

## Chapter XXVI

# The status of women

The International Women's Year, which had been proclaimed by a General Assembly resolution of 18 December 1972,<sup>1</sup> was held during 1975. The objectives of the Year were to promote equality between men and women, to ensure the full integration of women in the total development effort, and to recognize the importance of the increasing contri-

bution of women to the development of friendly relations among States and the strengthening of international peace. The theme of the Year was "equality, development and peace."

During the year, arrangements were made for

<sup>1</sup> See Y.U.N., 1972, p. 454, **text of resolution** 3010(XXVII).

the World Conference of the International Women's Year. A Consultative Committee for the Conference of the International Women's Year was established and a meeting to prepare a draft plan of action for the Conference was held from 3 to 14 March 1975. A number of regional seminars on the integration of women in development were organized by the United Nations in consultation with its regional commissions during 1974 and 1975.

The main event of the Year was the Conference, held at Mexico City, Mexico, from 19 June to 2 July 1975. The Conference adopted the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace and the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year, as well as 35 resolutions on objectives of the Year.

The Economic and Social Council studied the report of the Conference and recommended that the General Assembly approve the necessary measures to implement the World Plan of Action and

to implement other decisions of the Conference.

In December 1975, the General Assembly endorsed the results of the Conference, and adopted 10 resolutions outlining future action. The General Assembly, *inter alia*, proclaimed a United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (1976-1985), which would be devoted to implementing the recommendations of the Conference, and it decided to convene another world conference in 1980 to review and evaluate progress made towards achieving the goals of the International Women's Year and the Decade for Women. The General Assembly also took decisions regarding measures for: integrating women into the development process; improving the economic status of women; increasing women's participation in strengthening international peace and security and in the struggles against colonialism, racism, foreign aggression and occupation; supporting women's struggles for self-determination; eliminating discrimination against women; and improving the condition of women in rural areas.

## The International Women's Year

### Preparations for World Conference of the International Women's Year

The Consultative Committee for the Conference of the International Women's Year, which was established by the General Assembly to advise the Secretary-General on the preparation of a world plan of action, met at United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 3 to 14 March 1975. The Consultative Committee studied and amended the proposed world plan of action, which was subsequently circulated to Governments.

The United Nations regional commissions worked closely with Governments, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations during the year to promote participation in the Conference and other activities of the Year.

Prior to the Conference, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific adopted a plan of action at the Regional Consultation for Asia and the Far East on Integration of Women in Development with Special Reference to Population Factors, which was held at Bangkok, Thailand, in May 1974, and the Economic Commission for Africa adopted a plan of action at the Regional Seminar for Africa on Integration of Women in Development with Special Reference to Population Factors, held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in June 1974. According to the plans, improving conditions for women in the fields of education and training, employment, health, nutrition and other social services, population, research, communications and

public life would not only be a matter of social justice but a significant means of achieving development. The regional plans stated that non-governmental organizations, particularly those concerned with women's problems, trade unions, co-operatives and the mass media, constituted important resources for development and change. It was recommended that non-governmental organizations assist women to organize and press for representation on decision-making and policy-formulating bodies and encourage research by Governments, universities and private research organizations on social indicators and data collection systems to assess women's progress in development on the regional level.

A Regional Seminar for Latin America on the Integration of Women in Development with Special Reference to Population Factors was held at Caracas, Venezuela, from 28 April to 2 May 1975. A declaration and a series of recommendations aimed at the integration of women in the process of development were adopted at the Seminar, including a recommendation that a regional conference be held after the World Conference to evaluate the results of the Conference and to consider possible applications to the Latin American region.

During 1975, the Economic and Social Council took a number of decisions regarding preparations for the Conference.

On 15 January, the Council decided without a vote that the title of the Conference should be the

"World Conference of the International Women's Year."

In a two-part decision, adopted on 28 April and 8 May, the Council authorized the Secretary-General to invite the Netherlands Antilles, Papua New Guinea, and Surinam, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council which had expressed their interest, and also the World Federation of Trade Unions and the Soroptimist International Association to participate in the Conference as observers. These actions were taken without objection.

On 5 May, the Council, without taking a vote, urged the Secretary-General to accept additional contributions to the voluntary fund for the International Women's Year to cover the travel expenses of representatives of developing countries that requested such assistance and invited interested Governments to earmark contributions for that purpose.

These actions were set forth in decisions 67 (ORG-75) and 73(LVIII), adopted on the recommendation of the Council President, and in decision 74(LVIII) adopted on a proposal by Mexico.

On 6 May 1975, the Economic and Social Council, with the adoption of resolution 1928(LVIII), recalled that the General Assembly, in establishing the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade,<sup>2</sup> stressed that full integration of women in the total development effort should be encouraged. The Council recalled those declarations and instruments adopted by the United Nations that acknowledged the equality of the status of men and women, as well as various General Assembly resolutions on the subject, and noted that the World Conference of the International Women's Year would be charged with preparing an international action plan concerned with the role of women in development.

The Council urged that appropriate measures be taken to assure the full participation of women in planning, decision-making and the implementation of all development programmes at all levels and that all those responsible for the preparation and implementation of national and international development programmes make certain that women be given an opportunity to achieve their maximum contribution to the economic, social and political development of their countries on the same terms as men, and that they receive their full share of the benefits of development.

The Council recommended that Governments work towards these goals as part of a long-term effort to integrate women fully into the development process at all levels.

Resolution 1928(LVIII) was adopted, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Social Committee. On 14 April 1975, the Social Committee

approved the text, which had been submitted by the Commission for Social Development, without a vote.

(For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

By the terms of another resolution adopted on 6 May the Economic and Social Council urged United Nations bodies, Member States and relevant non-governmental organizations, in observing the International Women's Year and participating in the World Conference of the International Women's Year, to ensure that the recommendations relating to the status of women stated in the World Population Plan of Action and the relevant resolutions of the 1974 United Nations World Population Conference<sup>3</sup> were implemented. In particular, the Council urged the full participation of women in the educational, social, economic and political life of their countries on an equal basis with men, and the attainment of equal rights, opportunities and responsibilities by men and women in the family and in society. It also recommended that couples and individuals have access to the information, education and means to enable them to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children.

The Council requested United Nations bodies, including the regional commissions, to collaborate with Member States in the implementation of both short-term and long-term population policies and programmes designed to carry out the recommendations of the World Population Plan of Action, and to pay particular attention to the evolving status of women, keeping in mind interaction among population factors, social and economic development and the status of women. The Council also requested United Nations bodies to inform it of measures taken on this matter.

The Council took these decisions without a vote with the adoption of resolution 1942(LVIII) on the recommendation of the Economic Committee. The Economic Committee had approved the draft resolution on 21 April 1975, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Population Commission.

(For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

#### **World Conference of the International Women's Year**

At the World Conference of the International Women's Year, the following 133 Governments were represented:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados,

<sup>2</sup> See Y.U.N., 1970, pp. 319-29, resolution 2626(XXV) of 24 October 1970, containing text of Strategy.

<sup>3</sup> See Y.U.N., 1974, pp. 550-60.

Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, the Byelorussian SSR, Canada, the Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, the Gambia, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, the Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, the Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Republic, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of South Viet-Nam, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, the Ukrainian SSR, the USSR, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United Republic of Cameroon, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States, the Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia.

The Netherlands Antilles, Papua New Guinea and Surinam were represented at the Conference by observers.

Also attending were representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the World Intellectual Property Organization. Other United Nations offices and bodies in attendance included the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the World Food Programme and the regional commissions.

The national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and/or by

the League of Arab States were invited to participate in the Conference as observers, in accordance with the practice of the United Nations. Representatives of the following movements attended: the African National Congress, the African National Council, the National Front for the Liberation of Angola, the National Liberation Movement of Comoro, the Palestine Liberation Organization, the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola, and the South West Africa People's Organization.

Eight intergovernmental organizations—the Commission of the European Communities, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, the Inter-American Commission of Women, the Inter-American Development Bank, the League of Arab States, the Organization of American States, the Organization of African Unity and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development—and 114 non-governmental organizations also attended the Conference.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations opened the Conference, noting that it dealt with one of the most important issues of the day, the contribution of women to modern society. The growing realization that important world problems were interlinked had given impetus to the study of problems relating to the role of women in society, the Secretary-General said, and it was fundamentally wrong to regard the issues of women's rights and opportunities as less important than other social, humanitarian and economic problems. The Secretary-General remarked that the Conference would be a first major step in a world-wide attempt to achieve equality between men and women and to end separation of the sexes in matters of education, opportunities and economic priorities.

The President of Mexico, Luis Echeverría Álvarez, also addressed the Conference. Women of the world, he said, whatever the differences between them, had in common the experience of receiving or having received unequal treatment. No woman, he continued, was more discriminated against than the woman without bread, schooling or medicines for her children. In order to further the participation of women on all levels and involve them in development planning, he believed it would be necessary to link those purposes with actions taken against armaments, neo-colonialism, foreign domination, racial discrimination, interference in the domestic affairs of other States and the threat of the use of force, and with actions taken to prevent violation of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of peoples. Also, he saw the need for social change in the situation of women as being vitally linked to a new international economic order.

The Conference elected Pedro Ojeda Paullada of Mexico as President of the Conference and Maria Groza of Romania as Rapporteur-General. It then elected 46 Vice-Presidents from the following countries: Argentina, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Gabon, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Italy, the Ivory Coast, Japan, Kenya, Mauritius, New Zealand, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of South Vietnam, Somalia, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Sweden, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, the Ukrainian SSR, the USSR, the United Kingdom, the United States, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia.

The Conference established two committees, designated as the First Committee and the Second Committee, to study substantive items of the agenda. The Conference elected Jeanne Martin-Cissé of Guinea as Chairman of the First Committee and Shapour Rassekh of Iran as Chairman of the Second Committee.

According to the rules of the Conference, a Credentials Committee composed by the following States was appointed: Belgium, China, Costa Rica, the Philippines, Senegal, the USSR, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States and Venezuela. Following consideration of a memorandum prepared by the Secretary-General of the Conference, Helvi Sipilä, on the status of the credentials of representatives to the Conference, the Committee unanimously adopted a resolution accepting the credentials of those representatives.

The Conference held a general debate in plenary meetings from 19 to 30 June, during which representatives of 125 States and representatives of United Nations bodies, national liberation movements, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations made statements.

#### Action taken by the Conference

World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year

The First Committee of the Conference considered a World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year, which had been prepared by the United Nations Secretariat. The Chairman of the Consultative Committee for the Conference, addressing the First Committee, stated that the draft Plan of Action was designed to translate into practical reality the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>4</sup> and the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.<sup>5</sup>

The First Committee amended the introduction

to the Plan and the first chapter on proposals for national action, and approved the other five chapters of the Plan—on specific areas for national action; research, data collection and analysis; mass communication media; international and regional action; and measures for review and appraisal of the Plan—as they appeared in the draft submitted to the Conference. The First Committee approved the draft without a vote after deciding that there was insufficient time to review and consolidate the 894 amendments which had been submitted. The Conference subsequently adopted the text without a vote on 1 July 1975, and decided that the statements made on the Plan in the First Committee would be appended to it.

The World Plan of Action consisted of recommendations for national and international action, including economic, legal, social, administrative and educational measures. The Plan suggested, *inter alia*, that Governments set up national machinery to promote and oversee their national efforts to advance the status of women, and that international and regional organizations, particularly the United Nations and its specialized agencies, extend assistance to Governments and non-governmental organizations in their efforts to implement those recommendations and to examine their technical assistance programmes to determine whether women were participating to the same extent as men.

The Plan emphasized that the position of women was aggravated by the effects of the current economic crisis, the growth of unemployment, inflation, mass poverty, and a lack of resources for education and medical care, among other factors. Therefore, the Plan emphasized the importance of establishing a new international economic order.

Noting the interdependency between the improvement of the position of women and the strengthening of international peace and co-operation in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Plan called for the full participation of women in the achievement of national liberation and political and economic independence, in the elimination of colonialism and neo-colonialism, fascism and other similar ideologies, foreign occupation and apartheid, racism and discrimination in all its forms, and in the recognition of the dignity of the individual and appreciation of the human person and his or her self-determination.

On the national level, the Plan recommended both general and specific measures on administrative and organizational matters, legislation, inter-

<sup>4</sup> See Y.U.N., 1948-49, pp. 535-37, for text of Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

<sup>5</sup> See Y.U.N., 1967, pp. 521-22, resolution 2263(XXII) of 7 November 1967, containing text of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

national co-operation and the strengthening of international peace, political participation, education and training, employment, health, nutrition, family relations, housing, population and other social questions. Governments were urged to establish short-term, medium-term and long-term targets to implement the Plan.

The Conference recommended achievement of the following goals by the end of the first five-year period of the Decade: a marked increase in the literacy of women; extension of co-educational vocational training in basic skills, including modern farming methods; parity of enrolment at the primary level of education; increased employment opportunities for women; establishment and increase of infrastructural services in both rural and urban areas; enactment of legislation on equal political participation with men, equal employment opportunities, equal remuneration and equal legal capacity and the exercise thereof; encouragement of the increased participation of women in the formulation of action policies at all levels; increased provision for comprehensive measures for health education and services, sanitation, nutrition, family education, family planning and other welfare services; provision for parity in the exercise of civil, social and political rights, such as those pertaining to marriage, citizenship and commerce; recognition of the economic value of women's work in the home, in domestic food production and marketing and in voluntary activities not traditionally remunerated; redirection of formal, non-formal and life-long education towards the re-evaluation of men and women, in order to ensure their full realization as individuals in the family and in society; as an interim measure, the promotion of women's organizations within workers' organizations and educational, economic and professional institutions; the development of modern rural technology, cottage industries, pre-school day centres, and time and energy-saving devices to help reduce the heavy work load of women, particularly the rural and urban poor, in order to facilitate the full participation of women in community, national and international affairs; and the establishment of interdisciplinary and multi-sectoral machinery within each Government for accelerating the achievement of equal opportunities for women and their full integration in national life.

