

Chapter X

Women

During 2001, United Nations efforts to advance the status of women and ensure their rights continued to be guided by the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth (1995) World Conference on Women. That guidance was augmented by the political declaration and further action and initiatives adopted in 2000 at the General Assembly's twenty-third special session to appraise and assess implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+5).

The Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council and the Assembly considered follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and Beijing+5. In a December resolution, the Assembly called on Governments, the UN system and civil society, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to take action to achieve full and effective implementation of the outcomes of the Beijing Conference and the special session.

The Commission on the Status of Women, at its forty-fifth session in March and May, recommended to the Council for adoption agreed conclusions on its two thematic issues: women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS; and gender and all forms of discrimination, in particular racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The Council endorsed the agreed conclusions in July. Also on the Commission's recommendation, the Council adopted resolutions on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women; discrimination against women and girls in Afghanistan; and mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the UN system. It also adopted a multi-year programme of work for the Commission for 2002-2006. The Commission adopted and brought to the Council's attention resolutions on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those imprisoned during armed conflict, and the 2002-2005 system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women.

The United Nations Development Fund for Women continued to focus on women's economic and political empowerment and to advocate for gender equality. In December, the Assembly urged Member States, NGOs and the private sector to continue to contribute to the Fund. The Assembly also adopted resolutions on the situation

of older women; traditional and customary practices affecting the health of women and girls; women in development; and violence against migrant women, among others.

The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, which announced the completion of phases I and II of the Gender Awareness Information and Networking System, and the initiation of phase III, continued to suffer from financial insecurity throughout the year. In December, the Assembly decided to establish a working group to consider the Institute's future operations.

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

During 2001, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly considered follow-up to the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, particularly the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action [YUN 1995, p. 1170], and the political declaration and further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the twenty-third special session of the Assembly (Beijing+5) by resolution S/23-2 [YUN 2000, p. 1084]. The political declaration had reaffirmed the commitment of Governments to the goals and objectives of the Fourth World Conference and to implementation of the 12 critical areas of concern set forth in the Platform for Action: women and poverty; education and training of women; women and health; violence against women; women and armed conflict; women and the economy; women in power and decision-making; institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women; human rights and women; women and the media; women and the environment; and the girl child.

Commission on the Status of Women. At its forty-fifth session (New York, 6-17 March and 9-11 May), the Commission on the Status of Women had before it the first annual report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to and imple-

mentation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action [E/CN.6/2001/2], submitted in response to Assembly resolution 55/71 [YUN 2000, p. 1107]. The report emphasized the Secretariat's efforts in support of gender mainstreaming and follow-up activities, including those undertaken by NGOs. It also provided information, in accordance with specific mandates, on the situation of Palestinian women (see p. 1067) and on women and children taken hostage (see p. 1060). An addendum [E/CN.6/2001/2/Add.1] described the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan (see p. 1065).

Economic and Social Council. In a May report to the Economic and Social Council [E/2001/78], the Secretary-General discussed action taken by the Commission on the Status of Women, other functional commissions of the Council and the UN regional commissions towards the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. The report aimed to assist the Council in its coordination function.

On 26 July, the Council, by **decision 2001/317**, took note of the Secretary-General's report.

General Assembly. In response to General Assembly resolution 55/71, the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/56/319] that provided updated information on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and Beijing+5 by intergovernmental bodies, the Economic and Social Council in particular, the UN system and NGOs.

The Secretary-General identified several resolutions adopted by the Council at its 2001 substantive session that addressed the situation of women. He drew particular attention to the fact that ministers at the Council's high-level segment on UN efforts to support the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development (see p. 847) had recognized the need to promote the role of women in social and economic development, including by ensuring their participation in the political and economic life of African countries.

In an addendum [A/56/319/Add.1], the Secretary-General described the full range of tasks of the Division for the Advancement of Women, including those that arose from the implementation of the outcome of Beijing+5, the greater acceptance of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the Convention (see p. 1075).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 88], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third

(Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee [A/56/577], adopted **resolution 56/132** without vote [agenda item 113].

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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/203 of 22 December 1995, 51/69 of 12 December 1996, 52/100 of 12 December 1997, 53/120 of 9 December 1998, 54/141 of 17 December 1999 and 55/71 of 4 December 2000,

Welcoming the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", and stressing the importance of the outcome of the special session, which has assessed the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, identified obstacles and challenges thereto and proposed actions and initiatives to overcome them and achieve full and accelerated implementation,

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session are important contributions to the advancement of women worldwide in the achievement of gender equality and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned, as well as by non-governmental organizations,

Stressing the importance of strong, sustained political will and commitment at the national, regional and international levels in order to achieve full and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

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

Welcoming the increased integration of a gender perspective in the work of the United Nations, in particular in the outcomes of major United Nations conferences, special sessions, summit conferences and their follow-up processes,

Welcoming also the integration of a gender perspective in the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly, on the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), held in New York from 25 to 27 June 2001, in particular the emphasis on the gender dimensions of the epidemic, and the recognition that gender equality and the empowerment of women are fundamental elements in the reduction of the vulnerability of women and girls, who are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS,

Welcoming further the integration of a gender perspective in the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held at Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8

September 2001, which recognized, inter alia, the multiple forms of discrimination faced by women and the need to apply a gender perspective in measures to eradicate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Emphasizing the importance of the decision by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2001/41 of 26 July 2001, to devote the coordination segment of one of its substantive sessions, before 2005, to the review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, adopted by the Council on 18 July 1997,

Welcoming the ministerial declaration on the role of the United Nations system in support of the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development, adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 18 July 2001 at the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2001, in which the Council recognized, inter alia, the need to promote the role of women in social and economic development, including by assuring their participation in political and economic life,

Reaffirming the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in promoting the advancement of women and gender equality, while noting the importance of the open debate entitled "Women and peace and security", held in the Security Council on 24 October 2000, and its outcome,

Welcoming the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,

1. *Reaffirms* the goals, objectives and commitments contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and also in the political declaration and further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session;

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

3. *Calls upon* Governments, the relevant entities of the United Nations system within their respective mandates and all other relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to take effective action to achieve full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, as elaborated in the above-mentioned documents;

4. *Calls upon* Governments, in collaboration with relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to continue to facilitate the translation and dissemination of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session as broadly and as accessibly as possible;

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

6. *Welcomes* the integration of a gender perspective in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and emphasizes the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective in the implementation of and follow-up to the Millennium Declaration and in future reports on this subject;

7. *Reaffirms* its decision that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with their respective mandates and with General Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and other relevant resolutions, constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that plays the primary role in the overall policy-making and follow-up and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

