted them to the Economic and Social Council as an input to its 2013 annual ministerial review (see p. 800). It further decided to make available—from the website of UN-Women—a Chair's summary of the round table and the moderator's summaries of the panel discussions.

The Commission also brought to the Council's attention a decision [dec.57/101] by which it took note of the report of the Executive Director of UN-Women on normative aspects of the work of the Entity [E/CN.6/2013/2]; notes by the Secretariat on the discussion guide for the high-level round table on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls [E/CN.6/2013/5], on the results of the fifty-first, fifty-second and fifty-third sessions of CEDAW [E/CN.6/2013/CRP.1], and on the theme for the annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council in 2013 [E/CN.6/2013/10]; a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of UN-Women on the activities of the UN Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women [A/HRC/23/17-E/CN.6/2013/8] [YUN 2012, p. 1095], a report of CEDAW on its forty-ninth, fiftieth and fifty-first sessions [A/67/38]; reports of the Secretary-General on multisectoral services and responses for women and girls subjected to violence [E/CN.6/2013/3] (see p. 1100), on the prevention of violence against women and girls [E/CN.6/2013/4] (*ibid.*), and on proposals for priority themes for future sessions of the Commission [E/CN.6/2013/7] (see p. 1128); and a 2012 letter from the

President of the Council to the Chair of the Commission [E/CN.6/2013/9] [YUN 2012, p. 1116].

By **decision 2013/233** of 24 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the Commission's report on its fifty-seventh session and approved the provisional agenda and documentation for its fifty-eighth (2014) session.

**Communication.** In a 20 December letter [E/CN.6/2014/9] to the Commission Chairperson, the Economic and Social Council President summarized the outcome of the Council's 2013 substantive session and annual ministerial review (see p. 800) and attached a list of resolutions adopted by the Council, calling for action by relevant UN bodies.

**Other reports.** Documents issued in 2013, to be addressed during the Commission's 2014 session, included reports of the Secretary-General on challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for women and girls [E/CN.6/2014/3]; progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective into the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes [E/CN.6/2014/4]; the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women [E/CN.6/2014/6]; the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts [E/CN.6/2014/7]; actions to strengthen linkages between gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and the elimination of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity [E/CN.6/2014/11]; women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS [E/CN.6/2014/12]; gender equality and the empowerment of women in natural disasters [E/CN.6/2014/13]; and ways and means to further enhance the impact of the work of the Commission on the Status of Women [E/CN.6/2014/14]. There were also notes by the Secretariat transmitting a discussion guide for the high-level round table on the challenges and achievements in the implementation of the MDGs for women and girls [E/CN.6/2014/5]; and transmitting the report of UN-Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women in 2013 [E/CN.6/2014/8] (see p. 1101); and a report of the Executive Director of UN-Women on normative aspects of the work of UN-Women [E/CN.6/2014/2].

### Future organization and working methods

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/15 [YUN 2009, p. 1155], the Secretary-General submitted a report [E/CN.6/2013/7] that contained suggestions for future priority themes of the Commission, and discussed the possibility of conducting a review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 2015, focusing on new and emerging issues. The report also made proposals for the Commission's consideration of the question of a review of its working methods.

In that resolution, the Council had set out the priority and review themes for the period 2010–2014, and decided that, at its fifty-seventh (2013) session, the Commission would decide on the priority themes for future sessions. Accordingly, the Commission's themes for its fifty-eighth (2014) session were thus determined, namely, "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the MDGs for women and girls" as the priority theme; and "Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work" as the review theme (agreed conclusions from the fifty-fifth (2011) session). The fifty-ninth (2015) session of the Commission might be devoted to a comprehensive review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action.

The selection of priority themes was of critical importance in enabling the Commission to make forward-looking contributions to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, in a manner that best responded to current trends and developments. In the second half of 2015, the General Assembly was expected to take significant decisions on the post-2015 development framework, in particular in connection with sustainable development goals and the follow-up to the MDGs.

The priority and review themes proposed for 2016 were, respectively, "Women's economic empowerment and sustainable development" and "The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls", which was also the 2013 priority theme. The Secretary-General also suggested that the Commission discuss commemorative activities for the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 2015.