According to the Plan, high priority should be given to national, regional and international research activities and to data collection and analysis to assist in formulating policies and evaluating progress and in effecting attitudinal and basic social and economic changes.

Also, the Plan pointed out that the mass communication media could exercise significant influ-

ence in helping to remove outdated prejudices and stereotypes, which were a major obstacle to women's advancement.

Concerning international and regional action, it was recommended: that the United Nations proclaim the decade 1975-1985 as the United Nations Decade for Women and Development in order to ensure that national and international action be sustained; that each organization of the United Nations system take separate and joint action to implement the Plan, evaluating what it had done to improve the status of women; and that international and regional intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system develop programmes to implement the Plan and to achieve the objectives of the International Women's Year.

Also, according to the Plan, women should be fully involved in policy-making at the international as well as the national level, and Governments should ascertain that women were equitably represented among the principal delegates to all international bodies, conferences and committees. The secretariats of the international organizations should eliminate discrimination against women and establish goals, strategies and time-tables to ensure that an equitable balance between men and women be achieved before the end of the Second United Nations Development Decade.

Further, the preparation of international conventions, declarations and formal recommendations was considered to be an important element of international programmes, and it was recommended that they be continued. There should be a continued exchange of information and experience at the international level through meetings, seminars and the distribution of documentation.

The Plan stated that the regional commissions for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and Western Asia should provide Governments and non-governmental organizations with the technical and informational support they required to develop and implement the objectives of the Plan. It was recommended that regional standing committees of experts be established to advise each commission on activities to integrate women in development.

Finally, the Plan provided for a system of review and appraisal in order to evaluate progress in implementation.

During discussion of the Plan of Action in the First Committee, the representatives of Australia, Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka, among others, stressed that, in order to achieve increased co-operation among all women of the world, the link between women's problems in developed and developing countries should be emphasized.

Colombia, Egypt, Fiji, Jamaica, Lebanon, New Zealand, Romania and Spain were among those

Governments that stressed the need to give special priority to the needs of women in the developing countries, and among them women in rural and lower-income urban areas, especially in educational, vocational training, employment and housing programmes and pilot projects.

The representatives of Albania, China, Egypt, India, Jamaica, the Niger, Peru, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Republic of Tanzania and Yugoslavia, among others, stressed that problems of women were an integral part of the contemporary problems of society. They stated that the struggle for national liberation and political and economic independence and for the elimination of colonialism, neo-colonialism, alien occupation, apartheid and all forms of racial discrimination was a prerequisite and should be adequately reflected in the Plan.

The Chinese representative said that China had not participated in the Committee's decision to adopt the World Plan of Action because it had reservations concerning such questions as how to achieve women's emancipation, the theme of the International Women's Year, and concerning mention of disarmament in the World Plan of Action.

Many representatives expressed the view that provisions regarding implementation and review and appraisal of the Plan were of the utmost importance and needed strengthening.

#### Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace

The World Conference of the International Women's Year adopted on 1 July the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975. By the Declaration, the Conference expressed its awareness that the problems of women, who constituted half of the world's population, were the problems of society as a whole, and that changes in the economic, political and social situation of women had to become part of efforts to transform structures and attitudes that hindered satisfaction of their needs. The Conference stressed that women and men of all countries should have equal rights and duties and that it was the task of all States to create the necessary conditions for the attainment and exercise thereof. Further, equal participation of women at all levels of decision-making would contribute to the acceleration of development and the maintenance of peace.

The Conference emphasized that under-development imposed upon women a double burden of exploitation and that implementation of national development policies designed to eliminate this burden was seriously hindered by the existing inequitable system of international economic relations.

It recognized that changes in the social and economic structure of societies, even though they were among the prerequisites, could not of themselves ensure an immediate improvement in the status of a group which had long been disadvantaged, and that urgent consideration therefore had to be given to the full and immediate integration of women into national and international life.

The Conference observed that the role of women in child-bearing should not be the cause of inequality and discrimination, and that child-rearing demanded shared responsibilities among women, men and society as a whole.

The Declaration included 30 principles stating the need for measures to advance women's rights and linking that advancement with economic and political objectives. Among them were the following:

All obstacles that stood in the way of women's enjoyment of equal status with men must be eliminated in order to ensure women's full integration into national development and their participation in securing and maintaining international peace.

It was the responsibility of the State to create the necessary facilities so that women might be integrated into society while their children received adequate care.

National non-governmental organizations should contribute to the advancement of women by promoting education and information about women's rights.

Women and men had equal rights and responsibilities in the family and in society. Men should participate more actively, creatively and responsibly in family life with a view to combining home and work possibilities of both partners.

National policies and programmes should provide women with full and equal access to education and training at all levels, and ensure that such programmes and policies consciously oriented women towards new occupations and roles consistent with self-fulfilment and the needs of national development.

The rights of women to work, to receive equal pay for work of equal value, to be provided with equal conditions and opportunities for advancement in work, and all other women's rights to full and satisfying economic activity were strongly reaffirmed.

All communication and information media should regard as a high priority their responsibility to help remove attitudinal and cultural factors which inhibited the development of women, and project the value of the assumption of changing and expanding roles by women.

Resources should be available to enable women to participate in the political life of their countries and of the international community.

Every couple and every individual had the right to decide freely and responsibly whether or not to have children, to determine the number and spacing of their children, and to have the information, education and means to do so.

Respect for human dignity encompassed the right of every woman to decide freely for herself whether or not to contract matrimony.

The full and complete development of any country required the maximum participation of women as well as men in all fields; the under-utilization of the potential of approximately half of the world's population was a serious obstacle to social and economic development.

In order to integrate women into development, States should undertake the necessary changes in their economic and social policies.

Since the state of international economic relations posed serious obstacles to the utilization of human and material potential, it was essential to establish and implement a new international economic order—of which the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States adopted by the General Assembly in 1974,<sup>6</sup> would constitute a basic element—founded on the principles of equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest, co-operation among all States and peaceful coexistence.

Full and permanent sovereignty of a State over its natural resources, wealth and economic activities, and its inalienable right of nationalization as an expression of this sovereignty, constituted fundamental prerequisites to the process of economic and social development.

The attainment of economic and social goals would not of itself bring about the full integration of women in development unless specific measures were undertaken for the elimination of all forms of discrimination. It was therefore important to formulate and implement models of development that would promote the participation and advancement of women in all fields of work, and provide them with such services as would facilitate housework.

Modernization of the agricultural sector in vast areas of the world was an indispensable element for progress. Governments, the United Nations, specialized agencies and other competent regional and international organizations should support projects designed to utilize the maximum potential and develop the self-reliance of rural women.

In order to achieve the objectives considered in the Declaration, relations between States must be governed by the following principles, inter alia: the sovereign equality of States, the self-determination of peoples, the unacceptability of acquisition of territories by force (and the prohibition of recognition of such acquisition), territorial integrity, and non-interference in the domestic affairs of States; in the same manner, relations between human beings should be governed by the principle of equal rights for women and men.

International co-operation and peace required the achievement of national liberation and independence, the elimination of colonialism and neo-colonialism, foreign occupation, zionism, apartheid and racial discrimination in all its forms, as well as the right to self-determination.

Women must participate equally with men in the decision-making processes which helped to promote peace at all levels.

Women and men together should eliminate colonialism, neo-colonialism, imperialism, foreign domination and occupation, zionism, apartheid, racial discrimination and the acquisition of land by force, since such practices inflicted suffering on women, men and children.

Women all over the world should unite to eliminate violations of human rights committed against women and girls, such as rape, prostitution, physical assault, mental cruelty, child marriage, forced marriage and marriage as a commercial transaction.

Peace required that women as well as men reject any type of intervention in the domestic affairs of States, whether it was openly or covertly carried on by other States or by transnational corporations.

Women as well as men should promote real, general and complete disarmament under effective international control, starting with nuclear disarmament.

The Conference also proclaimed its commitment to the achievements of the International Women's Year, and urged Governments, the United Nations system, regional and international intergovernmental organizations and the international community to dedicate themselves to the creation of a just society.

During consideration of the Declaration at a plenary meeting of the Conference, Israel requested that inclusion of the word "zionism" in the draft text be voted on separately by roll call. The Conference decided, by 61 votes to 23, with 25 abstentions, to retain the word "zionism."

The Declaration was adopted by the Conference by a roll-call vote of 89 to 3, with 18 abstentions. Voting against adoption of the Declaration were Denmark, Israel and the United States; however Denmark later stated that it had intended to abstain.

The Declaration of Mexico was adopted on the recommendation of the First Committee of the Conference. The First Committee had originally considered two draft declarations, one sponsored by the Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland, the United Kingdom and the United States, and another sponsored by 74 developing countries. The Committee decided without a vote to consider the two drafts concurrently.

On a procedural motion, adopted by 68 votes to 5, with 18 abstentions, the Committee decided that priority should be given to the 74-power draft declaration.

The First Committee voted separately on the references to zionism in the declaration, retaining them by a roll-call vote of 59 to 19, with 25 abstentions. It then approved the document as a whole by a roll-call vote of 89 votes to 1, with 14 abstentions.

<sup>6</sup> See Y.U.N., 1974, pp. 402-7, **resolution 3281(XXIX)** of 12 December 1974, containing text of Charter.



The four powers which sponsored the alternative draft declaration did not press their text to a vote.

#### Other decisions of the Conference

Thirty-five resolutions supplementing the World Plan of Action and the Declaration of Mexico were approved by the Conference. These resolutions dealt with such issues as: integration of women in development; research and training centres for women in Africa; revision of job classifications; the establishment of an international training and research institute for the advancement of women; implementation of the World Plan of Action; the status of women in South Africa, Namibia and Southern Rhodesia; completion and ratification of international conventions for the elimination of discrimination against women; women and health; social security for women; participation of women in decision-making bodies; prevention of exploitation of women and girls; access of women to financial assistance; population research and the family; the role of women in world peace, international security and self-determination; women and the communications media; the condition of women in rural areas; and the role of women in the United Nations.

#### Integration of women in the development process

By a resolution on special resources for the integration of women in development, the Conference recommended that the General Assembly declare 1975-1985 as a Decade for Women and Development and urged Governments to implement their national plans of action, with minimum targets to be achieved by 1980.

The Conference urged organizations of the United Nations system to provide resources to assist implementation of the national plans of action, and asked Governments to allocate resources for the integration and participation of women in development. It also asked the United Nations Secretary-General to submit a report to the 1975 regular session of the General Assembly on how additional funds could be channelled and administered through United Nations bodies.

By another resolution—on research for the formulation of policies concerning the integration of women in the development process—the Conference requested the United Nations Secretary-General to establish a system-wide United Nations research programme on the position and role of women in development, and to report to the Economic and Social Council on ways and means by which the proposed research programme could be organized and financed.

The Conference, by a resolution on popular

participation, recommended that Member States sponsor voluntary social promotion programmes, such as self-help groups, co-operative women's groups and other organizations at all socio-economic levels, in order to incorporate women into productive and socially useful activities to improve their living conditions and those of their families and communities.

By a resolution on the integration of women in political, economic, social and cultural development, the Conference expressed its conviction that one of the primary tasks of States and international organizations was to eliminate economic inequality, discrimination, exploitation (including that conducted by transnational corporations), aggressive wars, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and apartheid, and to achieve general and complete disarmament.

The Conference urged States to encourage such social and economic development as would secure the participation of women as equal partners with men in all fields of work, including equal access to all working posts, equal pay for work of equal value, equal possibilities for education and for vocational training and equal participation in decision-making, and requested States which had not yet done so to enact or revise laws to guarantee the full equality of the rights of women with those of men. The Conference also requested the specialized agencies to provide assistance for the attainment of these objectives.

The Conference, considering that extreme poverty constituted an obstacle to the enjoyment of basic human rights, also recommended that women assume a special role in urging Governments and non-governmental organizations to co-operate in establishing structures that would enable individuals and groups to work to overcome the causes of poverty and economic disparity.

The Conference also recommended that all organs of the United Nations development system, specialized agencies and other international assistance programmes and agencies give sustained attention to initiatives that would integrate women in the development process, and that they incorporate in their development plans impact statements on how such proposed programmes would affect women as participants and beneficiaries, in consultation with the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. The Conference also recommended that women participate on decision-making levels in the planning and implementation of such programmes.

#### Education, research and training

By a resolution on research and training for the advancement of women in Africa, the Conference welcomed the decision of the Conference

of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa to establish an African Training and Research Centre for Women, supported the decision of the Pan-African Women's Organization to establish a training centre for the advancement of women, and called on all Governments, non-governmental organizations and United Nations specialized agencies concerned to contribute to the development of those centres.

By another resolution, the Conference, bearing in mind the lack of factual information about the social and economic contribution of women to society, requested the International Labour Organisation (ILO), in consultation with appropriate bodies, to redefine and where necessary relabel categories within the International Standard Classifications of Occupations that implied that a job could be done only by a female or only by a male. The Conference also requested that the United Nations Statistical Commission and ILO, in consultation with the Commission on the Status of Women, assist Governments to conduct national censuses that would include classifications of women not currently defined as economically active, and suggested that those new categories include caring for dependants, housework, all forms of domestic production, family workers and voluntary social workers.

The Conference, by a resolution on education and training, affirmed its belief that free and compulsory primary and secondary education should be provided to ensure equal opportunities for girls and boys and that co-education should be provided at all levels so that girls and boys would have access to identical curricula. The Conference recommended to Governments that reforms in educational systems be carried out so that girls and boys would consider each other as equals, and that training for teaching, counselling and administration and all teaching materials be free of sex bias. The Conference also recommended that training and promotion centres for women be established. The Conference requested the United Nations system to assist Governments in the planning and implementation of such programmes and requested the Secretary-General, in allocating resources of the voluntary fund for the International Women's Year, to give priority to literacy and education programmes for women.

