elected to and serve in public office. Structural changes in the work environment were needed to promote reconciliation of work and personal life for women and men.

As to women and the economy [agreed conclusions 1997/3], the Commission stated that economic policies and structural adjustment programmes should be formulated and monitored in a gender-sensitive way, with input from women most impacted by those policies. It recommended that Governments, international organizations, the private sector, NGOs, employers’ organizations and labour unions adopt a systematic approach to accelerating women’s full participation in economic decision-making and ensure the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of economic policies. It called for comprehensive policy-making on the use of analytical tools, effective legislation, transparency of women’s and men’s wages, changing the gender-based division of labour and the stereotyped choices of men and women; and effective guidance for employers. Governments should ensure women’s equal access to economic resources, develop strategies to increase the well-being of low-waged workers, ensure the protection of migrant women workers, and enforce equal opportunity policies and labour laws.

On the education and training of women [agreed conclusions 1997/4], the Commission suggested that Governments, international bodies, donors and NGOs make special efforts to achieve the benchmarks contained in the Platform for Action regarding universal access to basic education. Other actions called for reducing the female illiteracy rate; providing women with labour market information; programme development in education, technical training and lifelong learning; the development of gender-sensitive teaching materials, classroom practices and curricula; and support for women’s studies. The Secretary-General should continue to analyse and widely disseminate to Governments and NGOs information on the education and training of women and girls.

Reports of Secretary-General. In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/6 [YUN 1996, p. 1060], the Secretary-General submitted to the Commission a February report on thematic issues related to the four critical areas of concern [E/CN.6/1997/3]. Drawing on the recommendations of expert group meetings convened by the UN Division for the Advancement of Women, the report presented strategies for accelerating implementation of the Platform for Action in the four areas.

A February note by the Secretary-General [E/CN.6/1997/6] described activities already planned or undertaken by the Commission regarding poverty eradication, a critical area of concern that it had considered in 1996 [YUN 1996, p. 1055], and offered options for further action.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 21 July [meeting 36], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women [E/1997/27], adopted resolution 1997/17 without vote [agenda item 7 (c)].

Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the critical areas of concern identified in the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women

The Economic and Social Council,
Recalling General Assembly resolutions 50/203 of 22 December 1995 and 51/69 of 12 December 1996 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action of the Conference,
Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/6 of 22 July 1996 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, by which a multi-year programme of work for the Commission on the Status of Women was adopted as a framework for assessing the progress achieved in the implementation of the Platform for Action,
Noting that the Commission at its forty-first session reviewed progress achieved in the implementation of the Platform for Action in the critical areas of concern: women and the environment, women in power and decision-making, women and the economy and the education and training of women, and proposed ways and means to accelerate implementation in those four areas,
1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on thematic issues before the Commission on the Status of Women and the recommendations contained therein;
2. Calls upon Governments, United Nations agencies and bodies and other international organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society to cooperate in implementing the strategies adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women and other recent international conferences;
3. Calls upon Governments, the United Nations system and other international organizations to mainstream a gender perspective into all policies and programmes, while maintaining institutional arrangements to carry out research and develop methodologies and tools for mainstreaming, and to advocate gender equality and the enjoyment by women of their human rights;
4. Endorses the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on women and the environment, women in power and decision-making, women and the economy and the education and training of women.

Mainstreaming gender concerns

Reports of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 51/69 [YUN 1996, p. 1062], the Secretary-General in a February report [E/CN.6/1997/2] reviewed progress in the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on