8. *Also reaffirms* that the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the twenty-third special session will be undertaken within the framework of an integrated and coordinated follow-up to major international conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, and in this regard takes note of Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/21 of 26 July 2001 on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits;

9. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to intensify further its efforts to ensure that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of all United Nations activities, building upon agreed conclusions 1997/2 adopted by the Council on 18 July 1997;

10. *Invites* the Council to continue to further policy coordination and inter-agency cooperation towards the achievement of the objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, including by considering the dedication of specific segments of the Council to the advancement of women and implementation of the above-mentioned documents and by mainstreaming a gender perspective in all its work;

11. *Encourages* the Council to request the regional commissions, within their respective mandates and resources, to intensify efforts to build up a database, to be updated regularly, in which all programmes and projects carried out in their respective regions by agencies or organizations of the United Nations system are listed, and to facilitate their dissemination, as well as the evaluation of their impact on the empowerment of women through the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

12. *Reaffirms* that the Commission on the Status of Women has a central role in assisting the Council in monitoring, assessing progress made in and accelerating, within the United Nations system, the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and in advising the Council thereon, encourages the Commission, in this regard, further to enhance its working methods in order to improve the effectiveness of its work and its catalytic role in ensuring the integration of a gender perspective in United Nations activities, taking into consideration the adoption by the Council of the multi-year programme of work of the Commission for 2002-2006, and calls on the Commission and all involved to implement the programme of work;

13. *Recognizes* the importance attached to the regional and subregional monitoring of the global and regional platforms for action and of the implementation of the outcome of the twenty-third special session by regional commissions and other regional or subregional structures, within their mandates, in consultation with Governments, and calls for the promotion of further cooperation in that respect among Governments and, where appropriate, national machineries of the same region;

14. *Reaffirms* that, in order to implement the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources for the developing countries, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries, from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources, will also be required;

15. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session in the countries with economies in transition requires continued national efforts and international cooperation and assistance;

16. *Reaffirms* that, in order to implement the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, a reformulation of policies and reallocation of resources may be needed, but that some policy changes may not necessarily have financial implications;

17. *Recognizes* that the creation of an enabling environment at the national and international levels, including through the full participation of women at all levels of decision-making, is necessary to ensure the full participation of women in economic activities, and calls upon States to remove obstacles to the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

18. *Reaffirms* that, in order to ensure the effective implementation of the strategic objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, the United Nations system should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective, including through the work of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the maintenance of gender units and focal points;

19. *Also reaffirms* that United Nations bodies that focus on gender issues, such as the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, have an important role to play in the implementation of the objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

20. *Welcomes* the convening, in 2002, of the International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held at Monterrey, Mexico, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held at Johannesburg, South Africa, the Second World Assembly on Ageing, to be held at Madrid, and the special session of the General Assembly on children, and urges Governments to integrate a gender perspective in the respective processes and outcome documents;

21. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts made by all relevant organizations of the United Nations system in promoting the role of women in conflict prevention and resolution;

22. *Recognizes* the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution, and urges the United Nations system and Governments to make further efforts in this regard and to take steps to ensure and support the full participation of women at all levels of decision-making and implementation in development activities and peace processes, including conflict prevention and resolution, post-conflict reconstruction, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace-building, as well as through the integration of a gender perspective into those United Nations processes;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all United Nations personnel and officials at Headquarters and in the field, especially in field operations, receive training so that they mainstream a gender perspective in their work, including gender impact analysis, and to ensure appropriate follow-up to such training;

24. *Requests* all bodies that deal with programme and budgetary matters, including the Committee for Programme and Coordination, to ensure that all programmes, medium-term plans and programme budgets visibly mainstream a gender perspective;

25. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to include information on measures taken to implement the outcome of the twenty-third special session, as well as the Beijing Platform for Action, in their reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women under article 18 of the Convention;

26. *Welcomes* the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and urges States parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

27. *Urges* Member States to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to disseminate the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session as widely as possible in all the official languages of the United Nations;

29. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report annually to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women on follow-up to and progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, with an assessment of progress made in mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system, including by providing information on

key achievements, lessons learned and best practices, and to recommend further measures and strategies for future action within the United Nations system;

30. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'".

Critical areas of concern

Violence against women

The Secretary-General transmitted to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights a January report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) on activities in 2000 to eliminate violence against women [E/CN.4/2001/126-E/CN.6/2001/6]. UNIFEM continued to build on advocacy campaigns established with UN partners in various regions. Beijing+5 [YUN 2000, p. 1082] gave strong reaffirmation to activities within the international community addressing gender-based violence and added specific forms of violence against women to the international agenda, namely so-called honour killings and dowry-related deaths.

Since it began operations in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 1193], the Trust Fund in Support of Action to Eliminate Violence against Women had received over \$5.4 million in contributions and funded 105 projects around the world. Grants of \$1 million were allocated to 17 projects in 2000; requests, however, totalled more than \$12.5 million. Projects in 2000 addressed diverse forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, trafficking and sexual exploitation, honour killings, sexual harassment and violence against girls and women with disabilities. Strategies applied in executing the projects ranged from public-awareness raising and education to advocacy, legal literacy, training for professionals, action-oriented research and service provision, and training and mobilization of women's groups.

To encourage projects with increased potential, the Fund implemented guidelines to raise grants from \$50,000 to \$150,000 for joint proposals; under that framework, six grants were awarded in 2000. With support from a United Nations Foundation grant, a call for project proposals focusing on media and documentation was issued. It generated over 250 proposals, from which four to eight projects would be selected.

The Trust Fund learning component, supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, focused on reviewing and analysing lessons learned from Trust Fund initiatives.

Field visits to five countries highlighted effective strategies for changing attitudes, reversing stereotypes and eliminating harmful practices.

(For details of action on violence against women taken by the Commission on Human Rights, see p. 677.)

Women migrant workers

In response to General Assembly resolution 54/138 [YUN 1999, p. 1087], the Secretary-General submitted a September report [A/56/329], in which he summarized information received from 15 Member States, UN bodies, mechanisms and organizations, intergovernmental entities and NGOs to address the issue of violence against women migrant workers. The Secretary-General stated that data on the numbers of women migrant workers remained difficult to obtain and there was a lack of clarity about the scale of abuse and discrimination against them. Comprehensive information was needed on bilateral labour agreements between countries of origin and of destination and on labour and immigration legislation, as well as on the impact of such provisions, especially with respect to the enjoyment by women of the full range of human rights (see also p. 618).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 88], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/56/576], adopted **resolution 56/131** without vote [agenda item 112].