The Conference, by another resolution, recommended the establishment of an international training and research institute for the advancement of women, which would be financed through voluntary contributions. The institute would undertake research and collect and disseminate information on the formulation of programmes and policies benefiting women, assist in designing research to monitor changes in the situation of women, and

develop training programmes enabling women to assume leadership roles within their own societies and increase their earning possibilities. The United Nations Secretary-General was asked to appoint a group of experts to assist in establishing the institute and to submit a report to the Economic and Social Council.

#### Implementation of the World Plan of Action

By a resolution on international co-operation to achieve the objectives of the World Plan of Action, the Conference recommended simplification of the procedure governing assistance to projects for the integration of women in development and recommended that such projects be directed by women to the fullest possible extent. The Conference also recommended to the Economic and Social Council that it ask the United Nations Secretary-General and the specialized agencies to draw up plans of assistance.

By a resolution on the role of the United Nations system in implementing the World Plan of Action, the Conference urged Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to allocate staff, particularly women staff, and finances to assist in implementation of the Plan. The Conference also recommended the continuing operation of the Commission on the Status of Women, or some other representative body within the United Nations designed to deal solely with problems relating to the status of women, to ensure implementation of ongoing programmes and to provide an international forum for the formulation of internationally acceptable principles pertaining to the status of women.

#### Elimination of discrimination

By a resolution on the status of women in South Africa, Namibia and Southern Rhodesia, the Conference proclaimed that apartheid was a crime against humanity and a crime of genocide whose primary victims were women, and that its eradication was a matter of concern to all humanity. The Conference urged women to become aware of the role they could play in enabling the women of South Africa, Namibia and Southern Rhodesia to recover their human dignity, urged all Governments to apply political, economic, social and military sanctions to isolate the minority and racist regimes, and urged all States, United Nations organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to adopt other measures of support for these areas. The United Nations Secretary-General and the specialized agencies were invited to initiate studies on the effects of apartheid on the status of women and to present a report to the General Assembly's Special Committee

against Apartheid and to the Commission on the Status of Women.

By another resolution on the elimination of discrimination against women, the Conference appealed to all Governments that had not yet done so to ratify the relevant conventions and other instruments elaborated by the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and ILO.

It also requested that all Governments give full effect to the principles set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. The Conference considered it necessary to speed up the drafting of the convention on the elimination of discrimination against women, which would ensure in practice the full equality of men and women in all fields, and called upon the Economic and Social Council to request the Commission on the Status of Women to submit a draft of the convention to the Council and the General Assembly.

#### Health and welfare

The Conference, by a resolution on women and health, recommended that Governments should: give high priority to community programmes, mobile units and education of women about their basic health rights; introduce measures to prevent all forms of discrimination against the well-being of women; provide adequate assistance where suffering is the result of lack of understanding by institutions, especially in health, maternal, child-care and family planning services; and establish priorities in medical research and the training of health personnel for the prevention and cure of women's health problems.

By a resolution on the protection of maternal and child health, the Conference recognized that the high rate of illegal abortions performed by unqualified persons was a serious maternal health problem in several developing countries, particularly in the case of migrant women living under substandard housing conditions. The Conference urged that primary health programmes be developed, that health services reflect the needs of the community, and that family education and training plans be provided. The Conference also invited the United Nations Secretary-General to carry out further research for the improvement of maternal and child health.

By a resolution on social security and family security for women, the Conference urged Governments to recognize maternity and parenthood as a social function, and recommended that Governments take measures to ensure paid leave to all working mothers during pregnancy and delivery and provide job security for mothers for a minimum of one year after delivery. The Confer-

ence also decided that maternity benefits should be charged to social security and that both employers and workers should be asked to contribute, whether or not the employers employed women. The Conference also recommended that Governments ensure that free medical care be provided to all citizens whose economic circumstances required it and that special services be provided to mothers during pregnancy and delivery and to newborn infants and children up to the age of five years.

#### Participation in decision-making bodies

The Conference, by a resolution noting the limited participation of women in international meetings of major political and economic importance, requested all Governments to ensure the participation of women in the seventh special session of the General Assembly in September 1975 and recommended that the delegations be comprised of men and women. It also requested the United Nations Secretary-General to do everything possible to bring about the promotion of women to posts of the highest responsibility within the United Nations system, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

By another resolution, the Conference expressed its conviction that, *inter alia*, colonialism, racism, apartheid, alien domination, racial discrimination, acquisition of land by force and the armaments race impeded the active participation of women as well as men in all fields of endeavour. It therefore recommended that Governments consider the rights of women as a political issue, and, where appropriate, undertake structural reforms that would make it possible to combine economic development with social transformation, creating conditions for full participation by women with men in the process of national transformation. Governments should also establish national commissions empowered to serve as ombudsmen or mechanisms at the highest political level in order to ensure the active participation of women in structural reforms and the achievement of economic and social development and international peace. The Conference also decided that the national commissions should promote policies and strategies designed to bring about institutional changes and changes in values and attitudes in both men and women and should report periodically to the United Nations in order to evaluate progress.

The Conference, by another resolution, noted that less than 10 per cent of the delegations to sessions of the General Assembly, and less than 5 per cent of representatives to the United Nations, were women. Also noting that the achievement of the goals of the International Women's Year re-

quired that more women should hold positions of policy- and decision-making in their own Governments in order to make a greater contribution towards international peace, the Conference recommended that Governments increase substantially the number of women in their delegations to meetings held under United Nations auspices.

#### Prevention of exploitation of women and girls

Expressing its belief that prostitution was one of the most grievous offenses against the dignity of women and that prostitution and the exploitation of women and young girls was still prevalent in many countries as a result of socio-economic conditions, the Conference urged Governments of States where the practice existed to take energetic action to put an end to forced prostitution and traffic in women. The Conference also urged Governments to adopt measures to avert forced recruitment of women and young girls into prostitution, not confining themselves to repressive measures but also adopting measures to promote the rehabilitation of prostitutes.

#### Access of women to financial assistance

By a resolution on financial assistance for the participation of women in development, the Conference recommended that Governments establish mechanisms to facilitate the extension of credit to low-income women in rural and urban areas, and that they encourage initiatives of non-governmental and women's organizations to establish their own financial institutions and banks.

#### Population research and the family

The Conference, by a resolution on population research, recommended that the Economic and Social Council promote and carry out research on: the impact of population trends on women's roles in the family and society and on other subjects, including the economic, social and demographic benefits that might result from the integration of women in development; the ways in which the urban process influenced women's roles; the conditions of life and opportunities for development; the interrelationship between educational, marital and union status and the participation of women in economic activities outside the home; the impact of child-bearing on maternal morbidity and mortality, and the impact of these and other mortality patterns upon the conditions of women.

United Nations commissions and agencies involved in such research were to report to the General Assembly on over-all progress in this area.

By a resolution on family planning, the Conference called on Governments to provide, consistent with their national policies, adequate education and health services to enable women who

so desired to decide on the number and spacing of their children. The Conference also called on Governments to include women on all boards and policy-making bodies at all levels, especially those developing socio-economic plans and population policies.

The Conference also decided to urge States to treat the family as an object of special protection, and suggested to States that urbanization policies should be conducive to the strengthening of family ties. The Conference recommended that the family be granted the right to participate in the work of organizations concerned with education and with social services.

#### The role of women in world peace, international security and self-determination

By a resolution on women's participation in promoting world peace and international co-operation, the Conference urged Governments: to encourage more women to study for diplomatic careers and to eliminate all barriers to their admission and advancement; to provide more opportunities for women to join and advance in the international civil service or international or regional organizations and agencies; to provide women with equal opportunities to represent their countries at all international fora; to allow and encourage women to participate in foreign policy decision-making agencies of national Governments; to provide women with opportunities to be better equipped to resolve political problems through exchanges of women leaders, through a free flow of information and through the pursuance of university or college courses in government and international studies.

The Conference also requested the United Nations to proclaim United Nations Day, 24 October, as a day devoted to international peace, to be celebrated nationally and internationally, and urged non-governmental organizations to engage in mobilizing public opinion for the cause of a just peace in accordance with the principles and resolutions of the United Nations.

By another resolution, the Conference reaffirmed that strengthening of international peace and security, co-operation among States based on the principle of peaceful coexistence, and the elimination of the vestiges of colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, racism, alien domination and foreign occupation were necessary to safeguard the fundamental human rights of both men and women. The Conference therefore called upon all Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, women's organizations and other women's groups to intensify their forces in order to strengthen peace, to expand and deepen the process of detente and implement its irrevers-

ible character, and to eliminate all forms of colonialism, apartheid, racism, foreign domination and aggression. All Governments were also urged to take effective measures towards bringing about general and complete disarmament.

The Conference also requested the Economic and Social Council to invite the Commission on the Status of Women to prepare and consider a report on the participation of women in the strengthening of world peace and the elimination of apartheid, racism, colonialism and foreign domination, and to submit its report to the General Assembly.

By another resolution, entitled "The question of the Panamanian territory called the Canal Zone," the Conference expressed its view that negotiations between the United States and Panama on a new treaty must eliminate the colonial situation, racism and racial discrimination in Panama, as well as domination and occupation without the consent of the authority sovereign in the territory, in conformity with the principles of international law governing relations between States.

By a resolution on aid to the Viet-Nameese people, the Conference appealed to all women and peoples of the world to do everything possible, with a view to preserving the rights of peoples and of women to live in peace, independence, freedom and equality, to prevent the occurrence of another war like that of Viet-Nam. The Conference also invited peoples, Governments and national and international organizations to continue their aid to the Viet-Nameese and requested the United Nations to continue its assistance to them through the funds of existing international agencies.

By a resolution on the situation of women in Chile, the Conference expressed its deep concern about reports of degrading and humiliating conditions of women prisoners, as well as of the growing tendency to extend repression to the families of those who were being persecuted in order to force their submission, and urged the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take, immediately, all necessary measures for the implementation of the General Assembly's resolution of 6 November 1974 on the protection of human rights in Chile.<sup>7</sup> The Conference also demanded that the Chilean authorities immediately abstain from any political executions, torture, persecution, oppression or the denial of liberty or jobs and immediately release all political prisoners, especially women and children, and other relatives held as hostages. The Conference also expressed its wish that the Commission on Human Rights Ad Hoc Working Group on the situation of human rights in Chile pay special attention to the situation of women and children in its report.

The Conference, by a resolution on Palestinian and Arab women, appealed to all women to proclaim their solidarity with the Palestinian women and people in their drive to end human rights violations by Israel in occupied territories, and to take measures necessary to secure the release of thousands of persons, fighters for self-determination, liberation and independence, held arbitrarily in the prisons of the forces of occupation. The Conference appealed to all States and international organizations to extend moral and material assistance to Palestinian and Arab women and people in their struggle against zionism, foreign occupation and alien domination, and help restore their inalienable rights in Palestine, in particular the right to return to their homes and property, the right to self-determination and the right to national independence and sovereignty in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

The Conference also requested the United Nations, its organs and specialized agencies, as well as all national, regional and international women's organizations, to extend moral and material assistance to the Palestinian women and their organizations and institutes.

#### Women and the communication media

The Conference, recognizing that the mass communication media tended to reinforce and present a stereotyped, degrading and immoral image of women, particularly in connexion with the marketing of consumer goods, expressed its awareness that, as the media influenced ways of thinking and the formation of opinion, it could contribute to the adoption of new attitudes regarding the roles of men and women in society.

The Conference condemned the exploitation of women as sex symbols and instruments of economic interests and requested Governments and responsible organizations to promote the projection of dignified and positive images of women, divesting them of their roles as vehicles for publicity and as targets for the sale of consumer goods.

It also requested those in charge of mass media to cease projecting and gradually to eliminate commercialized and stereotyped images of women, particularly in pornographic publications, the use of such images in depicting sexual crimes and crimes of violence, and the dissemination of any material tending to create prejudices and negative attitudes.

In addition, the Conference called for the critical and creative participation of women in all systems of mass communication at the programming, production, distribution, and consumer levels.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 687, text of resolution 3219(XXIX).

#### Condition of women in rural areas

By a resolution on the condition of women in rural areas, the Conference called on Governments to formulate and implement rural development programmes, and to ensure women's legal parity and economic rights in peasant families as an essential part of rural development. The Conference also requested international and bilateral agencies to review their criteria for assistance and to support efforts of developing countries to increase agricultural productivity, with due attention to the interests of women and girls.

#### Convening of a second conference

The Conference recommended that the General Assembly of the United Nations consider at its 1975 regular session the convening of another world conference on women in 1980.

#### Role of women in the United Nations

The Conference noted that a study on the situation of women in the United Nations issued by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in 1973 confirmed the widely known fact that, in comparison to men, the conditions under which women entered the service of the United Nations, worked in it, achieved promotion and enjoyed its benefits were by no means as equitable as the Charter of the United Nations required. The Conference also noted that the United Nations Secretary-General had set up the Standing Committee on the Employment of Women in the Secretariat to assist in eliminating discriminatory measures against women employees of the United Nations and to increase the recruitment of qualified women.

The Conference recommended that the United Nations, its specialized agencies and all its subsidiary bodies recognize their responsibilities to set an example to Member States in employment and personnel practices. It also recommended that efforts be made to bridge the gap between the over-represented and under-represented countries in recruitment of the Secretariat staff, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

#### Parallel activities

A number of parallel activities were held at the time of the Conference for non-governmental organizations, the general public, academics, journalists and experts on issues of concern to women.