On the subject of its methods of work, since the 2006 revision of its practices, the Commission had gained extensive experience and insights, including the use of interactive panels and dialogues to examine both progress and gaps, that could be harnessed to further enhance the impact of its work and its role as a primary intergovernmental body for the promotion of gender equality. Further refinements to the Commission's working methods could also better support the Economic and Social Council in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of all major UN conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields. In order to support the Commission in reviewing its working methods, the Secretary-General proposed submitting a report to the Commission's fifty-eighth (2014) session on ways and means for further enhancing the impact of its work.

### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 24 July [meeting 46], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission

on the Status of Women [E/2013/27], adopted **resolution 2013/18** without vote [agenda item 14 (a)].

### **Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women**

#### *The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* that in its resolutions 1987/24 of 26 May 1987, 1990/15 of 24 May 1990, 1996/6 of 22 July 1996, 2001/4 of 24 July 2001, 2006/9 of 25 July 2006 and 2009/15 of 28 July 2009, the Council adopted multi-year programmes of work for a focused and thematic approach for the Commission on the Status of Women,

*Recalling also* that in its resolution 2009/15, the Council confirmed that the Commission should maintain its current working methods, as adopted by the Council in its resolution 2006/9, and should continue to keep its working methods under review,

*Recalling further* that in its resolution 2009/15, the Council decided that the Commission at its fifty-seventh session, in 2013, would discuss the possibility of conducting, in 2015, a review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 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”,

*Recalling* that in its resolution 2009/15, the Council decided that at its fifty-seventh session the Commission would decide on priority themes for future sessions,

*Recalling also* its resolution 2012/30 of 27 July 2012, in which the Council called upon its functional commissions, the regional commissions and other subsidiary bodies, within their respective mandates, to provide coherent support to the Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, and noting in this regard the ongoing review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on strengthening of the Council,

*Reaffirming* the central role of the Commission in the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

*Recognizing* that the organization of work of the Commission should contribute to advancing and accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly at the local, national, regional and international levels, and in this regard stressing the need to further enhance the impact of the work of the Commission,

*Recognizing also* that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly 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 achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women,

*Reaffirming* that gender mainstreaming constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and underlining the catalytic role of the Commission in promoting gender mainstreaming,

*Recognizing* the importance of civil society actors, including non-governmental organizations, in particular women’s organizations, as well as national human rights institutions, where they exist, and all other relevant actors in advancing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and their contribution to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and, in this respect, to the work of the Commission,

### **A. Methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women**

1. *Decides* that at its fifty-eighth session, in 2014, the Commission on the Status of Women should review the functioning of its methods of work, adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2006/9 and confirmed in its resolution 2009/15, with a view to further enhancing the impact of the work of the Commission;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its fifty-eighth session a report on ways and means to further enhance the impact of the work of the Commission;

### **B. Theme for 2015**

3. *Decides* that at its fifty-ninth session, in 2015, the Commission will undertake a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as opportunities for strengthening gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda through the integration of a gender perspective;

4. *Calls upon* all States to undertake comprehensive national-level reviews of the progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and encourages the regional commissions to undertake regional reviews so that the outcomes of intergovernmental processes at the regional level can feed into the 2015 review;

5. *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 outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and in this regard calls upon Governments to collaborate with relevant stakeholders at all levels of preparations for the 2015 review so as to benefit from their experience and expertise;

### **C. Themes for 2016 and beyond**

6. *Decides* that at the sixtieth session of the Commission, in 2016:

(a) The priority theme will be “Women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development”;

(b) The review theme will be “The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls”;

7. *Requests* the Commission at its sixtieth session to decide on its future multi-year programme of work;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its sixtieth session a report containing pro-

posals on the Commission's priority themes for future sessions, bearing in mind the results of the ongoing review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 and Council resolution 2012/30.

### Communications on the status of women

At a closed meeting on 14 March [E/2013/27], the Commission considered the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women [E/CN.6/2013/CRP.2] and a note by the Secretariat transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women. The Working Group considered 85 confidential communications received by UN-Women, and noted that there were 55 replies from 19 Governments. No confidential communications had been received from other UN bodies or specialized agencies.

The communications most frequently concerned sexual violence against women and girls, and other forms of violence and serious and systematic violations of their human rights and the rights of women human right defenders; absence of adequate legislation to address and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women; and ineffective implementation and/or enforcement of laws aimed at promoting and protecting women's human rights, and lack of compliance with regional judicial mechanisms.