Violence against women migrant workers

The General Assembly,

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

Reaffirming the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development and their five-year reviews, specifically as the results pertain to women migrant workers,

Noting the various activities initiated by entities in the United Nations system, such as the expert group meeting organized by the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the International Organization for Migration, held at Geneva in August 1999, the international workshop on best practices concerning migrant workers and their families initiated by the International Organization for Migration, held at Santiago in June 2000, and the seminar on women immigrants organized by the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the Argentine National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism, held at Buenos Aires in July 2001, as well as other activities that continue to assess and alleviate the plight of women migrant workers,

Emphasizing the need for objective, comprehensive, broad-based information, possibly including a database for research and analysis, and a wide exchange of experience and lessons learned by individual Member States and civil society in the formulation of policies and concrete strategies to address the problem of violence against women migrant workers,

Encouraging the continuing participation of civil society in developing and implementing appropriate measures to support innovative partnerships among public agencies, non-governmental organizations and other members of civil society for combating violence against women migrant workers,

Noting the large numbers of women from developing countries and some countries with economies in transition who continue to venture forth to more affluent countries in search of a living for themselves and their families as a consequence of poverty, unemployment and other socio-economic conditions, and acknowledging the duty of the countries of origin to try to create conditions that provide employment and economic security for their citizens,

Expressing deep concern at the continuing reports of grave abuses and acts of violence committed against women migrant workers,

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

Acknowledging the economic benefits that accrue to both the country of origin and the country of destination from the employment of women migrant workers,

Recognizing the importance of joint and collaborative approaches and strategies at the bilateral, regional, interregional and international levels in protecting and promoting the rights and welfare of women migrant workers,

Recognizing also the importance of exploring the link between migration and trafficking,

Encouraged by some measures adopted by some countries of destination to alleviate the plight of women migrant workers residing in their areas of jurisdiction,

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

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

2. *Also takes note* of the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the human rights of migrants and of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences, with regard to violence against women migrant workers, and encourages them to continue to address the issue of violence against women migrant workers and their human rights, in particular the problem of gender-based violence and of discrimination, and trafficking in women;

3. *Requests* all Governments to continue to cooperate fully with both Special Rapporteurs in the performance of their tasks and mandated duties and to furnish all information requested, including by reacting promptly to the urgent appeals of the Special Rapporteurs;

4. *Encourages* Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, to make available to the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants information on violence against women migrant workers, with a view to requesting the Special Rapporteur to recommend concrete measures and actions to address the problem;

5. *Also encourages* Governments to give serious consideration to inviting the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries so as to enable her to fulfil the mandate effectively;

6. *Urges* concerned Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, to strengthen further their national efforts to protect and promote the rights and welfare of women migrant workers, including through sustained bilateral, regional, interregional and international cooperation, by developing strategies and joint action and taking into account the innovative approaches and experiences of individual Member States, and to establish and maintain continuing dialogues to facilitate the exchange of information;

7. *Also urges* concerned Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, to support and allocate appropriate resources for programmes aimed at strengthening preventive action, in particular information for target groups, education and campaigns to increase public awareness of this issue at the national and grass-roots levels, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations;

8. *Notes with appreciation* the adoption by Member States, including countries of origin, transit and destination, of measures to inform women migrant workers of their rights and the benefits to which they are entitled, and encourages other Member States to adopt appropriate measures in this regard;

9. *Calls upon* concerned Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, if they have not done so, to put in place penal and criminal sanctions to punish perpetrators of violence against women migrant workers and, to the extent possible, to provide, and to encourage non-governmental organizations to provide, victims of violence with the full range of immediate assistance and protection, such as counselling, legal and consular assistance, temporary shelter and other measures that will allow them to be present during the judicial process, as well as to establish reintegration and rehabilitation schemes for returning women migrant workers to their countries of origin;

10. *Encourages* concerned Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, to support and, if they have not done so, to formulate and implement training programmes for their law enforcers, prosecutors and service providers with a view to instilling among those public sector workers the necessary skills and attitude to ensure the delivery of proper and professional interventions for women migrant workers who are subjected to abuse and violence;

11. *Also encourages* concerned Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination,

to adopt measures or strengthen existing ones to regulate the recruitment and deployment of women migrant workers, and to consider the adoption of appropriate legal measures against intermediaries who deliberately encourage the clandestine movement of workers and who exploit women migrant workers;

12. *Invites* Governments to identify the causes of undocumented migration and its economic, social and demographic impact, as well as its implications for the formulation and application of social, economic and migration policies, including those relating to women migrant workers;

13. *Encourages* concerned Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin, transit and destination, to avail themselves of the expertise of the United Nations, including the Statistics Division of the Secretariat and other relevant bodies, such as the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, to develop appropriate national data-collection methodologies that will generate comparable data on violence against women migrant workers as bases for research and analyses of the subject;

14. *Encourages* Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to relevant International Labour Organization conventions and to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, as well as the Slavery Convention of 1926;

15. *Welcomes* the adoption by the General Assembly of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and encourages Governments to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Protocols;

16. *Encourages* the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to consider developing a general recommendation on the situation of women migrant workers;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the problem of violence against women migrant workers and on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account updated information from the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, as well as the International Organization for Migration and other relevant sources, including non-governmental organizations.

Women and children in armed conflict

Women and children taken hostage

In response to a 2000 Commission on the Status of Women request [YUN 2000, p. 1112], the Secretary-General, in a January report on follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action [E/CN.6/2001/2], summarized information received from 17 Mem-

ber States and 12 entities of the UN system on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those imprisoned during armed conflict.

By a 17 March resolution [E/2001/27 (res. 45/1)], the Commission condemned violent acts in contravention of international humanitarian law against civilian women and children in areas of armed conflict, and called for the immediate release of such women and children taken hostage. It strongly urged parties to armed conflicts to respect the norms of international humanitarian law and to take measures to protect those women and children and to secure their immediate release. All parties were urged to provide access to humanitarian assistance for those women and children and the Secretary-General and all relevant international organizations were asked to facilitate their release. The Secretary-General was also asked to prepare, taking into account information provided by States and relevant international organizations, a report on the subject for the Commission's 2002 session.

Communication. On 4 December [A/56/680-S/2001/1155], the Democratic Republic of the Congo transmitted to the Secretary-General the report of the subregional conference on the protection of women and children in armed conflict in Central Africa (Kinshasa, 14-16 November). Annexed to the report was a plan of action, which outlined measures to be taken at the national, subregional and international levels in order to find lasting solutions for the suffering of women and children in armed conflict in Central Africa.