An International Women's Year Tribune was held in Mexico City concurrently with the Conference to provide a forum for non-governmental organizations and individuals interested in the position of women in society and in the themes of the Year—equality, development and peace.

A Seminar on Women in Development, which was sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Mexican Council on Science and Technology, the United Nations Development Programme and UNITAR was held in Mexico City from 16 to 18 June 1975. Ninety-six persons from 55 countries attended the Seminar, at which food processing, nutrition, rural development, education, urbanization, health, and women's self-help organizations were discussed.

A Journalists Encounter was held in Mexico City from 16 to 18 June and on 27 June. Although the Encounter, which was organized by the United Nations Centre for Economic and Social Information and the secretariat of the International Women's Year, was primarily intended for 53 journalism fellows from developing countries, it was open to all journalists accredited to the Conference. The Encounter debated each of the themes of the Conference.

On 3 and 4 July UNESCO, in conjunction with the Centre for Economic and Social Information, organized a Media Workshop for editors, publishers, journalists and broadcasters who produced material of particular interest to women.

#### Other International Women's Year activities

On 7 March 1975, International Women's Day was celebrated at United Nations Headquarters, New York. An international panel of eminent persons discussed the theme "Women and Men—the Next 25 Years," focusing on the meaning of development, women as agents of social change, political power and human and family relationships. The panelists generally agreed that deep economic and social changes were needed in order to achieve equality and the full participation of women in the processes of development and the strengthening of peace, that the contribution of women was essential to these processes, and that attitudinal change was an element of paramount importance.

During the International Women's Year a number of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council worked to further the aims of the Year, by initiating independent programmes, collaborating with other organizations and bodies on special projects, and organizing conferences, seminars, symposia, workshops, surveys and studies, educational programmes and publicity campaigns.

A number of Governments also transmitted statements on their national programmes and activities for women to the United Nations Secretary-General. These Governments included: Afghanistan, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian SSR, Chile, Cuba, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, the Ivory Coast,

Japan, Lebanon, Mongolia, Peru, Poland, Spain, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Ukrainian SSR, the USSR, Yugoslavia and Zaire.

Governments reported, among other things, that national programmes for the integration of women in development had been established, national commissions and counselling offices to advise women of their rights and obligations were formed, and educational and public information programmes, studies, surveys and conferences were organized. Various countries also reported the ratification and implementation of provisions of the existing international instruments relating to women's rights.

Among the reports on activities undertaken in connexion with the International Women's Year was a letter from the Permanent Representative of the German Democratic Republic addressed to the United Nations Secretary-General, dated 13 November 1975, transmitting documents adopted at the World Congress for the International Women's Year. This Congress was held from 20 to 24 October 1975 in Berlin. On 15 December 1975, the Permanent Representatives of France, the United Kingdom and the United States wrote to the Secretary-General in reference to the German Democratic Republic's communication, in which the venue of the Congress was stated to be the capital of the German Democratic Republic, Berlin. The three-power letter stated that the three Governments wished to confirm that their position on the status of Berlin remained as set out in letters which they had addressed to the Secretary-General on 14 April and 26 June 1975.<sup>8</sup>

### **Decisions by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly**

#### **Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year**

On 28 July 1975, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year and, in particular, of the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975, and the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year.

The Council drew the attention of the 1975 special session of the General Assembly to the proposals and recommendations of the Conference, especially those relating to women and development, and recommended that the Assembly give due priority at its regular 1975 session to the report of the Conference and the measures needed to implement the recommendations, especially the World Plan of Action. The Council also recommended that the Assembly ensure that adequate budgetary provision be made for this purpose.

The Economic and Social Council urged Member States and all organizations of the United Nations system to take intensified and sustained action to achieve the full equality of men and women and improve the quality of life for all human beings, and recommended that the Assembly, in proclaiming 1976-1985 as the Decade for Women and Development, ensure that continuing action was taken at the national, regional and international levels throughout that period. The Council also invited Governments to contribute to the voluntary fund for the International Women's Year to supplement the budgetary resources available for the implementation of the decisions of the Conference, and the Council requested the United Nations Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its 1975 regular session on the establishment of an international research and training institute for the promotion of women.

The Council's decisions were embodied in resolution 1959(LIX), which was adopted without a vote, as sponsored by Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Colombia, the Congo, Democratic Yemen, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Jordan, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Romania, Senegal, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia.

(For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

On 16 September 1975, at its seventh special session, the General Assembly unanimously adopted a decision to take note with satisfaction of a report submitted by the Secretary-General summarizing the genesis and results of the Conference, and decided that the recommendations and conclusions of the Conference would be considered by the Assembly at its next regular session.

The Assembly adopted its decision on the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Seventh Special Session, which approved the draft decision, unanimously, on 16 September 1975 on the proposal of its Chairman.

On 15 December 1975, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Conference, including the Declaration of Mexico, the World Plan of Action, the regional plans of action and the resolutions and other recommendations adopted by the Conference, and endorsed the action proposals contained in those documents.

The Assembly proclaimed 1976-1985 the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, to be devoted to effective and sustained national, regional and international action to implement the World Plan of Action and related resolutions of the Conference. The Assem-

<sup>8</sup> The letters of 14 April and 26 June 1975, along with 1974 communications on the same subject, are summarized in Y.U.N., 1974, pp. 562-63.

bly also called upon Governments, as a matter of urgency, to examine the recommendations contained in the World Plan of Action and related resolutions of the Conference, such as: the establishment of short-term, medium-term and long-term targets, taking into account the guidelines in the World Plan of Action, including minimum objectives recommended for achievement by 1980; the adoption of national strategies, plans and programmes for the implementation of the recommendations within the framework of over-all development plans, policies and programmes; and the undertaking of regular reviews and appraisals of progress at the national and local levels in achieving the goals and objectives of the World Plan of Action, within the framework of over-all development plans, policies and programmes.

The Assembly also called upon regional commissions to develop and implement, as a matter of priority, effective strategies to further the objectives of the World Plan of Action at the regional and subregional levels, bearing in mind their respective regional plans of action. The Assembly urged all financial institutions and all international, regional and subregional development banks and bilateral funding agencies to accord high priority in their development assistance (in accordance with requests of Governments) to projects that would promote the integration of women in the development process, in particular women in rural areas, as well as the achievement of the equality of women and men, priority being given to countries with limited financial means. The Assembly also urged non-governmental organizations, at the national and international levels, to take all possible measures to assist in the implementation of the World Plan of Action and related resolutions of the Conference within their particular areas of interest and competence.

The Assembly invited all relevant organizations of the United Nations system concerned to develop and implement, during the first half of the Decade for Women, a joint interagency programme for the integration of women in development under the auspices of the interagency Administrative Committee on Co-ordination.

The General Assembly also affirmed that a system-wide review and appraisal of the World Plan of Action should be undertaken biennially, and that such reviews and appraisals should contribute to the review and appraisal of progress made under the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, taking into account the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order<sup>9</sup> and the decisions resulting from the special sessions of the Assembly in 1974 and 1975.

The Assembly decided, in principle, to establish under the auspices of the United Nations an International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, which would be financed through voluntary contributions. The Assembly invited the Secretary-General to appoint a group of experts to draw up, in consultation with the representatives of existing regional centres and institutes for research and training that had similar objectives, the terms of reference and structural organization of the Institute, giving special consideration to the needs of women of developing countries. The Secretary-General was asked to report to the Economic and Social Council in 1976 on the recommendations of the group of experts.

The Assembly also invited the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the implementation of the World Plan of Action and related resolutions, and on measures taken to initiate review and appraisal procedures. It also asked him: to take into account the requirements of the World Plan of Action and related resolutions in preparing revised budget estimates and the medium-term plan; to ensure that the Secretariat unit responsible for women's questions possessed adequate personnel and budgetary resources to discharge its functions under the Plan; and to issue a simplified version of the World Plan of Action in booklet form in order to explain the relevance of the implementation of the Plan to the daily lives of men and women.

Also, the General Assembly urged Governments and concerned organizations to give widespread publicity to the achievements of the Conference, and decided to convene a world conference of all States in 1980 to review and evaluate the progress made in implementing the objectives of the International Women's Year.

The Assembly's decisions were embodied in resolution 3520(XXX), which was adopted on 15 December 1975 by a roll-call vote of 107 to 1, with 26 abstentions, on the recommendation of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee.

The Third Committee had approved the draft resolution on 5 December 1975 by a roll-call vote of 97 to 2, with 22 abstentions, as sponsored by Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Chad, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Jordan, the Libyan Arab Republic, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Romania, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Trini-

<sup>9</sup> See Y.U.N., 1974, pp. 326-32, resolution 3202(S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing text of Programme of Action.



dad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, the United Republic of Cameroon, and Venezuela.

Several provisions of the text were revised by the sponsors to take into account amendments proposed by Madagascar, the Ukrainian SSR and Yugoslavia.

(For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

Before voting on the text as a whole, the Third Committee voted by roll call (at the request of Israel) on the first operative paragraph, by which the Assembly noted the Declaration and action plans and endorsed the action proposals contained therein. The Committee approved the paragraph by 73 votes to 22, with 22 abstentions. The Committee also voted separately on the second operative paragraph proclaiming the Decade for Women; this text was approved by 81 votes to 4, with 31 abstentions.

A number of Members, among them Australia, Austria, Barbados, Finland and Iceland, stated in the Third Committee that while they would support the resolution as a whole because it constituted a sound basis for the Decade for Women, they would abstain or vote against the operative paragraphs being voted on separately because of the reservations they had concerning the Mexico City text equating zionism and racial discrimination.

Israel said that although it fully supported the international effort to advance the status and role of women, it believed that the Conference, which had called for the elimination of zionism, had been exploited for the purposes of anti-Semitic reactionary manoeuvring and it would vote against resolutions implying full approval of actions taken at the Conference. Italy said that the nine States members of the European Economic Community would abstain in the vote because of their reservation with regard to the mention of zionism among the forces to be opposed in connexion with the emancipation of women. Canada, Costa Rica, Haiti, Honduras and the United States expressed similar views.

On 15 December the General Assembly, considering the significance and positive results of the Conference, expressed its deep appreciation to the Government and people of Mexico for acting as host to the Conference. The Assembly took this action by adopting resolution 3518(XXX), by acclamation, on the recommendation of the Third Committee.

The Third Committee had approved the draft resolution by acclamation on 5 December 1975, as sponsored by Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Benin, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Finland, Gabon, the German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, India, Iran, Jamaica,

Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Lesotho, the Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, the Philippines, Romania, Senegal, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Sweden, the Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, the USSR, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Cameroon, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

(For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

#### Implementation of the World Plan of Action

On 12 December 1975, the General Assembly adopted another resolution by which it called upon the governing bodies of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the relevant specialized agencies and the regional commissions to review annually the activities they had undertaken in accordance with the World Plan of Action and to integrate such reviews into reports submitted to the Economic and Social Council. The Assembly also affirmed that a system-wide review and appraisal of the implementation of the Plan of Action should be undertaken during the biennial review years of the International Development Strategy to contribute to the process of review and appraisal of progress made under the Strategy.

The Assembly requested the Commission on the Status of Women to consider reports on measures taken to implement the World Plan of Action in accordance with the International Development Strategy, and to report its findings and conclusions on major trends and policies with regard to the status of women, particularly the integration of women in development, to the Economic and Social Council through the Committee for Development Planning and the Committee on Review and Appraisal.

The Assembly urged the Council, the Committee for Development Planning and the Committee on Review and Appraisal to pay special attention to the question of the status of women in the review and appraisal of the Strategy, urged all States and relevant organs of the United Nations to report to the Secretary-General on measures they had taken to implement the World Plan of Action, and invited him to make arrangements for the first review and appraisal of the Plan.

The Assembly's decisions were embodied in resolution 3490(XXX), adopted without a vote on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee. The Second Committee had approved the draft resolution without a vote on 3 December 1975, as sponsored by Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Jamaica, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippines, Sweden, Thailand,

Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda and the United States.

(For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

#### Measures for integration of women in development

On 15 December 1975, the General Assembly adopted three resolutions dealing with specific aspects of the integration of women in development. The first of these resolutions (3505(XXX)) was considered within the context of economic questions and thus was considered by the Assembly's Second Committee.

By resolution 3505(XXX), the Assembly, recognizing that the World Conference of the International Women's Year had established that improvement of the status of women constituted a basic element in any development process, urged all States to undertake necessary changes in their economic and social structures in order to ensure the participation of women on an equal basis with men in the development process. It also urged all Governments to give special attention to the inclusion of the question of the integration of women in the development process in the United Nations conferences and meetings on matters which had an impact on the participation of women in development.

The Assembly invited relevant organizations within the United Nations system to pay special attention to development programmes relating to women, *inter alia*, in the fields of agriculture, industry, trade, and science and technology, and requested the Secretary-General to prepare, on the basis of information received from Governments and relevant organizations of the United Nations system, as well as on the basis of existing studies, a preliminary report on the extent to which women participated in those fields, with a view to making recommendations on ways and means of increasing and upgrading the participation of women.

Resolution 3505(XXX) was adopted, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Second Committee. The Second Committee had approved the text without a vote on 3 December 1975. The sponsors were Algeria, Argentina, Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Jordan, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Cameroon, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zambia.

(For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

By another resolution, the General Assembly

recommended that all organs of the United Nations development system, including UNDP and the specialized agencies, give sustained attention to the integration of women in the formulation, design and implementation of development projects and programmes and help Governments which requested assistance to incorporate in their development plans impact statements on how proposed programmes would affect women as participants and beneficiaries. The Assembly's decisions were embodied in resolution 3524(XXX), which was adopted, without objection, on the recommendation of the Third Committee. The Third Committee had approved the draft resolution on 5 December 1975 by 116 votes to 0, as sponsored by Argentina, Belgium, France, Gabon, Lesotho, Togo, Uganda, the United Republic of Cameroon, the United States, Zaire and Zambia.