During its consideration of communications, the Working Group expressed concern about violence and sexual violence against women and girls; early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation and their adverse effects on the rights of women and girls; violations of the rights of women to health, including sexual and reproductive health; impunity and abuse of power perpetrated or condoned by security forces and law enforcement personnel; failure by States to exercise due diligence to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls and adequately investigate and prosecute such crimes, punish perpetrators and provide compensation, protection and assistance to victims and their families; persistence of gender stereotypes and legislation or practices that discriminated against women; and discrimination and violence against vulnerable groups of women and girls.

The Working Group appreciated the cooperation by Governments in submitting replies to communications received, and called upon others to do so in the future. The Working Group was encouraged that some Governments had carried out investigations into allegations, explained their positions, or taken measures, including enacting new legislation, conducting legal reform, introducing policies and services to better protect and assist women, developing national action plans, prosecuting and punishing perpetrators of violence, introducing targeted measures for the promotion of women's rights, and improving public

awareness-raising activities and training to promote gender equality and the advancement of women.

### UN-Women

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), established by General Assembly resolution 64/289 [YUN 2010, p. 1396], became fully operational in 2011 [YUN 2011, p. 1093]. UN-Women combined the mandates and functions of four former entities engaged in the field of gender equality and the empowerment of women. In 2013, it functioned both as a secretariat and as an operational entity at the country level, with the additional role of leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the UN system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women. Its work continued to be guided by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women [YUN 1979, p. 889], the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action [YUN 1995, p. 1170], Security Council resolution 1325(2000) [YUN 2000, p. 1113] on women and peace and security, and the United Nations Millennium Declaration [YUN 2000, p. 49] and the Millennium Development Goals.

**Report of Secretary-General.** In response to General Assembly resolution 64/289 [YUN 2010, p. 1396], the Secretary-General, in a June report [A/68/120], reviewed the work of UN-Women since its establishment, covering progress made in its three mandated functional areas (normative support, coordination, operational activities), the impact of that work and remaining challenges. He indicated that in 2013, UN-Women had successfully integrated the mandates of its four constituent entities, and the strengthening of its regional architecture was at an advanced stage. The work of UN-Women with its governing bodies—its Executive Board and the Commission on the Status of Women—had also matured, resulting in decisions and resolutions that advanced its work, as well as the global work on gender equality and women's empowerment. UN-Women was thus much stronger than it was at its establishment and much more robust than any of its constituent entities in the past.

UN-Women provided support to the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council in reaffirming and strengthening gender equality norms and standards, while highlighting gaps in implementation and formulating policy recommendations. The Entity also chaired or co-chaired 15 global coordination mechanisms or processes on issues ranging from the Millennium Development Goal Task Force to the United Nations Development Group Task Team on Gender Equality, and was a member of approximately 100 other coordination processes at any given time.

By the end of 2012, UN-Women had 54 offices with full representation around the world, consisting of 48 country and six multi-country offices. Of the 48 country offices, 19 were in Africa, 4 in Arab States, 9 in Asia and the Pacific, 6 in Europe and Central Asia, and 10 in the Americas and the Caribbean. The six multi-country offices were located in Barbados, Fiji, India, Kazakhstan, Morocco and South Africa, and five of the six planned regional offices had been established in Egypt, Kenya, Panama, Senegal and Thailand. The six priorities of the 2011–2013 strategic plan guided the programmatic work of UN-Women. These were leadership and participation of women in decision-making at all levels; ensuring that peace and security and humanitarian action were shaped by women's leadership and participation; economic empowerment of women, especially the poorest and most excluded; a life free from violence; State accountability for gender equality commitments and priorities; and ensuring that global norms, policies and standards on gender equality and women's empowerment were established and applied by Governments and other stakeholders at all levels. As at the end of 2012, UN-Women had delivered support in 87 programme countries and was on track against 23 of 29 strategic plan indicators. In 2012, it had also established the Global Civil Society Advisory Group, which, as at June 2013, included 30 groups at the regional and national levels. It also further expanded its partnerships with academic institutions, the media and the business community.

UN-Women achieved considerable success in its work, and was well positioned to achieve more. It had, however, also encountered some challenges expected of a new entity with a new mandate, including that of system-wide coordination, such as strengthening the linkages between the normative and operational work it supported. The Entity's mandate of leading, coordinating and ensuring accountability of the UN system for its work on gender equality required substantial investment and more time to further mature. The greatest challenge for UN-Women so far had been achieving an adequate resource base to support its work. Overall, in 2012, 33 Member States had provided an increased core contribution, with a third of pledges being multi-year. There were increases in core contributions from 6 of the UN-Women top 10 donors, namely Australia, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Switzerland and the United States. The donor base also had broadened, reaching 113 in 2012. Switzerland and Germany had become new donors for the Fund for Gender Equality. These gains, however, could not compensate for the almost \$28 million decrease in core resources from some key donors. Funding targets had been missed for 2011 to 2013, despite having already been reduced from \$500 million annually to \$700 million for the 2012–2013 biennium.