(See also p. 677.)

Women, peace and security

On 8 March—the United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace—the Security Council held informal consultations on women, peace and security (see p. 54).

On 31 October, the Council President made statement **S/PRST/2001/31**, in which members reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of resolution 1325(2000) [YUN 2000, p. 1113] and support for increasing the role of women in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution (see p. 54).

Communication. On 27 November [A/C.3/56/9], Austria transmitted to the Secretary-General a document that emanated from a meeting of 15 women Foreign Ministers on the topic "Women and human security" (New York, 12 November).

The girl child

On 19 December [meeting 88], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third

Committee [A/56/579], adopted **resolution 56/139** without vote [agenda item 115].

The girl child

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/78 of 4 December 2000 and all relevant resolutions, including the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women, in particular those relevant to the girl child,

Recalling also all relevant United Nations conferences and the Declaration and Agenda for Action adopted by the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held at Stockholm from 27 to 31 August 1996, as well as the outcome documents of the recent five-year reviews of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,

Deeply concerned about discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child, which often result in less access for girls to education, nutrition and physical and mental health care and in girls enjoying fewer of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence than boys and often being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and to violence and harmful practices, such as female infanticide, incest, early marriage, prenatal sex selection and female genital mutilation,

Recognizing the need to achieve gender equality so as to ensure a just and equitable world for girls,

Deeply concerned that, in situations of poverty, war and armed conflict, girl children are among the victims most affected and that thus their potential for full development is limited,

Concerned that the girl child has furthermore become a victim of sexually transmitted diseases and the human immunodeficiency virus, which affect the quality of her life and leave her open to further discrimination,

Reaffirming the equal rights of women and men as enshrined, inter alia, in the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Reaffirming also the political declaration and further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",

Reaffirming further the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum,

Reaffirming the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session,

1. *Stresses* the need for full and urgent implementation of the rights of the girl child as guaranteed to her under all human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as the need for universal ratification of those instruments;

2. *Urges* States to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on

the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

3. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and invites States to consider signing and ratifying the Optional Protocols as a matter of priority with a view to their entry into force as soon as possible;

4. *Welcomes also* the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative launched by the Secretary-General at the World Education Forum;

5. *Urges* all Governments and the United Nations system to strengthen efforts bilaterally and with international organizations and private sector donors in order to achieve the goals of the World Education Forum, in particular that of eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, and to implement the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative as a means of reaching this goal, and reaffirms the commitment contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

6. *Calls upon* all States to take measures to address the obstacles that continue to affect the achievement of the goals set forth in the Beijing Platform for Action, as contained in paragraph 33 of the further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, where appropriate, including the strengthening of national mechanisms to implement policies and programmes for the girl child and, in some cases, to enhance coordination among responsible institutions for the realization of the human rights of girls, as indicated in the further actions and initiatives;

7. *Urges* all States to take all necessary measures and to institute legal reforms to ensure the full and equal enjoyment by the girl child of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, to take effective action against violations of those rights and freedoms and to base programmes and policies for the girl child on the rights of the child;

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

9. *Urges* all States to fulfil their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as the commitment to implement the Beijing Platform for Action;

10. *Also urges* all States to enact and enforce legislation to protect girls from all forms of violence, including female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, female genital mutilation, rape, domestic violence, incest, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, child prostitution and child pornography, and to develop age-appropriate safe and confidential programmes and medical, social and psychological support services to assist girls who are subjected to violence;

11. *Calls upon* all States and international and non-governmental organizations, individually and collectively, to implement further the Beijing Platform for Action, in particular the strategic objectives relating to the girl child and including the further actions and

initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

12. *Urges* States to take special measures for the protection of war-affected girls and in particular to protect them from sexually transmitted diseases, such as the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), and gender-based violence, including rape and sexual abuse, torture, sexual exploitation, abduction and forced labour, paying special attention to refugee and displaced girls, and to take into account the special needs of the war-affected girl child in the delivery of humanitarian assistance and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes;

13. *Urges* all States and the international community to respect, protect and promote the rights of the child, taking into account the particular vulnerabilities of the girl child in pre-conflict, conflict and post-conflict situations, and calls for special initiatives designed to address all of the rights and needs of war-affected girls;

14. *Welcomes* the holding of the International Conference on War-Affected Children at Winnipeg, Canada, from 10 to 17 September 2000, and takes note with appreciation of the Winnipeg Agenda for War-Affected Children;

15. *Urges* States to formulate comprehensive, multi-disciplinary and coordinated national plans, programmes or strategies to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, which should be widely disseminated and should provide targets and timetables for implementation, as well as effective domestic enforcement procedures through the establishment of monitoring mechanisms involving all parties concerned, including consultations with women's organizations, giving attention to the recommendations relating to the girl child of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences;

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

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to ensure that all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, individually and collectively, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, take into account the rights and the particular needs of the girl child in the country programme of cooperation in accordance with the national priorities, including through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

18. *Requests* all human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and other human rights mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission

on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights to adopt regularly and systematically a gender perspective in the implementation of their mandates and to include in their reports information on the qualitative analysis of violations of the human rights of women and girls, and encourages the strengthening of cooperation and coordination in that regard;

19. *Calls upon* States and international and non-governmental organizations to mobilize all necessary resources, support and efforts to realize the goals, strategic objectives and actions set out in the Beijing Platform for Action and the further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

20. *Stresses* the importance of a substantive assessment of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action with a life-cycle perspective so as to identify gaps and obstacles in the implementation process and to develop further actions for the achievement of the goals of the Platform;

21. *Welcomes* the convening of the Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, at Yokohama, Japan, from 17 to 20 December 2001, and the regional consultative meetings for the preparation thereof, which aim to review the progress made in implementing the Declaration and Agenda for Action adopted by the first World Congress and to strengthen actions to eradicate commercial sexual exploitation of children, and invites Member States and observers to ensure their representation at the Second World Congress at a high political level;

22. *Encourages* the regional commissions and other regional organizations to carry out activities in support of the Second World Congress;

23. *Stresses* the importance of integrating a gender perspective and of considering the needs and rights of the girl child in the work of the special session of the General Assembly on children.

(See also p. 680.)

Women's health

Traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls

In response to General Assembly resolution 54/133 [YUN 1999, p. 1091], the Secretary-General submitted an August report on traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls [A/56/316]. He summarized information received from 17 Member States concerning the formulation and revision of legislation and policy and awareness-raising programmes in order to protect women against such harmful traditional practices as female genital mutilation, early marriage and marriage by force or abduction. Information was also provided by NGOs and UN entities and mechanisms.