(For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

The Assembly, by a third resolution of 15 December, expressed its concern that many lending and financial institutions continued to discriminate against women, considering them poor credit risks, and that local and national practices and customs in many parts of the world barred women from engaging in responsible financial transactions. The Assembly therefore urged governments and governmental and non-governmental organizations to support more vigorously official and private efforts to extend to women the facilities currently offered only to men by financial and lending institutions. It requested Governments to encourage all efforts by women's organizations, co-operatives and lending institutions to enable women at the lowest level in rural and urban areas to obtain credit and loans to improve their economic activities and integration in national development.

The Assembly also urged Governments and the organizations of the United Nations development system, including specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations, to incorporate courses designed to improve the efficiency of women in business and financial management into their training programmes, workshops and seminars.

The Assembly's decisions on credit for women were embodied in resolution 3522(XXX), adopted, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Third Committee. The Third Committee had unanimously approved the draft resolution on 5 December 1975, as sponsored by Barbados, Botswana, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Swaziland, Togo, the United Republic of Cameroon, the United States, Uruguay and Zambia.

(For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

#### Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women

On 15 December 1975, the General Assembly, without adopting a formal resolution, decided that the voluntary fund for the International Women's Year should be extended to cover the period of the Decade for Women. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council an accounting report of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, proposals for its future management and the criteria to be applied for future disbursements.

During the discussion of this issue in the Third Committee, the representative of the Philippines said that the Fund should not be regarded as a regular trust fund administered by the Secretary-General but as a unique fund affording many possibilities for growth and development. For instance, Governments could ask for direct assistance for their women's programmes.

The Assembly adopted the decision, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Third Committee, which had approved the text on 5 December 1975 without objection, as sponsored by Afghanistan, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Gabon, Iran, Jamaica, Morocco, the Philippines, Senegal, the United Kingdom and the United States.

#### Women's participation in strengthening peace and in struggles against racism and for self-determination

On 15 December 1975, with the adoption of resolution 3519(XXX), the General Assembly reaffirmed the principles promulgated in the Declaration of Mexico. The Assembly also reaffirmed that the strengthening of international peace and security, co-operation among all States irrespective of their social and economic systems based on the principle of peaceful coexistence, and the elimination of the remaining vestiges of colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, all forms of racism and racial discrimination, alien domination, foreign aggression and occupation were indispensable to safeguard the fundamental human rights of both men and women.

The Assembly called upon all Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, particularly women's organizations, to intensify their efforts to strengthen peace, to deepen the process of international détente, to eliminate all forms of colonialism, apartheid, racism, aggression, occupation and foreign domination. It also urged Governments to take effective measures towards bringing about general and complete disarmament and convening a world disarmament conference as soon as possible. Finally, the Assembly expressed

its solidarity with and its assistance for women who contributed towards the struggles for national liberation.

Resolution 3519(XXX) was adopted by the Assembly, by a recorded vote of 90 to 21, with 22 abstentions, on the recommendation of the Third Committee. The Third Committee had approved the draft resolution on 5 December 1975 by 73 votes to 27, with 22 abstentions, as sponsored by Bangladesh, Cape Verde, Cuba, Egypt, the German Democratic Republic, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mongolia, Mozambique, Sri Lanka and Tunisia.

(For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

During discussion of the text, a number of Members, including Albania, Australia, Chile, China, France, Israel and Liberia, objected to certain provisions of the resolution.

Australia and France considered that the text contained political elements which had no bearing on the improvement of the status of women. Liberia, among others, said it rejected attempts to equate zionism with racism. China said that the resolution contained irrelevant material, such as references to detente and to general and complete disarmament.

Egypt, Mexico, Poland and the USSR announced that they would support the resolution. Mexico said that it voted for the resolution but maintained its reservations concerning the terms used in the Declaration of Mexico. The USSR stated it believed the problem of equality for women was indissolubly linked to questions of disarmament, development and peace. Poland expressed similar views.

#### Equality between men and women and elimination of discrimination against women

On 15 December 1975, the General Assembly called upon States that had not done so to ratify and effectively implement international conventions and instruments concerning the protection of women's rights and the elimination of discrimination against women, including declarations of the United Nations and recommendations of ILO and UNESCO.

The Assembly requested the Commission on the Status of Women to complete a draft convention on the elimination of discrimination against women in 1976.

The Assembly also called upon all States to promote wider participation of women in strengthening international peace and extending the relaxation of international tension, in settling the problems of disarmament, in eliminating colonialism, foreign occupation, racism, racial discrimination and apartheid, and in all other forms of

political life, thus contributing to the creation of conditions favourable for the complete elimination of discrimination against women.

The Assembly's decisions were embodied in resolution 3521(XXX) which was adopted, by a recorded vote of 102 to 3, with 26 abstentions, on the recommendation of the Third Committee. The Third Committee had approved the draft resolution on 5 December 1975 by 88 votes to 2, with 26 abstentions, as sponsored by Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Guinea, Hungary, Mongolia, Nepal, Poland, Uganda, the Ukrainian SSR and the United Republic of Cameroon.

The Committee voted separately on the operative paragraph concerning women's participation in political life, approving it by 85 votes to 12, with 22 abstentions. Reservations and objections to the language of the resolution were voiced by Australia, France, Ireland and the United States, among others.

(For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

#### Women in rural areas

By a resolution on women in rural areas, the General Assembly urged all Governments to accord, within their respective plans, higher priority for: gathering relevant data on the status and role of women in rural and low-income areas; achieving socio-economic conditions based on the realization of the full and equal partnership of men and women in the development of society, both in law and in fact; and promoting agricultural productivity, agro-based industries and integrated rural development programmes.

The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare, and submit through the Economic and Social Council, on the basis of the views of relevant United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and Governments, guidelines for non-formal educational programmes to enable rural women to use

fully their capabilities and to contribute to the development of society.

The Assembly also urged United Nations organizations, specialized agencies, regional commissions and international financial institutions to accord special attention to government programmes and projects aimed at the full integration of rural women in development, and urged all Governments to develop extensive training programmes relevant to women and to make full use of all existing and proposed research institutes and centres, particularly the regional and international institutes and centres for the advancement of women in rural areas.

Finally, the Assembly called for biennial progress reports on this matter.

The Assembly's decisions were embodied in resolution 3523(XXX), adopted on 15 December 1975, by 132 votes to 0, with 1 abstention, on the recommendation of the Third Committee. The Third Committee had approved the draft resolution on 5 December by 124 votes to 0, with 2 abstentions. The draft resolution had been proposed by Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Botswana, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Guinea, Guyana, Iran, Jamaica, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Romania, Senegal, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Cameroon, Yugoslavia and Zambia.

The Committee voted on separately, and adopted preambular paragraphs referring to decisions of the World Conference of the International Women's Year on this subject and other Conference decisions and to an expression that the struggle for development was a primary responsibility of all peoples and Governments, taking into account principles set out in various United Nations declarations.

(For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

#### Documentary references

Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, Mexico, 19 June-2 July 1975 (E/CONF.66/34). U.N.P. Sales No.: E.76.IV.1. (Part Three, Chapter IX: Credentials of representatives to Conference; Annex I: Selected list of documents before Conference.)

Preparations for World Conference of the International Women's Year

Economic and Social Council—1975 organizational session  
Plenary meetings 1937, 1938.

E/5605. Progress report of Secretary-General, paras. 33-34.  
E/5683. Resolutions and decisions of Economic and

Social Council, organizational session for 1975 and 58th session (decision 67(ORG-75)).

Economic and Social Council—58th session  
Economic Committee, meetings 725-729.  
Social Committee, meetings 752-756, 769.  
Plenary meetings 1940, 1941, 1944, 1945, 1947, 1948, 1952.

E/L.1636 and Add.1,2. Participation of non-governmental organizations in World Conference of International Women's Year. Note by Secretariat and addenda.

E/L.1640. Letter of 1 April 1975 from Australia to Council President.

E/L.1662. Letter of 6 May 1975 from Netherlands to Council President.

E/5683. Resolutions and decisions of Economic and Social Council, organizational session for 1975 and 58th session (decision 73(LVIII)).

E/L.1643 and Rev.1,2. Mexico: draft decision and revisions.

E/5683. Resolutions and decisions of Economic and Social Council, organizational session for 1975 and 58th session (decision 74(LVIII)).

E/5617. Report of Commission for Social Development on its 24th session, Headquarters, New York, 6-24 January 1975, Chapter VII C (resolution 8(XXIV)).

E/5617, Chapter I A. Draft resolution VIII, as submitted by Commission for action by Economic and Social Council, approved without vote by Social Committee on 14 April 1975, meeting 756.

E/5664. Report of Social Committee, draft resolution VIII.

Resolution 1928(LVIII), as recommended by Social Committee, E/5664, adopted without vote by Council on 6 May 1975, meeting 1948.

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolution 2626(XXV) of 24 October 1970 establishing the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, stressed that the full integration of women in the total development effort should be encouraged, and that article 5 of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development calls for the active participation of all elements of society in achieving the common goals of development,

Recalling further those declarations and instruments adopted by the United Nations acknowledging the equality of status of men and women, inter alia the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth special session,

Considering that the General Assembly, in its resolution 2716(XXV) of 15 December 1970, set forth a programme of concerted international action for the advancement of women,

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 3010(XXVII) of 18 December 1972, in which the Assembly proclaimed the year 1975 International Women's Year and decided to devote 1975 to intensified action to ensure the full integration of women in the total development effort, as well as to promote equality between men and women and to recognize the importance of women's increasing contribution to the development of friendly relations among States and to the strengthening of world peace,

Taking further into account General Assembly resolution 3342(XXIX) of 17 December 1974, in which the Assembly stressed the importance of fully integrating women in the national development process,

Noting that the General Assembly, in its resolutions 3275(XXIX), 3276(XXIX), and 3277(XXIX) of 10 December 1974, set forth in broad outline the measures to be taken in achieving the objectives of the International Women's Year and in convening the World Conference of the International Women's Year,

Noting further that the World Conference of the International Women's Year, to be held in Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975, will be charged with preparing an international action plan which will address the subject of women in development,

1. Urges that appropriate measures be taken to assure the full participation of women in planning, decision-making and the implementation of all development programmes at all levels;

2. Urges further all those responsible for the preparation and implementation of national and international development programmes to make certain that women are given an opportunity to achieve their maximum potential as individuals and to make their maximum contribution to the economic, social and political development of their respective countries on the same terms as men, and that they receive their full share of the benefits of development;

3. Recommends that Governments work towards the goals set forth above throughout the International Women's Year and the World Conference of the International Women's Year as part of a long-term sustained effort to integrate women fully into the development process at all levels.

E/5643. Report of Population Commission on its 18th session, Headquarters, New York, 18-28 February 1975, Chapter VI (draft resolution I).

E/5643, Chapter I. Draft resolution I, recommended by Commission for adoption by Economic and Social Council, approved without vote by Economic Committee on 21 April 1975, meeting 729.

E/5670 and Corr.1. Report of Economic Committee, draft resolution I.

Resolution 1942(LVIII), as recommended by Economic Committee, E/5670, adopted without vote by Council on 6 May 1975, meeting 1948.

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that 1975 has been designated International Women's Year and that the World Conference of the International Women's Year is scheduled to be held from 19 June to 2 July 1975 at Mexico City,

Recalling that the World Population Conference emphasized the interrelationships between population, resources, environment and development and adopted resolutions IV and XII on the status of women, and that the World Population Plan of Action, adopted by the Conference and endorsed by the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session, correlates population factors with the status of women and the role of women in development,

Further recalling that the World Food Conference in its resolution VIII called on all Governments to involve women in the decision-making machinery for food production and nutrition policies as part of total development strategy and adopted resolution IX on the achievement of a desirable balance between population and food supply, and that thus the influence of socio-economic factors on the demographic process as well as the important role of women were emphasized,

Noting the importance accorded to the integration of women in development by the United Nations Development Programme at its nineteenth session, the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-fourth session, the International Forum on the Role of Women in Population and Development, the regional consultation for Asia and the Far East and the regional seminar for Africa on the integration of women in development with special reference to population factors, held respectively in May and June 1974, and the regional seminar for Latin America on the same subject, held in April and May 1975,

Further noting that the General Assembly, in its resolution 3342(XXIX) of 17 December 1974 entitled "Women and development," considered that further progress towards the full integration of women in development

should be assisted by positive action from the United Nations system of organizations,

Recognizing the findings of the study of the Special Rapporteur on the interrelationship between the status of women and family planning submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-fifth session and to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-sixth session, and the implications of this interrelationship not only for the health and well-being of individual women but also for the social and economic progress of nations,

Further recognizing that equal status of men and women in the family and in society improves the overall quality of life and that this principle of equality should be fully realized in family planning where each spouse should consider the welfare of the other members of the family, and recognizing that improvement of the status of women in the family and in society can contribute, where desired, to smaller family size, and that the opportunity for women to plan births also improves their individual status,

Convinced that the time has now come for action to carry out the numerous important recommendations already agreed upon,

1. Urges United Nations bodies, Member States and relevant non-governmental organizations, in observing the International Women's Year and participating in the World Conference of the International Women's Year, to take all appropriate action to ensure the recommendations relating to the status of women stated in the World Population Plan of Action and in resolutions IV, XII and XVII of the World Population Conference are implemented, and, in particular:

(a) To achieve the full participation of women where it does not exist in the educational, social, economic and political life of their countries on an equal basis with men;

(b) To achieve equal rights, opportunities and responsibilities of men and women in the family and in society;

(c) To recommend that couples and individuals have access to the information, education, and means to enable them to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children;

2. Requests United Nations bodies, within their fields of competence, including the regional commissions, in collaboration with Member States, in the implementation of both short-term and long-term population policies and programmes designed to carry out the recommendations of the World Population Plan of Action:

(a) To pay particular attention, in the monitoring of the progress being made in the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action, to the evolving status of women, keeping in mind the mutual interaction among population factors, social and economic development and the status of women;

(b) To supply information to the Economic and Social Council on the measures taken pursuant to the present resolution.