The Secretary-General concluded that the relevance and added value of UN-Women had been amply demonstrated, and the Entity had provided substantive and technical expertise and advocacy support to enhance the normative and policy environment. He indicated that going forward, UN-Women would seize all opportunities—including the development of the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals, and the 20-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action—to be a leading voice and advocate for gender equality, and to make a lasting difference for women and girls everywhere.

## Executive Board

**First regular session.** At its first regular session (New York, 23–24 January) [UNW/2013/2], the Executive Board adopted the annotated provisional agenda and workplan for its first regular session of 2013, and the report [UNW/2012/17] on the second regular session of 2012. The Executive Board also approved the proposed provisional agenda and workplan for the annual session of 2013 (see below), to be held from 25 to 27 June, and adopted the draft annual workplan for the year. A resumed first regular session of the Executive Board of UN-Women was held at the UN Headquarters on 8 February. The Executive Board adopted two decisions: one on the report of the Under-Secretary-General on operational activities [UNW/2013/1] [YUN 2012, p. 1120] [UNW/2013/2 (dec. 2013/1)], and another on the road map towards an integrated budget, beginning 2014, and update on cost recovery [dec. 2013/2]. The session included briefings on the implementation of the Board of Auditors recommendations for the financial period ended 31 December 2011, on the harmonized cost-recovery policy, and on operational response at the country level.

**Annual session.** At the annual session (New York, 25–27 June) [UNW/2013/5], the Executive Board adopted the annotated provisional agenda and workplan for the annual session; approved the report on its first regular session and resumed first regular session (see above); and approved the proposed provisional agenda and workplan for the second regular session (see below). The Board also adopted a decision on the report of the Executive Director on progress made on the 2011–2013 strategic plan, for the year 2012 [UNW/2013/3] [UNW/2013/5 (dec. 2013/3)] (see p. 1132), and a decision on the report on the evaluation function of UN-Women in 2012 [UNW/2013/4] [dec. 2013/4] (see p. 1133). The session included briefings on the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development [YUN 2012, p. 780], on the implementation of the regional architecture [YUN 2012, p. 1123], and on the operational response of UN-Women at the country level. The Board

also considered a report on the joint field visit of the Executive Boards of UN-Women and other five partner agencies to Bangkok and Myanmar in March.

**Second regular session.** At its second regular session (New York, 16–18 September) [UNW/2013/10], the Executive Board adopted the annotated provisional agenda and workplan for the second regular session; approved the report on its annual session (see p. 1131); approved the proposed provisional agenda and workplan for the first regular session of 2014; and discussed the draft annual workplan for 2014. The Board adopted three decisions: on the 2014–2017 strategic plan [UNW/2013/10 (dec. 2013/5)]; on the integrated budget for the 2014–2015 biennium [dec. 2013/6]; and on the report on internal audit and investigation activities for 2012, as well as the report of the Audit Advisory Committee for the period 25 October 2012 to 31 May 2013 [dec. 2013/7]. During the session, the Board made a thematic evaluation on the contribution of UN-Women to preventing violence against women and expanding access to services. The session included briefings on the review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; lessons learned in implementing the 2011–2013 strategic plan; and on the operational response of UN-Women at the country level. The dates of 20 and 21 January were proposed for the first regular session of 2014.

All seven decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its 2013 sessions were subsequently compiled in an October document [UNW/2013/11].

## Functional areas

### *Operational activities*

**UN-Women strategic plan 2011–2013.** In May, the Executive Director submitted to the Executive Board a report [UNW/2013/3] on progress made in 2012 in the implementation of the 2011–2013 strategic plan [YUN 2012, p. 1118]. During the year, UN-Women continued to strengthen itself as an institution, finalizing its regional architecture and putting in place the foundations for its new field structure.

Regarding its normative role, UN-Women's advocacy efforts, substantive contributions and mobilization of stakeholders led to the outcome and agreed conclusions of the fifty-seventh (2013) session of the Commission on the Status of Women on preventing and ending violence against women and girls (see p. 1127); to the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 67/48 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control [YUN 2012, p. 470]; and to the use of gender-specific language in other resolutions during the Assembly's sixty-seventh (2012) session. The Entity also advocated for the centrality of gender equality in advancing sustainable development and climate change outcomes at the thirteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development [YUN 2012, p. 937]; and

supported CEDAW States parties in their reporting to the Committee and in their implementation of the Committee's concluding observations.