The Secretary-General stated that Member States had indicated that traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls, particularly female genital mutilation, continued to be addressed through the adoption of legal and

policy measures, educational programmes and awareness-raising campaigns. However, concrete measures to eliminate the practices needed to be strengthened. The adoption and enforcement of legal measures prohibiting the practices and the development of comprehensive national plans and public information campaigns remained crucial. Education and training should be reinforced to include behavioural change approaches, reach women and men in all communities engaged in such practices, and address the underlying values that supported the practices. Those efforts should involve community and religious leaders, educators, medical practitioners, the media and those responsible for enforcing laws and implementing policies, such as the police and judicial personnel. The sensitization of, and alternative career training programmes for, traditional practitioners, as well as the pursuit of alternatives where harmful practices constituted a ritual ceremony or rite of passage, should be intensified.

(See also p. 679.)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 88], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/56/576], adopted **resolution 56/128** without vote [agenda item 112].

Traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 54/133 of 17 December 1999 and its other relevant resolutions and decisions, and bearing in mind those of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights,

Taking note of the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights on traditional practices affecting the health of women and the girl child and of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences,

Reaffirming the obligation of all States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms as stated in the Charter of the United Nations, and emphasizing the obligations contained in human rights instruments, in particular articles 5 and 12 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Bearing in mind article 2 (a) of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, and article 5, paragraph 5, of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

Recalling the provisions pertaining to traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls contained in the outcome of the World Confer-

ence on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the twenty-first, twenty-third and twenty-sixth special sessions of the General Assembly,

Recalling also general recommendation 14 concerning female circumcision adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its ninth session, paragraphs 11, 20 and 24 (l) of general recommendation 19 concerning violence against women adopted by the Committee at its eleventh session, paragraphs 15 (d) and 18 of general recommendation 24 concerning article 12 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on women and health adopted by the Committee at its twentieth session, and taking note of paragraphs 21, 35 and 51 of general comment No. 14 (2000) concerning article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its twenty-second session,

Reaffirming that harmful traditional or customary practices, including female genital mutilation, constitute a serious threat to the health of women and girls, and may have fatal consequences,

Expressing concern at the continuing large-scale existence of these practices,

Reaffirming that such harmful traditional or customary practices constitute a definite form of violence against women and girls and a serious violation of their human rights,

Emphasizing that the elimination of harmful traditional or customary practices will contribute to reducing the vulnerability of women and girls to the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and other sexually transmitted infections,

Stressing that the elimination of such practices requires greater efforts and commitment from Governments, the international community and civil society, including non-governmental and community-based organizations, and that fundamental changes in societal attitudes are required,

Noting with appreciation the work done in the context of the Organization of African Unity to prepare a draft protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the rights of women in Africa,

Welcoming the call for the elimination of all harmful traditional practices which are detrimental to girls' and women's rights and health made by the Pan-African Forum on the Future of Children, held in Cairo from 28 to 31 May 2001,

1. Welcomes:

(a) The report of the Secretary-General, which provides encouraging examples of national and international developments;

(b) The efforts undertaken by United Nations bodies, programmes and organizations, including the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Health Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, to address the issue of traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and

girls, and encourages them to continue to coordinate their efforts;

(c) The work carried out by the Special Ambassador for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation of the United Nations Population Fund and her continuing contribution to the campaign to eliminate female genital mutilation;

(d) The work carried out by the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children and other non-governmental and community organizations, including women's organizations, in raising awareness of the harmful effects of such practices, in particular of female genital mutilation;

(e) The fact that the elimination of harmful traditional or customary practices will be considered during the special session of the General Assembly on children;

2. *Emphasizes* the need for technical and financial assistance to those developing countries working to achieve the elimination of traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls from United Nations funds and programmes, international and regional financial institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as the need for assistance to non-governmental organizations and community-based groups active in this field from the international community;

3. *Calls upon* all States:

(a) To ratify or accede to, if they have not yet done so, the relevant human rights treaties, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and to respect and implement fully their obligations under any such treaties to which they are parties;

(b) To implement the international commitments made at relevant major United Nations conferences and special sessions and summit meetings of the General Assembly held since 1990 and their follow-up processes;

(c) To collect and disseminate basic data about the occurrence of traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls, including female genital mutilation;

(d) To develop, adopt and implement national legislation, policies, plans and programmes that prohibit traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls, including female genital mutilation, and to prosecute the perpetrators of such practices;

(e) To establish, if they have not done so, a concrete national mechanism for the implementation and monitoring of relevant legislation, law enforcement and national policies;

(f) To establish or strengthen support services to respond to the needs of victims by, inter alia, developing comprehensive and accessible sexual and reproductive health services and by providing training to health-care providers at all levels on the harmful health consequences of such practices;

(g) To address specifically in the training of health and other relevant personnel traditional or customary

practices affecting the health of women and girls, also addressing the increased vulnerability of women and girls to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections due to such practices;

(h) To take all necessary measures to empower women and strengthen their economic independence and protect and promote the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to allow women and girls better to protect themselves from, inter alia, traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls;

(i) To intensify efforts to raise awareness of and to mobilize international and national public opinion concerning the harmful effects of traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls, including female genital mutilation, inter alia, by involving public opinion leaders, educators, religious leaders, chiefs, traditional leaders, medical practitioners, teachers, women's health and family planning organizations, social workers, childcare agencies, relevant non-governmental organizations, the arts and the media in awareness-raising campaigns, in order to achieve the total elimination of those practices;

(j) To address traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls in education curricula, as appropriate;

(k) To promote men's understanding of their roles and responsibilities with regard to promoting the elimination of harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation;

(l) To continue to take specific measures to increase the capacity of communities, including immigrant and refugee communities, in which female genital mutilation is practised, to engage in activities aimed at preventing and eliminating such practices;

(m) To explore, through consultations with communities and religious and cultural groups and their leaders, alternatives to harmful traditional or customary practices, in particular where those practices form part of a ritual ceremony or rite of passage, as well as through alternative training and education possibilities for traditional practitioners;

(n) To cooperate closely with the Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights on traditional practices affecting the health of women and the girl child, in particular by supplying all necessary information requested by her and by giving serious consideration to inviting her to visit their countries;

(o) To cooperate closely with relevant specialized agencies and United Nations funds and programmes, as well as with regional intergovernmental organizations, as appropriate, and relevant community and non-governmental organizations, including women's organizations, in a joint effort to eradicate traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls;

(p) To include in their reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and other relevant treaty bodies specific information on measures taken to eliminate traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls, including female genital mutilation, and to prosecute the perpetrators of such practices;

4. *Invites:*

(a) Relevant specialized agencies, United Nations bodies, regional intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to exchange information on the subject of the present resolution, and encourages the exchange of such information between non-governmental organizations active in this field and the bodies monitoring the implementation of relevant human rights treaties;

(b) The Commission on the Status of Women to address this subject at its forty-seventh session under the priority theme "Women's human rights and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly";

(c) Governments, organizations and individuals that are in a position to do so to contribute to the trust fund that supports the work of the Special Ambassador for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation of the United Nations Population Fund;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue to make his report available to relevant meetings within the United Nations system;

(b) To report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution, with a special focus on recent national and international developments, including examples of national best practices and international cooperation.