#### OTHER DOCUMENTS

A/10001. Report of Secretary-General on work of Organization, 16 June 1974-15 June 1975, Part Five, Chapter II.

A/10003. Report of Economic and Social Council on work of its organizational session for 1975 and of its 58th and 59th sessions, Chapters III F 1-3 and V A 1.

#### World Conference of the International Women's Year

Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, Mexico, 19 June-2 July 1975 (E/CONF.66/34). U.N.P. Sales No.: E.76.IV.1.

(Chapter I: Declaration of Mexico on Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975; Chapter II A: World Plan of Action for Implementation of Objectives of International Women's Year; II C: Regional plans of action; Chapter III: Resolutions (1-35) and recommendation adopted by Conference.)

#### PARALLEL ACTIVITIES

Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, Mexico, 19 June-2 July 1975 (E/CONF.66/34). U.N.P. Sales No.: E.76.IV.1. (Annex II: Parallel and associated activities and related events.)

#### Other International Women's Year activities

A/10042. Letter of 20 January 1975 from Bulgaria.

A/10045. Letter of 6 February 1975 from German Democratic Republic.

A/10049 and Corr.1. Note verbale of 21 February 1975 from USSR.

A/10056. Note verbale of 12 March 1975 from Mongolia.

A/10057. Note verbale of 11 March 1975 from Afghanistan.

A/10066. Letter of 24 March 1975 from Japan.

A/10070. Note verbale of 3 April 1975 from Byelorussian SSR.

A/10071. Note verbale of 10 April 1975 from Egypt.

A/10073. Note verbale of 27 March 1975 from Syrian Arab Republic.

A/10075. Note verbale of 16 April 1975 from Ukrainian SSR.

A/10076. Note verbale of 17 April 1975 from Chile.

A/10088. Note verbale of 16 April 1975 from Bulgaria.

A/10089. Note verbale of 7 May 1975 from Democratic Yemen.

A/10099. Note verbale of 28 May 1975 from Hungary.

A/10107. Note verbale of 27 May 1975 from Peru.

A/10111. Note verbale of 9 June 1975 from Ivory Coast.

A/10138. Note verbale of 25 June 1975 from Lebanon.

A/10140. Note verbale of 21 July 1975 from Poland.

A/10160. Note verbale of 23 July 1975 from Yugoslavia.

A/10210. Note verbale of 13 July 1975 from Zaire.

A/10263 and Corr.1. Measures and activities undertaken in connexion with International Women's Year. Report of Secretary-General.

A/10264. Status and role of women in society, with special reference to need for achieving equal rights for women and to women's contribution to attainment of goals of 2nd United Nations Development Decade, to struggle against colonialism, racism and racial discrimination and to strengthening of international peace and of co-operation between States. Note by Secretary-General.

A/10505. Letter of 15 December 1975 from France, United Kingdom and United States.

A/10506. Note verbale of 12 December 1975 from Spain.

A/C.3/643. Letter of 13 November 1975 from Cuba.

A/C.3/644. Letter of 13 November 1975 from German Democratic Republic.

#### Decisions by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly

#### REPORT OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

Economic and Social Council—59th session  
Plenary meetings 1974-1976.

E/5725 and Add.1. Notes by Secretary-General (transmitting report of World Conference of International Women's Year (E/CONF.66/34)).

E/L.1673. Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Colombia, Congo, Democratic Yemen, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Jordan, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Romania, Senegal, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia: draft resolution.

Resolution 1959(LIX), as proposed by 26 powers, E/L.1673, and as orally amended by sponsors and by Council President, adopted without vote by Council on 28 July 1975, meeting 1976.

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3010(XXVII) of 18 December 1972 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1849(LVI), 1850(LVI) and 1851(LVI) of 16 May 1974 on the proclamation of the year 1975 as International Women's Year, the programme for the Year, the establishment of a fund for the Year and the convening of an international conference as a focal point of the international observance of the Year,

Considering that the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975, marked a turning point signalling decisive changes designed to improve the status of women,

Noting that the General Assembly, in its resolution 3276 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974, requested the Conference to submit, if possible, such proposals and recommendations as it deemed appropriate to the General Assembly at its special session to be held in September 1975 and that it also decided to consider at its thirtieth regular session an item entitled "International Women's Year, including the proposals and recommendations of the Conference of the International Women's Year,"

Considering that certain of the recommendations and resolutions of the Conference require urgent action,

Considering also that the Conference has stressed the need for adequate data and research on all aspects of the status of women,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Government and people of Mexico for their generous contribution to the success of the World Conference of the International Women's Year;

2. Takes note of the report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, and in particular of the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975, and the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year;

3. Draws the attention of the General Assembly at its special session devoted to development and international economic co-operation to the proposals and recommendations of the Conference, especially those relating to women and development;

4. Recommends that the General Assembly should give due priority to the consideration at its thirtieth regular session of the report of the Conference and of the measures needed to implement the recommendations adopted and in particular the World Plan of Action, and should ensure that adequate budgetary provision is made for this purpose;

5. Urges Member States and all organizations of the United Nations system to take intensified and sustained action to achieve the full equality of men and women and to improve the quality of life for all human beings;

6. Recommends to the General Assembly that, in proclaiming 1975-1985 as the Decade for Women and Development, it ensure that continuing action is taken at

the national, regional and international levels throughout that period;

7. Invites Governments to contribute to the voluntary fund established under Council resolution 1850(LVI), in order to supplement the budgetary resources available for the implementation of the decisions of the Conference;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session on the establishment of the international research and training institute for the promotion of women.

General Assembly—7th special session

Ad Hoc Committee of 7th Special Session, meeting 3. Plenary meeting 2349.

A/10211. Note by Secretary-General.

A/AC.176/L5. Draft decision submitted by Ad Hoc Committee Chairman in light of informal meetings and consultations.

A/10232. Report of Ad Hoc Committee of 7th Special Session, para. 12 (b).

A/10301. Resolutions adopted by General Assembly during its 7th special session, 1-16 September 1975. Other decisions, p. 10, para. (b).

General Assembly—30th session

Third Committee, meetings 2170, 2172-2181.

Fifth Committee, meetings 1769, 1772.

Plenary meeting 2441.

A/10340. International research and training institute for advancement of women. Note by Secretary-General.

A/C.3/L.2195. Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Chad, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Jordan, Libyan Arab Republic, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Republic of Cameroon, Venezuela: draft resolution, as orally amended by Ukrainian SSR, Yugoslavia and sponsors, approved by Third Committee on 5 December 1975, meeting 2181, by roll-call vote of 97 to 2, with 22 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian SSR, Chad, China, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Israel, Nicaragua.

Abstaining: Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malawi, Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom, United States.

A/C.3/648, A/C.5/1753. Administrative and financial implications of 32-power draft resolution, A/C.3/L.2195. Statements by Secretary-General.

A/C.3/L.2206. Madagascar: amendments to 32-power draft resolution, A/C.3/L.2195.

A/10498. Administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions II and III recommended by Third Committee in A/10474. Report of Fifth Committee.

A/10474. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution III.

Resolution 3520(XXX), as recommended by Third Committee, A/10474, adopted by Assembly on 15 December 1975, meeting 2441, by roll-call vote of 107 to 1, with 26 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian SSR, Chad, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Israel.

Abstaining: Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, El Salvador, France, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of Haiti, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malawi, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, United Kingdom, United States.

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3010(XXVII) of 18 December 1972 in which it proclaimed the year 1975 International Women's Year,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 1849(LVI) and 1851(LVI) of 16 May 1974 on the convening of an international conference during the International Women's Year as a focal point of the international observance of the Year,

Recalling further its resolutions 3276(XXIX) and 3277(XXIX) of 10 December 1974 as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 1959(LIX) of 28 July 1975 concerning the World Conference of the International Women's Year,

Recalling the importance of the participation of women in the implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly at its sixth and seventh special sessions as well as in the implementation of the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order,

Having considered the report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975,

Having considered also the note by the Secretary-General on the establishment of an international research

and training institute for the advancement of women,

Convinced that the Conference, through the adoption of the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975, the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year and related resolutions, has made a valuable and constructive contribution towards the achievement of the threefold objectives of the Year, namely, to promote equality between men and women, to ensure the full integration of women in the total development effort and to promote women's contribution to the development of friendly relations and co-operation among States and to the strengthening of world peace,

Considering the valuable and constructive contributions towards the implementation of the threefold objectives of the International Women's Year made by conferences and seminars held during the Year,

Convinced also that the promotion of development objectives and the solution of crucial world economic and social problems should contribute significantly to the improvement of the situation of women, in particular that of women in rural areas and in low-income groups,

Convinced further that women must play an important role in the promotion, achievement and maintenance of international peace,

Considering that the decisions and recommendations of the Conference should be translated into concrete action without delay by States, organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Recalling that the Conference stressed the important role of regional commissions in the implementation of the World Plan of Action and related resolutions of the Conference,

Convinced that periodic and comprehensive reviews and appraisals of the progress made in meeting the goals of the World Plan of Action and related resolutions endorsed by the Conference are of crucial importance for their effective implementation and should be undertaken at regular intervals by Governments and by the organizations of the United Nations system within an agreed time frame,

Noting that the Conference recommended the continuing operation of the Commission on the Status of Women or some other representative body, within the structure of the United Nations, designed specifically to deal with matters relating to the status of women, so as to ensure the implementation of ongoing projects designed to carry out the programmes set forth in the World Plan of Action,

1. Takes note of the report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, including the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975, the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year, the regional plans of action and the resolutions and other recommendations adopted by the Conference, and endorses the action proposals contained in these documents;

2. Proclaims the period from 1976 to 1985 United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, to be devoted to effective and sustained national, regional and international action to implement the World Plan of Action and related resolutions of the Conference;

3. Calls upon Governments, as a matter of urgency, to examine the recommendations contained in the World Plan of Action and related resolutions of the Conference including action to be taken at the national level, such as:



(a) The establishment of short-term, medium-term and long-term targets, and priorities to this end, taking into account the guidelines set forth in sections I and II of the World Plan of Action, including the minimum objectives recommended for achievement by 1980;

(b) The adoption of national strategies, plans and programmes for the implementation of the recommendations within the framework of over-all development plans, policies and programmes;

(c) The undertaking of regular reviews and appraisals of progress made at the national and local levels in achieving the goals and objectives of the World Plan of Action within the framework of over-all development plans, policies and programmes;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the relevant organs of the United Nations and to the organizations of the United Nations system the decisions and recommendations of the Conference;

5. Invites all relevant organizations of the United Nations system concerned:

(a) To submit, within the framework of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-second session their proposals and suggestions for implementing the World Plan of Action and related resolutions of the Conference during the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace;

(b) To develop and implement, during the first half of the Decade, under the auspices of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, a joint inter-agency medium-term programme for the integration of women in development, which should co-ordinate and integrate activities undertaken in accordance with subparagraph (a) above, with special emphasis on technical co-operation in programmes relating to women and development;

(c) To render, in accordance with requests of Governments, sustained assistance in the formulation, design, implementation and evaluation of projects and programmes which would enable women to be integrated in national and international development;

6. Calls upon the regional commissions to develop and implement, as a matter of priority, effective strategies to further the objectives of the World Plan of Action at the regional and subregional levels, bearing in mind their respective regional plans of action;

7. Urges all financial institutions and all international, regional and subregional development banks and bilateral funding agencies to accord high priority in their development assistance, in accordance with requests of Governments, to projects that would promote the integration of women in the development process, in particular women in the rural areas, as well as the achievement of the equality of women and men, priority being given to countries with limited financial means;

8. Urges non-governmental organizations, at the national and international levels, to take all possible measures to assist in the implementation of the World Plan of Action and related resolutions of the Conference within their particular areas of interest and competence;

9. Decides in principle, in accordance with resolution 26 adopted by the Conference, to establish, under the auspices of the United Nations, an International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, which would be financed through voluntary contributions and would collaborate with appropriate national, regional and international economic and social research institutes;

10. Invites the Secretary-General therefore to appoint, with due consideration to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, a Group of Experts on the Establishment of an International Research and Training Insti-

tute for the Advancement of Women, consisting of five to ten experts, to draw up, in consultation with the representatives of existing regional centres and/or institutes for research and training which have similar objectives and goals, the terms of reference and structural organization of the Institute, giving special consideration to the needs of women of developing countries, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council at its sixtieth session on the basis of the recommendations of the Group of Experts;

11. Affirms that a system-wide review and appraisal of the World Plan of Action should be undertaken biennially, and that such reviews and appraisals should constitute an input to the process of review and appraisal of progress made under the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, taking into account the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the decisions resulting from the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly;

12. Affirms that the General Assembly and other relevant bodies should also consider biennially the progress achieved in the promotion of the full equality of women with men in all spheres of life in accordance with international standards and, in particular, the participation of women in political life and in international co-operation and the strengthening of international peace;

13. Expresses the hope that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System, which will consider the report of the Group of Experts on the Structure of the United Nations System entitled A New United Nations Structure for Global Economic Co-operation, will take full account of the need to implement the World Plan of Action and related resolutions of the Conference, as well as the requirements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, and appeals to the Ad Hoc Committee to ensure that the machinery designed to deal with questions relating to women should be strengthened, taking into account, in particular, the role of the Commission on the Status of Women and the procedures established for the system-wide review and appraisal of the World Plan of Action;

14. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-first session an item entitled "United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace";

15. Invites the Secretary-General to submit a progress report to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session on the measures taken to implement the World Plan of Action and related resolutions of the Conference, and on the progress achieved in initiating the procedures for the Plan's review and appraisal by Member States, the United Nations organs, the regional commissions, the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations concerned;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure, if possible within existing resources, that the Secretariat unit responsible for women's questions possesses adequate personnel and budgetary resources in order to discharge its functions under the World Plan of Action in co-operation with all organizations of the United Nations system;

17. Further requests the Secretary-General, in the light of paragraph 16 above, to take into account the requirements of the World Plan of Action and related resolutions of the Conference in preparing revised estimates for 1977 and the medium-term plan for 1978-1981 and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session, in accordance with established procedures;

18. Urges all States, the organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, as well as the mass

communications media, to give widespread publicity to the achievements and significance of the Conference at the national, regional and international levels;

19. Requests the Secretary-General, as a matter of high priority, to issue within existing resources, in the official languages of the United Nations, a simplified version of the World Plan of Action as a booklet, which would highlight the targets, goals and main recommendations for action by Governments, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations and which would explain the relevance of the implementation of the Plan to the daily lives of men and women throughout the world;

20. Decides to convene in 1980, at the mid-term of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, a world conference of all States to review and evaluate the progress made in implementing the objectives of the International Women's Year as recommended by the World Conference of the International Women's Year and, where necessary, to readjust existing programmes in the light of new data and research available.