UN-Women supported over 50 UN entities in their reporting on and establishing baselines to assess future progress on the System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (un-swap) (see p. 1116); tracked country team progress on gender mainstreaming; and led a United Nations Development Group task team on the mapping of UN system human resources for gender equality, identifying 113 active gender theme groups of which UN-Women led or co-led 62. During 2012, UN-Women expanded its partnerships, joining the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and signing memorandums of understanding with the UNESCO and with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme. It also accelerated private sector outreach and established its global Civil Society Advisory Group.

In 2012, UN-Women was on track in 23 of the 29 indicators in its strategic plan, made significant progress with 3 indicators and was off track with 3. It delivered direct programmatic support in 87 countries, with a focus on ending violence against women and on economic empowerment. UN-Women supported women's participation and leadership in 71 countries and promoted more gender-equitable electoral processes. It also supported women's economic empowerment in 67 countries; efforts to end violence against women in 85 countries; constitutional reform in five countries that experienced transition (Egypt, Haiti, South Sudan, the Sudan and Tunisia); and efforts to introduce or strengthen a gender perspective in development plans, budgets and/or performance monitoring frameworks in 65 countries.

UN-Women launched the COMMIT initiative, which urged national Governments to take actions to end violence against women. By the end of March 2013, 49 countries from every region had pledged to take such actions. UN-Women partnered with the Department of Political Affairs, UNDP, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Peacebuilding Support Office to increase women's leadership in peace and security and humanitarian responses in 37 countries. It continued to manage the UN Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women [YUN 2012, p. 1095]; and finalized a scenario-based training of military peacekeepers on conflict-related sexual violence in partnership with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

In 2012, UN-Women revenues from voluntary contributions totalled 113.8 million in regular resources and \$93.6 million in other resources, reflecting a revenue shortfall for the year of \$92.4 million compared to the target of \$300 million combined for both categories, and a 9 per cent drop from the amount raised in 2011. Although the number of donors increased

during the year, funding targets were missed despite having already been reduced from the original targets, making resource mobilization the key challenge faced by UN-Women in 2012. Total revenue—including assessed resources, investment income and other revenue—amounted to \$219.9 million, while expenses totalled \$235.9 million, resulting in a deficit of some \$16 million for the year.

In geographic terms, the largest share of UN-Women programme expenditure (\$51.2 million) went to country or regional offices in Africa, followed by those in Asia and the Pacific (\$44.2 million), Latin America and the Caribbean (\$29 million), the Arab States (\$18.7 million), and Europe and Central Asia (\$14.9 million). The UN-Women Policy and Programme Bureau received \$36.7 million and the Directorate, Bureau of Management, Bureau of Strategic Partnerships, and Intergovernmental Support received \$41.1 million.

On 27 June, at its annual session, the Executive Board took note of the report [UNW/2013/5 (dec. 2013/3)] and welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the 2011–2013 strategic plan.

On 12 July, by **decision 2013/215**, the Economic and Social Council took note of the Secretariat note [E/2013/48] transmitting the annual report [UNW/2013/1] on the operational activities of UN-Women in 2011–2012 [YUN 2012, p. 1120].

**UN-Women 2014–2017 strategic plan.** In July, the Executive Director submitted to the Executive Board, for endorsement, the UN-Women 2014–2017 strategic plan [UNW/2013/6], which updated the 2011–2013 strategic plan, reflected lessons learned from implementing it, and stressed its mandate. The plan also reflected the provisions of General Assembly resolution 67/226 [YUN 2012, p. 859] on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review adopted in December 2012, including specific elements on gender equality; the strengthened coordination role of UN-Women; and the new and strengthened partnerships within the UN system and with women's organizations and networks, other civil society organizations, academia and experts, mass media and the private sector. The plan also capitalized on new agreements and commitments to increase accountability for results on gender equality and women's empowerment in gender-specific and sectoral intergovernmental agreements; and aligned the strategic planning cycle of UN-Women with that of other UN funds and programmes.