HIV/AIDS

One of the thematic issues for the 2001 session of the Commission on the Status of Women was women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS. On 8 March, the Commission held a panel discussion and a dialogue on the theme. On 11 May, the Commission adopted draft agreed conclusions on the thematic issue, which it recommended to the Economic and Social Council for adoption. The Council endorsed the agreed conclusions in **resolution 2001/5** (see p. 1076).

Women in Afghanistan

In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/9 [YUN 2000, p. 1120], the Secretary-General submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women a January report on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan [E/CN.6/2001/2/Add.1]. Having described the continuing conflict in Afghanistan (see p. 255) and the deteriorating socio-economic conditions, particularly as a result of the drought, the collapsed health-care and education systems and a lack of governance, the Secretary-General characterized Afghanistan as nearing a humanitarian disaster (see p. 838). Women were particularly vulnerable due to their social status in Afghan society, which historically had observed conservative cultural norms and traditions and a strong division of gender roles. With the Taliban takeover of Kabul in 1996, gender discrimination

became institutionalized through the issuance of edicts placing severe restrictions on women's freedom of movement, association and participation in public life. The Taliban's ban on employment of women not only violated women's human rights but also presented formidable obstacles to humanitarian efforts by the United Nations and the assistance community to improve the status of women and girls.

Along with mechanisms to link gender policy to concrete actions, the United Nations had set up a monitoring mechanism to oversee compliance, particularly to identify inconsistencies among gender policies of humanitarian organizations, and to implement those policies in operational fieldwork. The Secretary-General stated that the overall situation of women in Afghanistan remained unacceptable and required sustained attention from the international community. He called on the UN system and the international community to facilitate continued dialogue on human rights and gender issues with the Taliban. (See also p. 680.)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 24 July [meeting 40], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women [E/2001/27], adopted **resolution 2001/3** without vote [agenda item 14 (a)].

Discrimination against women and girls in Afghanistan

The Economic and Social Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the optional protocols thereto on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session, accepted humanitarian rules as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and other instruments of human rights and international law,

Recalling that Afghanistan is party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, and that it has signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Reaffirming that all States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to fulfil the obligations they have freely undertaken under the various international instruments,

Welcoming the substantive report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on the Status of Women on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan, and the conclusions contained therein, including the need to monitor and evaluate the promotion and protection of the human rights of women and girls who reside in all areas of Afghanistan,

Noting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, and deploring the "official, widespread and systematic violation of the human rights of women in Taliban-controlled areas" as found in the report,

Deploring the deteriorating economic, social and cultural conditions of women and girls in all areas of Afghanistan, in particular in areas under the control of the Taliban, as documented by the continued and substantiated reports of grave violations to the security of the person and integrity as well as the human rights of women and girls, including discrimination in terms of access to health care, to levels and types of education, to employment outside the home, to freedom of movement and to freedom of association,

Also deploring the July 2000 edict of the Taliban barring Afghan women from working in foreign organizations and non-governmental organizations, as well as the August 2000 statute on the activities of the United Nations in Afghanistan,

Welcoming the fourth report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, entitled "Interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan", in particular his special focus on violations of the human rights of women and girls, especially in territories under the control of the Taliban,

Deeply concerned about the detrimental impact of these harmful conditions on the well-being of Afghan women and the children in their care, and the detrimental effect of the restrictions to women's and girls' education and women's employment on the functions of Afghan society and the reconstruction and development of the country,

Expressing its appreciation to the international community for its support for, and solidarity with, the women and girls of Afghanistan, in particular the women of Afghanistan who protest against violations of their human rights, and encouraging women and men worldwide to continue efforts to draw attention to their situation and to promote the immediate restoration of their ability to enjoy their human rights,

1. *Strongly condemns* the continuing grave violations of the human rights of women and girls, including all forms of discrimination against them, in all areas of Afghanistan, in particular in areas under the control of the Taliban;

2. *Also condemns* the continued restrictions on the access of women to health care and the systematic violation of the human rights of women in Afghanistan, including the restrictions on access to education and to employment outside the home, freedom of movement and freedom from intimidation, harassment and violence, which have a serious detrimental effect on the

well-being of Afghan women and the children in their care;

3. *Urges* the Taliban and other Afghan parties to recognize, protect, promote and act in accordance with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, regardless of gender, ethnicity or religion, in accordance with international human rights instruments, and to respect international humanitarian law;

4. *Urges* all the Afghan parties, in particular the Taliban, to bring to an end, without delay, all human rights violations against women and girls, and to take urgent measures to ensure:

(a) The repeal of all legislative and other measures that discriminate against women and girls and those that impede the realization of all their human rights;

(b) The effective participation of women in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life throughout the country;

(c) Respect for the equal right of women to work and their reintegration into employment in all segments of Afghan society, as well as throughout the United Nations system and human rights and humanitarian organizations operating within Afghanistan;

(d) The equal right of women and girls to education without discrimination, the reopening of schools and the admission of women and girls to all levels of education;

(e) Respect for the right of women and girls to security of person, and that those responsible for physical attacks on women and girls are brought to justice;

(f) Respect for freedom of movement for women and girls;

(g) Respect for effective and equal access of women and girls to the facilities necessary to protect their right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

5. *Encourages* the continuing efforts of the United Nations and other international and non-governmental organizations and donors to ensure that all United Nations-assisted programmes in Afghanistan are formulated and coordinated in such a way as to promote and ensure the participation of women in those programmes, and that women benefit equally with men from such programmes, and to that end encourages such measures as the establishment of culturally sensitive programmes to sensitize Afghan officials, ministry staff and technical departments concerning international principles of human rights and gender equality;

6. *Appeals* to all States and to the international community to ensure that all humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan, in conformity with the Strategic Framework for Afghanistan, is based on the principle of non-discrimination, integrates a gender perspective, and actively attempts to promote the participation of both women and men and to promote peace and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