General Assembly—30th session  
Third Committee, meetings 2170, 2173-2180.  
Plenary meeting 2441.

A/C.3/L.2193. Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Benin, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, India, Iran, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Romania, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, USSR, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, Venezuela, Yugoslavia: draft resolution, approved by acclamation by Third Committee on 5 December 1975, meeting 2180. A/10474. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution I.

Resolution 3518(XXX), as recommended by Third Committee, A/10474, adopted by acclamation by Assembly on 15 December 1975, meeting 2441.

The General Assembly,  
Considering the significance and positive results of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975, which is the first world conference sponsored by the United Nations on women's issues,

Expresses its deep appreciation to the Government and people of Mexico for acting as host to the World Conference of the International Women's Year.

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD PLAN OF ACTION

General Assembly—30th session  
Second Committee, meeting 1710.  
Plenary meeting 2439.

A/C.2/L.1461. Austria, Denmark, Norway, Philippines, Sweden, Thailand: draft resolution.

A/C.2/L.1461/Rev.1. Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Jamaica, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Sweden, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United States: revised draft resolution, approved without vote by Second Committee on 3 December 1975, meeting 1710.

A/10469. Report of Second Committee (part I) (on mid-term review and appraisal of progress in implementation of International Development Strategy for 2nd

United Nations Development Decade), draft resolution IV.

Resolution 3490(XXX), as recommended by Second Committee, A/10469, adopted without vote by Assembly on 12 December 1975, meeting 2439.

The General Assembly,

Recalling the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year, adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975,

Convinced that a comprehensive and thorough review and appraisal of progress made in meeting the goals of the World Plan of Action is of crucial importance for the success of the Plan and should be undertaken at regular intervals by organizations of the United Nations system,

Recognizing that the results of the exercise of the implementation of the World Plan of Action will contribute to the consideration of the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and will consequently promote the role of women in the development process,

1. Calls upon the governing bodies of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the relevant specialized agencies and the regional commissions to review annually the activities they have undertaken in accordance with the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year and to integrate such reviews into the reports submitted to the Economic and Social Council;

2. Affirms that a system-wide review and appraisal of the implementation of the World Plan of Action should be undertaken, in the years of the biennial review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, as an input to the process of review and appraisal of progress made under the Strategy;

3. Urges all States and the relevant organs of the United Nations to report to the Secretary-General on measures they have taken for implementing the World Plan of Action and to include relevant information about the integration of women in development;

4. Requests the Commission on the Status of Women to consider reports submitted on measures undertaken in implementation of the World Plan of Action, in accordance with the International Development Strategy, and to report its findings and conclusions on major trends and policies with regard to the status of women, particularly the integration of women in development, to the Economic and Social Council through the Committee for Development Planning and the Committee on Review and Appraisal;

5. Urges the Committee for Development Planning, the Committee on Review and Appraisal and the Economic and Social Council to pay special attention to the question of the status of women in the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy;

6. Invites the Secretary-General to make appropriate arrangements for the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the World Plan of Action.

#### MEASURES FOR INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

General Assembly—30th session  
Second Committee, meetings 1701, 1709, 1710.

Third Committee, meetings 2170, 2172-2181.  
Fifth Committee, meeting 1768.  
Plenary meeting 2441.

- A/10001. Report of Secretary-General on work of Organization, 16 June 1974-15 June 1975, Part Three, Chapter II E 1.
- A/C.2/L.1473. Argentina, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Honduras, Iran, Jordan, Mexico, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, Yugoslavia: draft resolution.
- A/C.2/L.1473/Rev.1. Algeria, Argentina, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Jordan, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zambia: revised draft resolution, as further orally amended by sponsors, approved without vote by Second Committee on 3 December 1975, meeting 1710.
- A/C.2/L.1486. Administrative and financial implications of 20-power draft resolution, A/C.2/L.1473. Statement by Secretary-General.
- A/C.5/1757 and Corr.1. Administrative and financial implications of 29-power revised draft resolution, A/C.2/L.1473/Rev.1. Statement by Secretary-General.
- A/10492. Administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions II and IV and draft decision I recommended by Second Committee in A/10344/Add.1. Report of Fifth Committee.
- A/10344/Add.1. Report of Second Committee (part II) (on development and international economic co-operation: implementation of decisions adopted by General Assembly at its 7th special session), draft resolution II.

Resolution 3505(XXX), as recommended by Second Committee, A/10344/Add.1, adopted without vote by Assembly on 15 December 1975, meeting 2441.

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3010(XXVII) of 18 December 1972 in which it proclaimed the year 1975 International Women's Year,

Recalling its resolutions 3201(S-VI) and 3202(S-VI) of 1 May 1974 containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order,

Recalling also its resolution 3281(XXIX) of 12 December 1974 containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,

Recalling further its resolution 3362(S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

Bearing in mind its resolutions 3276(XXIX) of 10 December 1974 on the World Conference of the International Women's Year and 3342(XXIX) of 17 December 1974 on women and development, and also Economic and Social Council resolution 1959(LIX) of 28 July 1975 on the World Conference of the International Women's Year,

Taking note of the principles of the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975, and the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year, adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975, and also the resolutions of the Conference relating to the full integration of women in development,

Recognizing that the results of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, in particular the

World Plan of Action, indicate that the role of women in the development process must be made an integral part of the establishment of the new international economic order,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1855(LVI) of 16 May 1974 on the significance of the full integration of women in development,

Aware that the economic value of the substantial contribution of women to over-all development has not been widely recognized,

Recognizing that women, owing to the unequal treatment they have endured, constitute a vast potential force in the process of economic and social change, as well as in the struggle against all forms of exploitation and oppression,

Emphasizing that accelerated development requires the real and effective participation of men and women in all areas of national activity and the creation of the necessary conditions for equality of rights, opportunities and responsibilities for men and women,

1. Recognizes that the World Conference of the International Women's Year has established that improvement of the status of women constitutes a basic element in any development process;

2. Urges all States to undertake the necessary changes, as appropriate, in their economic and social structures in order to ensure the participation of women, on an equal basis with men, in the development process;

3. Invites the relevant organizations within the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to pay special attention to development programmes relating to women, inter alia, in the fields of agriculture, industry, trade and science and technology;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, on the basis of information received from Governments and relevant organizations of the United Nations system, as well as on the basis of existing studies, a preliminary report, for the consideration of the General Assembly at its thirty-first session, on the extent to which women participate in fields such as agriculture, industry, trade and science and technology, with a view to making recommendations on ways and means of increasing and upgrading the participation of women therein;

5. Urges all Governments to give special attention to the inclusion of the question of the integration of women in the development process in United Nations conferences and meetings on matters which have an impact on the participation of women in development;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

A/C.3/L.2200. Argentina, Belgium, France, Gabon, Lesotho, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Cameroon, United States, Zaire, Zambia: draft resolution, as orally amended by Algeria, approved by Third Committee on 5 December 1975, meeting 2181, by 116 votes to 0.  
A/10474. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution VII.

Resolution 3524(XXX), as recommended by Third Committee, A/10474, adopted without objection by Assembly on 15 December 1975, meeting 2441.

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3010(XXVII) of 18 December 1972 in which it proclaimed the year 1975 International Women's Year,

Recalling also its resolution 3505(XXX) of 15 December 1975, adopted on the recommendation of the Second Committee,

Having considered the report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975, which contains the resolutions adopted by the Conference and the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year,

Noting that the World Plan of Action set forth guidance on action programmes for the integration of women in development,

Recalling its resolution 2626(XXV) of 24 October 1970 containing the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, in which the General Assembly included among the objectives of the Strategy the full integration of women in the total development effort, and recalling also that the majority of the specialized agencies, other United Nations bodies and Member States have already advocated similar action, as have individual donor agencies,

Recalling that, in its resolution 3342(XXIX) of 17 December 1974, it invited the United Nations system to provide increased assistance to those programmes, projects and activities that will encourage and promote the further integration of women in national, regional and interregional economic development activities,

Recommends that all organs of the United Nations development system, including the United Nations Development Programme and the specialized agencies, and other international technical and financial assistance programmes and agencies should:

(a) Give sustained attention to the integration of women in the formulation, design and implementation of development projects and programmes;

(b) Assist Governments that so request to incorporate in their development plans, their programme and sector analyses and their programme and project documents an impact statement of how such proposed programmes will affect women as participants and beneficiaries.

A/C.3/L.2198. Barbados, Botswana, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Swaziland, Togo, United Republic of Cameroon, United States, Uruguay, Zambia: draft resolution, as orally amended by Mali and sponsors, unanimously approved by Third Committee on 5 December 1975, meeting 2181.

A/10474. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution V.

Resolution 3522(XXX), as recommended by Third Committee, A/10474, adopted without vote by Assembly on 15 December 1975, meeting 2441.

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that many women in low-income countries are engaged in various economic activities on a self-reliant basis not normally taken into account when considering the gross national product,

Convinced that the contribution of such economic activities by women to the over-all national economic development is substantial,

Further convinced that credit facilities are a necessary prerequisite for the improvement of economic activities of women engaged in self-reliance projects,

Recognizing the continued benefits that can accrue from access to even moderate financial resources, when such become available,

Concerned that many lending and financial institutions continue to practise discrimination against women, considering them poor credit risks, and that local and national practices and customs in many parts of the world

bar women from engaging in responsible financial transactions,

Reaffirming resolution 10, entitled "Access of women to financial assistance," adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975,

1. Urges Governments and governmental and non-governmental organizations to support more vigorously official and private efforts to extend to women the facilities now being offered only to men by financial and lending institutions;

2. Requests Governments to encourage all efforts by women's organizations, co-operatives and lending institutions which will enable women at the lowest level in rural and urban areas to obtain credit and loans to improve their economic activities and integration in national development;

3. Urges Governments and the organizations of the United Nations development system, including specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations, to incorporate, in their training programmes, workshops and seminars, courses designed to improve the efficiency of women in business and financial management.

#### VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN

General Assembly—30th session  
Third Committee, meetings 2170, 2172-2181.  
Plenary meeting 2441.

A/C.3/L.2197. Afghanistan, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Gabon, Iran, Jamaica, Morocco, Philippines, Senegal, United Kingdom, United States: draft decision.

A/10474. Report of Third Committee, para. 21, and draft decision, para. 31.

A/10034. Resolutions adopted by General Assembly during its 30th session, 16 September-17 December 1975. Other decisions, p. 100 (items 75 and 76).

#### WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN STRENGTHENING PEACE AND IN STRUGGLES AGAINST RACISM AND FOR SELF-DETERMINATION

General Assembly—30th session  
Third Committee, meetings 2170, 2172-2181.  
Fifth Committee, meetings 1769, 1772.  
Plenary meeting 2441.

A/C.3/647, A/C.5/1754. Administrative and financial implications of 11-power draft resolution, A/C.3/L.2194. Statements by Secretary-General.

A/C.3/L.2194. Bangladesh, Cape Verde, Cuba, Egypt, German Democratic Republic, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Sri Lanka: draft resolution.

A/C.3/L.2194/Rev.1. Bangladesh, Cape Verde, Cuba, Egypt, German Democratic Republic, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mongolia, Mozambique, Sri Lanka, Tunisia: revised draft resolution, as further orally amended by sponsors, approved by Third Committee on 5 December 1975, meeting 2181, by 73 votes to 27, with 22 abstentions.

A/10498. Administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions II and III recommended by Third Committee in A/10474. Report of Fifth Committee.

A/10474. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution II.

Resolution 3519(XXX), as recommended by Third Committee, A/10474, adopted by Assembly on 15 December

1975, meeting 2441, by recorded vote of 90 to 21, with 22 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian SSR, Chad, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland,\* Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Albania, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Haiti, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Liberia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Finland, Greece, Honduras, Japan, Malawi, New Zealand, Pakistan, Paraguay, Portugal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Uruguay.

\* Subsequently Swaziland advised the Secretariat that it had intended to abstain.