The six priorities of the 2011–2013 strategic plan continued to drive the development results of the 2014–2017 strategic plan, and the report provided details on how they were interlinked and interdependent. The new plan also included four operational effectiveness and efficiency priorities, namely, driving more effective and efficient UN system coordination and strategic partnerships; institutionalizing a strong culture of results-based

management, reporting, knowledge management and evaluation; enhancing organizational effectiveness; and mobilizing and leveraging adequate resources.

The strategic plan was aligned with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. UN-Women, in a joint approach with UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP), was working to foster coherence and synergies across the activities of those entities, while acting in accordance with the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) programming principles of a human rights-based approach, gender equality, environmental sustainability, results-based management and capacity development. Together, those entities and UN-Women were collaborating through “Delivering as one” and other mechanisms for collective action, avoiding overlaps and defining clear roles and responsibilities.

The UN-Women integrated results framework incorporated development, operational effectiveness, and efficiency results in line with the integrated budget, with resources linked to impact-level results. UN-Women would monitor the strategic plan development results at the output, outcome and impact levels, and its organizational effectiveness and efficiency at the output level. Sources for monitoring would include annual country-level reporting using the UN-Women results-tracking system, data from the enterprise resource planning system, Atlas, and other corporate tracking exercises. The evaluation function was governed by the Entity's evaluation policy through the independent Evaluation Office.

On 18 September, the Executive Board endorsed the UN-Women 2014–2017 strategic plan [UNW/2013/10 (dec. 2013/5)] (see above).

## Evaluation

**Report on evaluation function, 2012.** In compliance with the UN-Women evaluation policy and the 2011–2013 strategic plan, the UN-Women Evaluation Office submitted its annual report [UNW/2013/4], highlighting progress made by the evaluation function in 2012 and including the finalization of the UN-Women evaluation policy, the planning and use of decentralized evaluations, and the progress achieved in strengthening evaluation capacities. During the year, UN-Women made significant progress in consolidating corporate and decentralized evaluation systems, and played a prominent role in UN system-wide coordination and knowledge management on gender-responsive evaluation. It undertook three independent corporate evaluations on the themes of preventing violence against women and expanding access to services; the Entity's contribution to increasing women's leadership and participation in peace and security and humanitarian response; and joint programmes on gender equality in the UN system. Since the UN-Women evaluation policy came into effect in January 2013, reporting on progress in the evaluation function in

2012 was measured against the milestones set in the report on the UN-Women evaluation function, 2011 [UNW/2012/8] [YUN 2012, p. 1121].

The UN-Women evaluation policy established a framework to assess its performance in the pursuit of gender equality and the empowerment of women. It also governed the Entity's independent evaluation function and applied to funds administered and initiatives supported by UN-Women. The Executive Board played a critical role in supporting and guiding the evaluation function. Through the annual evaluation report, UN-Women informed the Executive Board of corporate evaluation plans, findings from corporate evaluations and the corresponding management responses. The Executive Board might also request corporate evaluation based on the parameters defined in the evaluation policy, including joint evaluations with other United Nations agencies. The evaluation policy also defined the role and responsibilities of the independent Evaluation Office as the custodian of the UN-Women evaluation function. The UN-Women Executive Director, though the Deputy Executive Directors, was ultimately accountable for the implementation of all decentralized monitoring, evaluation and research plans.

In 2012, country and regional offices developed 55 decentralized evaluations, and, as of March 2013, 29 had been completed. The greatest coverage was in Africa (seven) and in Arab States (seven), followed by Asia and the Pacific (six), Latin America and the Caribbean (five), Europe and Central Asia (three) and one evaluation at Headquarters level. The Evaluation Office also undertook a monitoring and evaluation needs survey to assess current capacities and knowledge of monitoring and evaluation and results-based management among UN-Women staff, and held training courses to improve internal evaluation capacity.

UN-Women also led the development of *un-swap*, which was launched during the year and aimed at the harmonization of evaluation reporting across the UN development system; participated in joint evaluation exercises and led one corporate joint evaluation on joint gender programmes with four UN entities and the Governments of Spain and Norway; supported national and regional evaluation capacities; and launched the gender equality evaluation portal, which by the end of 2012 contained 291 reports. The report also featured findings and lessons learned from corporate and decentralized evaluations, as well as the programme of work of the Evaluation Office for 2013.