7. *Urges* States to continue to give special attention to the promotion and protection of the human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan and to mainstream a gender perspective in all aspects of their policies and actions related to Afghanistan;

8. *Welcomes* the overall efforts of the Secretary-General to address the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan, including the establishment of the positions of Gender Adviser and Human Rights Adviser in

the United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator for Afghanistan, in order to ensure more effective consideration and implementation of human rights and gender concerns in all United Nations programmes within Afghanistan, taking into account the recommendations contained in the report of the Inter-Agency Gender Mission to Afghanistan conducted by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women in November 1997;

9. *Urges* the Secretary-General to ensure that all United Nations activities in Afghanistan are carried out according to the principle of non-discrimination against women and girls, that a gender perspective and special attention to the human rights of women and girls are fully incorporated into the work of the Civil Affairs Unit established within the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, including the training and selection of staff, and that efforts are made to enhance the role of women in preventative diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping;

10. *Encourages* United Nations agencies to intensify their efforts to employ more women in their programmes in Afghanistan, particularly at the decision-making level, to ensure, inter alia, the functioning of all programmes in order to better address the needs of the female population;

11. *Stresses* the importance of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan giving special attention to the human rights of women and girls and fully incorporating a gender perspective in his work;

12. *Appeals* to States and the international community to implement the recommendations of the Inter-Agency Gender Mission to Afghanistan under the leadership of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, and urges all countries, international organizations and non-governmental organizations having influence in Afghanistan to continue to bring pressure to bear on all armed groups to respect the human rights of women and girls in all circumstances;

13. *Demands* that all Afghan factions, in particular the Taliban, ensure the safety and protection of all United Nations and humanitarian workers in Afghanistan and allow them, regardless of gender, to carry out their work unhindered;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-sixth session a report on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

Palestinian women

In a report to the Commission on the Status of Women on follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action [E/CN.6/2001/2], the Secretary-General discussed the situation of Palestinian women and assistance provided by the UN system. Covering the period from September 1999 to September 2000 and based on reports from UN bodies monitoring the situation in the occupied territories and refugee camps, the report stated that, despite

continued UN system efforts to improve the economic and social conditions of Palestinian women and in spite of positive trends in the Palestinian economy during the review period, women continued to experience unequal access to the labour market and income-generating activities. Women living in the occupied territories were directly affected by Israeli policies, especially the closure of access routes that hindered efforts by the Palestinian Authority, civil society groups and UN organizations to advance women. It was particularly important that Palestinian women should continue to be given assistance in such areas as education, health, social services and microcredit and that efforts were made to increase their full and equal participation in decision-making and peace programmes.

On 24 July, the Economic and Social Council, in **resolution 2001/2**, called for measures for tangible improvements in the difficulties faced by Palestinian women and called on Israel to facilitate the return of displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes (see p. 427).

Gender and all forms of discrimination

One of the thematic issues for the 2001 session of the Commission on the Status of Women was gender and all forms of discrimination, in particular racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. On 13 March, the Commission held a panel discussion and a dialogue on the theme. On 17 March, the Commission adopted draft agreed conclusions on the thematic issue, which it recommended to the Economic and Social Council for adoption. The Council endorsed the agreed conclusions in **resolution 2001/5** (see p. 1076).

Older women in society

On 19 December [meeting 88], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/56/576], adopted **resolution 56/126** without vote [agenda item 112].

Situation of older women in society

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the obligations of all States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms as stated in the Charter of the United Nations, and emphasizing also their obligations under the human rights instruments, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto,

Recalling its resolution 44/76 of 8 December 1989 on elderly women, Economic and Social Council resolutions 1982/23 of 4 May 1982 on elderly women and the World Assembly on Ageing and 1986/26 of 23 May 1986 and 1989/38 of 24 May 1989 on elderly women, and resolution 36/4 of 20 March 1992 of the Commis-

sion on the Status of Women, on the integration of elderly women into development,

Recalling also the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in particular their provisions regarding older women,

Welcoming the convening of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, to be held at Madrid in April 2002,

Aware that women constitute the majority of older populations in all regions of the world and represent an important human resource, whose contribution to society has not been fully recognized,

Recognizing the increasing role of older women in taking the responsibility of providing care and assistance to victims of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) in various regions of the world, particularly in developing countries,

Affirming the dual challenges of ageing and disability, and affirming also that older persons have specific health needs and that, with the increase in life expectancy and the growing number of older women, their health concerns require particular attention and further research,

Aware that few statistics are available on the situation of older women, and recognizing the importance of data, including data disaggregated by age and sex, as an essential element of planning and policy evaluations,

Recognizing that women of all ages, in particular older women, continue to suffer from discrimination and lack of opportunities,

Emphasizing that Governments bear the primary responsibility for creating an enabling environment for the economic and social development of their citizens, and noting with appreciation the valuable contributions of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in calling attention to the specific needs of older women,

1. *Stresses* the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective, taking into account the needs of older women, in policy and planning processes at all levels;

2. *Also stresses* the need to eliminate discrimination on the basis of gender and age and ensure equal rights and their full enjoyment for women of all ages;

3. *Urges* Governments and regional and international organizations, including the United Nations system in cooperation with civil society, including the non-governmental organizations concerned, to promote programmes for healthy active ageing that stress the independence, equality, participation and security of older women and undertake gender-specific research and programmes to address their needs;

4. *Emphasizes* the need for Governments and regional and international organizations, including the United Nations system and the international financial institutions, to develop and improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of data disaggregated by age and sex;

5. *Urges* Governments to take measures to enable all older women to be engaged actively in all aspects of life, as well as to assume a variety of roles in communities, public life and decision-making, and to develop and implement policies and programmes in cooperation with civil society, including the non-

governmental organizations concerned, to ensure their full enjoyment of human rights and quality of life, as well as to address their needs, with a view to contributing to the realization of a society for all ages;

6. *Invites* Governments, the United Nations system and international organizations to consider, in their development planning, the increasing responsibilities of older women in providing care and assistance to victims of HIV/AIDS;

7. *Invites* Governments and the United Nations system to give attention to the situation of older women in the context of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, to be held at Madrid in April 2002, including the integration of a gender perspective into the outcome document.

Women and development

In an August report to the General Assembly on women in development: access to financial resources: a gender perspective [A/56/321 & Corr.1], the Secretary-General discussed, in the context of the International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in 2002, the gender perspective of financing for development. He also provided statistics on women entrepreneurs and addressed the question of women's access to financial resources and instruments through bank financing, microcredit, equity financing and savings and insurance services. Other issues covered in the report were women's access to information through technology and empowerment of women.

