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

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

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

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

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

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

(d) Promoting education, training and relevant information programmes for rural and farming women through the use of affordable and appropriate technologies and the mass media;

(e) Developing the capacity of personnel working in the areas of national development strategies, rural development, agricultural development, poverty eradication and implementation of the Millennium Development Goals to identify and address the challenges and constraints facing rural women, including through training programmes and the development and dissemination of methodologies and tools, while acknowledging technical assistance of relevant United Nations agencies;

3. Strongly encourages Member States, United Nations entities and all other relevant stakeholders to take measures to identify and address any negative impact of the current global crises on women in rural areas, including on legislation, policies and programmes that strengthen gender equality and the empowerment of women;

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

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

6. Calls upon Member States to consider the concluding observations and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women concerning their reports to the Committee when formulating policies and designing programmes focused on the improvement of the situation of rural women, including those to be developed and implemented in cooperation with relevant international organizations;

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

8. Encourages Governments and international organizations to integrate the perspective of women in rural areas, including indigenous women, into the preparations for and outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, with a view to accelerating progress on gender equality and women’s empowerment in rural areas;

9. Invites Governments, relevant international organizations and the specialized agencies to continue to observe the International Day of Rural Women annually, on 15 October, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/136;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Education and training of women

Reports of Secretary-General. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/15 [YUN 2009, p. 1155], the Secretary-General submitted a report [E/CN.6/2011/3] on access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women’s equal access to full employment and decent work.

The report underlined that ensuring women’s equal access to scientific and technological knowledge and skills was a rights issue, inasmuch as education was a basic human right, but also an economic imperative, as doing so would widen the pool of human resources available to apply technology and carry out research and development. Progress had been made in expanding access to basic education for girls—a prerequisite for acquiring literacy and numeracy skills, basic scientific knowledge and technological competencies—but evidence suggested that vocational education was marked by strong gender segregation, with women underrepresented in technical subject areas. As far as employment, women remained underrepresented in the field of research and development; few women