On 27 June [UNW/2013/5 (dec. 2013/4)] (see p. 1131), the Executive Board took note of the report on the evaluation function and of the programme of work for 2013 and requested the Entity to continue to strengthen its evaluation capacity

**Violence against women.** During 2012–2013, the UN-Women Evaluation Office undertook a corporate thematic evaluation [UNW/2013/CRP.4] of the work of

UN-Women and its predecessor entities in preventing violence against women and expanding access to related services. The evaluation covered all dimensions of the work of UN-Women in addressing violence against women and girls from 2008 to 2013, with the objective to capture key results and lessons learned from the contributions of UN-Women predecessor entities between 2008 and 2011 and inform UN-Women current and future work. The evaluation was conducted in three phases: inception (August–October 2012); data collection (October–April 2012); and reporting (May–June 2013). It concluded that UN-Women, as a new entity in the UN system, had given continuity to the work related to ending violence against women of its predecessor entities, in particular, through the UN Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women (see p. 1101). The initiatives towards ending violence against women were enhancing global normative frameworks, and supporting national capacities to prevent violence against women and provide services to survivors. UN-Women's broad mandate, however, was still being defined, and gaps in its operationalization were being filled. It still lacked a coherent approach to tackle the issue and ascertain its performance, capitalize on learning, and make evidence-based programming choices. Further, UN-Women resources did not match the expectations, which represented a reputational risk for the Entity.

The evaluation made six strategic recommendations aimed at strengthening UN-Women work in this thematic area: the Entity should continue its substantive inputs and evidence-based work in support of enhanced normative frameworks; its country-level activities should be more strategic; it should further clarify, operationalize and enhance its coordination mandate, including the accountability dimension, at all levels; it should develop a strategy or guidance document outlining its mandate, key priorities and approaches related to ending violence against women; it should continue to strengthen results-based management; and it should develop creative ways of tapping into the resources of other partners for resourcing at the global, regional and country levels.

During the Executive Board's second regular session of 2013 (see p. 1132), UN-Women provided a management response [UNW/2013/CRP.5] to the thematic evaluation on the contribution of UN-Women to preventing violence against women and expanding access to services.

## **Administrative and budgetary matters**

### *Board of Auditors report*

In its financial report and audited financial statements [A/68/5/Add.13 & Corr.1, 2] on UN-Women for the year ended 31 December 2012, the Board of Auditors reported total revenue of \$220.1 million and



total expenses of \$235.9 million, resulting in a deficit of \$15.8 million.

In 2012, UN-Women adopted the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), in place of the UN Systems Accounting Standards, which resulted in significant changes to the assets and liabilities recognition, with a net increase in assets of \$12.09 million as at 1 January 2012. The Board's analysis of the financial position of UN-Women as at 31 December 2012 revealed good financial health. While the Board noted the successful first-time implementation of IPSAS in 2012 as a major achievement, it also noted deficiencies relating to financial statement presentation, recognition and valuation of assets and liabilities, and controls and policy issues. On the follow-up of the 28 recommendations made in the 2010–2011 biennium, 23 (82 per cent) of them were implemented and 5 (18 per cent) were in the process of being implemented, including through training in IPSAS implementation.

As at 31 December 2012, UN-Women had total assets of \$389.9 million and total liabilities of \$114 million. Of its total assets, \$228.5 million represented balances in cash and cash equivalent and investments. The net current assets were \$217.5 million, resulting from current assets of \$290.7 million and current liabilities of \$73.2 million. The significant excess of current assets over current liabilities demonstrated good short-term financial strength. The deficit was mainly due to other resources (\$14,378,000), which represented earmarked project expenses in 2012 relating to prior-year unspent budgets and 2012 expenses against current-year budgets. Of the total revenue of \$220,141,000, contributions accounted for \$214,997,000 and comprised voluntary regular resource (unearmarked) contributions (53.1 per cent of all contributions), which funded the operational requirements and projects and programmes of UN-Women; other voluntary resource contributions (43.6 per cent), which were earmarked for specific programmes and projects of UN-Women; and assessed resources from the United Nations regular budget (3.3 per cent), which funded the normative and intergovernmental work of UN-Women.

Key findings were related to inadequate investment management; absence of risk management framework and policy and risk register; inadequate internal controls over property, plant and equipment; inadequate management of projects; inadequate involvement of the headquarters procurement unit in the acquisition process across the entire organization; exposure of the information technology systems of UN-Women to increased risk of unauthorized transactions because of delays in deactivating dormant user accounts; and inadequate capacity of internal audit function.

The Board recommended that UN-Women improve the service-level agreement to accommodate its need to monitor all treasury services entrusted to UNDP; develop risk registers at operational levels and

a consolidated register at strategic level; design, implement and document additional procedures to ensure complete and accurate recording of property, plant and equipment in the asset management system; streamline project monitoring and evaluation; review its procurement planning procedures; and strengthen the internal audit function.