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3276(XXIX) of 10 December 1974,

Considering the report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975, in particular the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975, the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year and the resolutions contained in the report of the Conference,

Appreciating that the Conference emphasized the important role women must play in the strengthening of international peace and security and in the expansion of co-operation among States, irrespective of their social and economic systems, based on the principles of peaceful coexistence in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Endorsing the statement of the Conference that international co-operation and peace require the achievement of national liberation and independence, the preservation of sovereignty and territorial integrity, the elimination of colonialism and neo-colonialism, foreign aggression and occupation, apartheid and racial discrimination in all its forms, as well as the recognition of the dignity of peoples and their right to self-determination,

Noting with satisfaction the opinion expressed by the Conference that peace requires that women as well as men should reject any type of intervention in the domestic affairs of States, openly or covertly carried out by other States or by transnational corporations, and that women as well as men should also promote respect for the sovereign right of a State to establish its own economic, social and political system without political and economic pressures or coercion of any type,

Taking into account the view of the Conference that the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States confirms, *inter alia*, the obligation of all States to promote the implementation of general and complete disarmament, to use the funds thus saved for economic and social development and to provide part of these funds for the needs of the developing countries,

Noting with satisfaction the positive changes which have taken place during the last few years in international relations, such as the elimination of the dangerous sources of war in Viet-Nam and the results of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, and noting also the importance of deepening the process of international detente and strengthening an international just peace based on full respect for the Charter of the United Nations and the interests of all States, large and small,

Emphasizing the grave concern that in some regions of the world colonialism, apartheid, racial discrimination and foreign aggression continue to exist and territories are still occupied, which represents a most serious infringement of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of human rights of both men and women, and of the peoples' right to self-determination,

1. Reaffirms the principles promulgated in the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975;

2. Reaffirms that the strengthening of international peace and security, co-operation among all States irrespective of their social and economic systems, based on the principle of peaceful coexistence, and the elimination of the remaining vestiges of colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, all forms of racism and racial discrimination, alien domination and foreign aggression and occupation are indispensable for the safeguarding of the fundamental human rights of both men and women;

3. Calls upon all Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, particularly women's organizations and women's groups, to intensify their efforts to strengthen peace, to expand and deepen the process of international detente and make it irreversible, to eliminate completely and definitely all forms of colonialism and to put an end to the policy and practice of apartheid, all forms of racism, racial discrimination, aggression, occupation and foreign domination;

4. Urges all Governments to take effective measures towards bringing about general and complete disarmament and convening the World Disarmament Conference as soon as possible;

5. Expresses its solidarity with and its assistance for women who contribute towards the struggle of the peoples for their national liberation;

6. Invites the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution.

EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN AND  
ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

General Assembly—30th session

Third Committee, meetings 2170, 2172-2181.

Plenary meeting 2441.

A/10001. Report of Secretary-General on work of Organization, 16 June 1974-15 June 1975, Part Three, Chapter II E.

A/C.3/L2196. Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Guinea, Hungary, Mongolia, Nepal, Poland, Uganda, Ukrainian SSR, United Republic of Cameroon: draft resolution, as orally amended by sponsors, approved by Third Committee on

5 December 1975, meeting 2181, by 88 votes to 2, with 26 abstentions.

A/10474. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution IV.

Resolution 3521(XXX), as recommended by Third Committee, A/10474, adopted by Assembly on 15 December 1975, meeting 2441, by recorded vote of 102 to 3, with 26 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian SSR, Chad, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Israel, Nicaragua, United States.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Haiti, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malawi, Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom, Uruguay.

The General Assembly,

Welcoming the results of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975,

Recalling the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations which, *inter alia*, emphasize the importance of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion and for the equality of men and women,

Firmly convinced that discrimination against women is incompatible with human dignity and prevents social progress and the achievement of the goals of development,

Mindful that the continuation of armed conflicts, the arms race, colonialism, foreign occupation, racism, racial discrimination and apartheid hinders the effective realization of equal rights for women and prevents the improvement of the situation of women and their wider participation in all spheres of life,

Noting conventions and recommendations concerning the rights of women adopted under the aegis and within the framework of the United Nations and its specialized agencies and the progress achieved in their implementation,

Noting that all States are not yet parties to relevant conventions and other instruments elaborated by the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other United Nations bodies,

Expressing concern in connexion with continuing discrimination in many countries against women in many fields, in particular in labour relations and general and professional education and training,

Aware that women, enjoying fully the rights provided for in the relevant international instruments, should play an equal role with men in all spheres of life, including the ensuring of peace and the strengthening of international security, and should fully participate in political life,

Confident that the relaxation of international tension contributes to the development and implementation of standards in all fields of concern to women,

1. Calls upon all States that have not done so to ratify the international conventions and other instruments concerning the protection of women's rights and the elimination of discrimination against women and to implement effectively the provisions of these conventions and other instruments, including declarations of the United Nations and recommendations of the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

2. Requests the Commission on the Status of Women to complete, in 1976, the elaboration of the draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

3. Calls upon all States to promote vigorously wider participation of women in the strengthening of international peace and in extending the relaxation of international tension, on the basis of full respect for the Charter of the United Nations as well as for United Nations resolutions, in settling the problems of disarmament, in the elimination of colonialism, foreign occupation, racism, racial discrimination and apartheid and in all other forms of political life, contributing in this way to the creation of the most favourable conditions for the complete elimination of discrimination against women.

#### WOMEN IN RURAL AREAS

General Assembly—30th session

Third Committee, meetings 2170, 2172-2181.

Plenary meeting 2441.

A/C.3/L.2199. Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Botswana, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Guinea, Guyana, Iran, Jamaica, Malawi, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Cameroon, Yugoslavia: draft resolution.

A/C.3/L.2199/Rev.1. Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Botswana, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Guinea, Guyana, Iran, Jamaica, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Cameroon, Yugoslavia, Zambia: revised draft resolution, as further orally amended by sponsors, approved by Third Committee on 5 December 1975, meeting 2181, by 124 votes to 0, with 2 abstentions.

A/10474. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution VI.

Resolution 3523(XXX), as recommended by Third Committee, A/10474, adopted by Assembly on 15 December 1975, meeting 2441, by 132 votes to 0, with 1 abstention.

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3276(XXIX) of 10 December 1974, in which it decided to consider at its thirtieth session an item entitled "International Women's Year, including the proposals and recommendations of the Conference of the International Women's Year,"

Taking into account resolution 21 adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975, the principles contained in the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975, the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year and the relevant resolutions bearing on the contribution of women to equality, peace and development,

Realizing the importance of adherence to the recommendations of the World Plan of Action, especially those related to women in rural and low-income areas,

Considering the vital role rural women play, not only within the family unit but also in the process of national development, through agriculture and particularly through food production and distribution,

Bearing in mind that in many parts of the world illiteracy, lack of education and training, inadequate distribution of human and economic resources, and severe unemployment and underemployment problems for women have hindered them from contributing fully to national development efforts,

Convinced that the struggle for development is a primary responsibility of all peoples and Governments, taking into account the principles of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order,

Noting the need for both quantitative and qualitative data on the position of women and their role in all rural activities,

Noting also the activities relating to rural women undertaken to date by the United Nations bodies and specialized agencies concerned,

Noting further the need for co-ordinated and systematic

examination of the situation of rural women and their role in all rural activities,

1. Urges all Governments to accord, within their respective plans, higher priority for:

(a) Gathering relevant data on the status and role of women in rural and low-income areas;

(b) Achieving socio-economic conditions based on the realization of the full and equal partnership of men and women in the development of society, both in law and in fact;

(c) Promoting agricultural productivity, agro-based industries and integrated rural development programmes;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare and submit, through the Economic and Social Council, on the basis of the views of relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies as well as those of Governments, guidelines for non-formal educational programmes designed to enable rural women to use fully their capabilities and to contribute to the development of society;

3. Urges United Nations organizations, specialized agencies, regional commissions and international financial institutions to accord special attention to government programmes and projects aimed at the full integration of rural women in development;

4. Urges all Governments to develop extensive training programmes relevant to women and to make full use of all existing and proposed research institutes and centres, particularly the regional and international institutes and centres for the advancement of women in rural areas;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States and the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, to report to the General Assembly biennially on the progress achieved in connexion with the work referred to in the previous paragraphs.

## Other international action to promote advancement of women

### Advisory services

As most of the resources available in the regular programme budget of the United Nations were absorbed by the planning of the World Conference of the International Women's Year and implementation of the recommendations of the Conference, no expert services were provided during 1975.

Three fellowships were awarded to women from Ghana, India and Nepal to study the participation of women in national development, focusing on health, education and welfare. Seven fellowships were awarded to African women for training in demography at the Regional Institute for Population Studies in Ghana.

(See also pp. 619-20.)

### Procedure for communications concerning the status of women

On 6 May 1975, the Economic and Social Council considered decisions taken by the Commission on the Status of Women relating to communications concerning the status of women. The Commission, after some debate, had concluded that the Economic and Social Council, by a resolution of 27 May 1970 regarding procedures for dealing with communications relating to violations of human

rights and fundamental freedoms,<sup>10</sup> had established a single system to deal with all communications dealing with human rights. The Commission therefore decided that the question should be deleted from its work programme.

The Council, after considering an explanatory report by the Secretary-General outlining existing procedures for dealing with communications concerning human rights and the status of women, decided to invite the Commission to consider the advisability of continuing to deal with communications concerning the status of women.

The Council took this action by decision 86 (LVIII), which it adopted, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Social Committee. The Social Committee had approved the decision on 30 April 1975, without objection, on the proposal of its Chairman. A draft resolution (and amendments thereto) to the same effect as the Council's decision was withdrawn. Belgium, Colombia, Mexico and the Netherlands had sponsored the draft resolution and the USSR had sponsored the amendments.

<sup>10</sup> See Y.U.N., 1970, pp. 530-31, text of resolution 1503 (XLVIII).

## Documentary references

Procedure for communications concerning the status of women

Economic and Social Council—58th session  
Social Committee, meetings 768-770.  
Plenary meeting 1948.

E/5628. Relevant resolutions and procedures dealing with communications concerning human rights and status of women. Explanatory report of Secretary-General.

E/NGO/30. Statements by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with Economic and Social Council.

E/AC.7/L.685. Belgium, Colombia, Mexico, Netherlands: draft resolution.

E/AC.7/L.686. USSR: amendments to 4-power draft resolution, E/AC.7/L.685.

E/5669/Add.1. Report of Social Committee, draft decision I.

E/5683. Resolutions and decisions of Economic and Social Council, organizational session for 1975 and 58th session (decision 86(LVIII)).

## OTHER DOCUMENTS

A/10003. Report of Economic and Social Council on work of its organizational session for 1975 and of its 58th and 59th sessions, Chapter V B 4.

## Other matters relating to the status of women

**Technical assistance**

During 1975, Governments expressed increased interest in requesting technical assistance which would benefit women directly. The development of a joint interagency programme, in which virtually all organizations in the United Nations system participated, permitted joint planning and action.

Recent initiatives undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided other means for increased action, especially recommendations made by the Governing Council of UNDP, which resulted in directives issued to all UNDP resident representatives. Several bodies, for example the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme, issued new guidelines for their programmes.

The establishment of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women also provided additional resources to supplement and complement programmes in this field.

An international seminar, Women's Participation and Development: Building Leadership from the Grass-roots, was organized at Islamabad, Pakistan, from 10 to 15 November 1975 by the Government of Pakistan with the support of the United Nations. The seminar was viewed as a means of initiating activities recommended by the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year and launching national action in Pakistan.

Advisers on the research, training and operational aspects of work among women, particularly in rural areas, were assigned to a number of country projects, including the Research and Training Centre for Community Development in Saudi Arabia, the Social and Community Development Project in Bahrain, a comprehensive rural and community development project in the Central African Republic, and the Social Welfare Training

Centre of the University of the West Indies in Jamaica. Also, a project on the integration of women in development was initiated in Swaziland in 1975, to which a project manager and an adviser in training for rural and community development (both women) and three associate experts were assigned. It was hoped that the project could serve as a model for similar activities in other developing countries.

**Employment of women in the United Nations Secretariat**

On 8 December 1975, the General Assembly, in response to recommendations of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, took several decisions on the employment of women in the Secretariat of the United Nations. Bearing in mind Articles 8 and 101 of the Charter of the United Nations<sup>11</sup> and the international declarations and instruments acknowledging the equality of men and women, the Assembly noted the limited progress made in the recruitment and promotion of women in senior and policy-making positions and the declining percentage of professional women staff members in the Secretariat, as stated in the reports of the Secretary-General on the composition of the Secretariat.

Reaffirming that equitable distribution of the positions between men and women in the Secretariat was a major principle governing the recruitment policy of the United Nations, the Assembly urged Member States to intensify their efforts to seek and recommend qualified women candidates for professional posts.

The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to make every effort to appoint qualified women to a number of posts subject to geo-

<sup>11</sup> For texts of Charter articles, see APPENDIX II.



graphical distribution, equivalent to 5 per cent of the mid-point of the desirable range for each of the seven geographical regions during the next two biennia, 1976-1977 and 1978-1979. The Assembly asked that priority be given to candidates from countries which were not represented or which were under-represented in the Secretariat, and that the appointment of women not adversely affect opportunities for the recruitment of qualified men from the same unrepresented and under-represented countries.

The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to intensify regular and publicized recruitment missions, to pay special attention in the Staff Development Programme to training which would assist women to increase their career opportunities, and to include in his reports on personnel questions information on steps taken to improve the

status and conditions of the service of women in the Secretariat.

(See page 919, text of Assembly resolution 3416 (XXX).)

### **Exploitation of labour through illicit and clandestine trafficking**

On 10 September 1975, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, considering that its reports and draft recommendations on the exploitation of labour through illicit and clandestine trafficking reflected the current status of its work on the subject, decided to submit them to the Commission on Human Rights. The Sub-Commission also decided to take up the question of the draft recommendations at its 1976 session.

### Documentary references

Exploitation of labour through illicit and clandestine trafficking  
E/CN.4/1180. Report of Sub-Commission on Prevention of

Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on its 28th session, Geneva, Switzerland, 25 August-12 September 1975, Chapters X and XXI B (decision 1) and Annex III.