### *Internal audit and investigation activities*

In July, the UN-Women Audit Unit, established in January 2012, of the Office of Audit and Investigations of UNDP, submitted a report [UNW/2013/9] on the Entity's internal audit and investigation function and on the main audit results that provided insight into the utilization and management of its resources for the year ended 31 December 2012. The Audit Unit coordinated its work with the UN Board of Auditors, which also conducted monitoring of the Audit Unit's implementation of the Board's recommendations.

The Audit Advisory Committee, the UN-Women oversight committee formally established by the Entity's Executive Director in September 2012, submitted its first report in July [UNW/2013/9/Add.1] on its work for the period from 25 October 2012 to 31 May 2013.

On 18 September [UNW/2013/10 (dec. 2013/7)] the Executive Board took note of the two reports and welcomed the establishment of the Audit Advisory Committee.

### *Biennial budget for 2014–2015*

In a July report [UNW/2013/7], the Executive Board of UN-Women presented the integrated budget estimates for UN-Women for the 2014–2015 biennium, prepared in accordance with the harmonized results-based budgeting and cost classification methodology applied by UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA and on the experience gained during the 2012–2013 biennium. To support the second half of the strategic plan 2014–2017 (see p. 1133), UN-Women would submit an integrated budget for 2016–2017.

The 2014–2015 biennial integrated budget was estimated at \$690 million in voluntary contributions, with \$174.9 million (gross) requested as an appropriation. The General Assembly would continue to consider the resources required to service the normative intergovernmental processes in the context of the proposed UN programme budget, with an allocation of 15.3 million for UN-Women in assessed contributions. During 2014–2015, UN-Women intended to continue to strengthen its field capacity to support countries in their pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment, further strengthen its effectiveness and efficiency by responding to independent evaluations and internal and external audit recommendations, and streamline programming and business processes in line with UN system-wide coherence principles

and General Assembly resolution 67/226 [YUN 2012, p. 859]. UN-Women would continue to prioritize programmatic work by devoting 82 per cent of resources to development activities, 14 per cent to management and 4 per cent to UN development coordination.

**ACABQ report.** In its consideration [UNW/2013/8] of the integrated budget estimates for UN-Women for the 2014–2015 biennium, ACABQ had no objection to the proposed budget, and recommended that the Executive Board approve an appropriation in the amount of \$174.9 million (gross), including \$20 million for cost-recovery for other resources. The Committee further recommended that the Executive Board authorize UN-Women to allocate \$2 million to continuing improvement of its organizational effectiveness and efficiency initiative. The Committee also recommended that income from interest be reflected in future UN-Women budget documents and encouraged the Entity to increase its resource mobilization efforts in order to meet its target for the 2014–2015 biennium. The Committee noted that UN-Women intended to continue presenting two-year budgets for the 2014–2017 period, unlike UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA, which had presented four-year integrated budgets for the same period. It recommended that UN-Women look ahead towards aligning with the other agencies, funds and programmes in presenting a four-year integrated budget, and stressed the importance of building into the four-year integrated budget regular oversight by legislative bodies through a midterm review every two

years. The Committee also recommended that the Executive Board request UN-Women to further develop the analysis requested in General Assembly resolution 65/259 [YUN 2010, p. 1429] and to present its findings to the Board at its following session.

**Management response.** In its response to the ACABQ report [UNW/2013/CRP.6], UN-Women indicated actions to be carried out in line with the Committee's recommendations. Once UN-Women was ready to implement four-year budgets, it would prepare a thorough and detailed analysis of requirements, and would commit to a midterm review every two years. The Entity would also provide further clarifications on the outcome of the functional analysis requested in General Assembly resolution 65/259 [YUN 2010, p. 1431] to the upcoming Fifth Committee session in the context of the regular budget discussion, 2014–2015. UN-Women also intended to intensify its resource mobilization efforts to achieve the proposed increase in revenue, and, to present, from the 2016–2017 budget period onwards, income interest separately within its integrated budget proposals.

On 18 September [UNW/2013/10 (dec. 2013/6)], the Executive Board approved the gross appropriation of \$176.9 million for the 2014–2015 biennial integrated budget and noted that, in the event that actual cost recovery was higher than the estimates included in the budget proposal, the additional amount might be used for management activities to allow more regular resources to be used for programme activities.