The Secretary-General noted that the number of women-owned businesses had steadily increased worldwide and that women-owned small enterprises and microenterprises were increasingly contributing to the economic and social development of their countries. However, women's contributions were limited by the constraints that women entrepreneurs faced in obtaining financial resources. He therefore recommended that Governments develop accessible financial mechanisms responsive to women's needs; facilitate the access of young women and women entrepreneurs to education and training in business, administration and information and communications technologies; and change existing laws or formulate new laws and regulations on access to financial resources based on the principle of equality between women and men. Governments should encourage banks and other financial intermediaries to: explore viable venues to reach people living in poverty, in particular women, including through international public/private partnership funds; design savings schemes attractive to the poor and to poor women in particular; undertake research to learn more about the characteristics, financial needs and performance of women-owned businesses; and work towards equal treatment of

women clients. The Secretary-General recommended that all aspects of financing for development should be examined from a gender perspective in order to ensure women's access to financial resources, and that gender-sensitive policies and programmes should be developed at the micro and macro levels.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 90], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/56/560/Add.1], adopted **resolution 56/188** without vote [agenda item 97 (a)].

Women in development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/195 of 18 December 1997, 54/210 of 22 December 1999 and all its other resolutions on the integration of women in development, and the relevant resolutions and agreed conclusions, including those on women in the economy, adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", as well as the outcomes of other recent major United Nations conferences and summits and other relevant special sessions of the General Assembly and their follow-up processes,

Reaffirming also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which affirms that the equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured, and calls for, inter alia, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable,

Reaffirming further that gender equality is of fundamental importance for achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences, and that investing in the development of women and girls has a multiplier effect, in particular on productivity, efficiency and sustained economic growth,

Recognizing the significant contribution that women make to the economy and the major force that they represent for change and development in all sectors of the economy, especially in key areas such as agriculture, industry and services,

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

Recognizing that population and development issues, education and training, health, nutrition, the environment, water supply, sanitation, housing, communications, science and technology and employment opportunities are important elements for effective poverty eradication and the advancement and empowerment of women,

Recognizing also, in this context, the importance of respect for all human rights, including the right to development, and of a national and international environment that promotes, inter alia, justice, gender equality, equity, popular participation and political freedom for the advancement and empowerment of women,

Recognizing further that education and training, in particular in business, trade, administration, information and communication technologies and other new technologies, are essential for gender equality, the empowerment of women and poverty eradication,

Recognizing that the difficult socio-economic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, have resulted in the acceleration of the feminization of poverty and that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty,

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

Aware that, although globalization and liberalization processes have created employment opportunities for women in many countries, they have made women, especially in developing countries and in particular in the least developed countries, more vulnerable to problems caused by increased economic volatility,

Recognizing that some effects of market liberalization may deepen the socio-economic marginalization of women in the agricultural sector, including through the loss of employment among small-scale farmers who are more likely to be women than men, and emphasizing that women who are small-scale farmers need special support and empowerment so as to be able to meet the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities of agricultural market liberalization,

Recognizing also that enhanced trade opportunities for developing countries, including through trade liberalization, will improve the economic condition of those societies, including women, which is of particular importance in rural communities,

Aware that, while women represent an important and growing proportion of business owners, their contribution to economic and social development is constrained by, inter alia, the lack of equal access of women and men to, and control over, credit, technology, support services, land and information,

Concerned that the continuing discrimination against women, the denial or lack of equal rights and access to education, training and credit facilities and the lack of control over land, capital, technology and other areas of production impede their full and equal contribution to, and equal opportunity to benefit from, development,

Emphasizing the promotion of programmes aimed at financial intermediation with a view to ensuring the access of rural women to credit and to agricultural inputs and implements and, in particular, to easing collateral requirements for access to finance by women,

Expressing its concern about the underrepresentation of women in economic decision-making, and stressing the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of all policies,

Noting the importance of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular its funds and programmes, including the United Nations Development Fund for Women, in facilitating the advancement of women in development, and recognizing the work done by the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,

Welcoming the fact that the Commission on the Status of Women will take up the theme of eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle in a globalizing world, at its forty-sixth session, in 2002,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Women in development: access to financial resources: a gender perspective";

2. *Calls* for the accelerated and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the relevant provisions of the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, as well as the outcomes of all other major United Nations conferences and summits and other relevant special sessions of the General Assembly and their follow-up processes;

3. *Stresses* that a favourable and conducive national and international environment in all fields of life is necessary for the effective integration of women in development;

4. *Urges* Governments to develop and promote methodologies for mainstreaming a gender perspective in all aspects of policy-making, including economic policy-making;

5. *Recognizes* the mutually reinforcing links between gender equality and poverty eradication, as well as the need to elaborate and implement, where appropriate, in consultation with civil society, comprehensive gender-sensitive poverty eradication strategies that address social, structural and macroeconomic issues;

6. *Stresses* the importance of developing national strategies for the promotion of sustainable and productive entrepreneurial activities that will generate income among disadvantaged women and women living in poverty;

7. *Urges* all Governments to ensure women's equal rights with men and their full and equal access to education, training, employment, technology and economic and financial resources, including credit, in particular for rural women and women in the informal sector, and to facilitate, where appropriate, the transition of women from the informal to the formal sector;

8. *Encourages* Governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other actors of civil society to promote and protect the rights of women workers and to take action to remove structural and legal barriers as well as stereotypical attitudes to gender equality at work, and to initiate positive steps to promote equal pay for equal work or work of equal value;

9. *Urges* all Governments to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women with regard to their access to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit, giving special attention to poor, uneducated women, and to support women's access to legal assistance;

10. *Calls upon* Governments and entrepreneurial associations to facilitate the access of women, including young women and women entrepreneurs, to education

and training in business, administration and information and communication technologies;

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

12. *Stresses* the need for assistance to enable women in developing countries, particularly grass-roots women's groups, to have full access to and use of new technologies, including information technologies, for their empowerment;

13. *Urges* States to design and revise laws that ensure that women are accorded full and equal rights to own land and other property, including through inheritance, and to undertake administrative reforms and other necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital and appropriate technologies and access to markets and information;

14. *Calls upon* Governments to encourage the financial sector to mainstream a gender perspective in its policies and programmes, in particular by:

(a) Exploring viable options to reach people living in poverty, in particular women, including through international public and/or private funds;

(b) Designing savings schemes that are attractive to the poor and to poor women in particular;

(c) Undertaking research to learn more about the characteristics, financial needs and performance of businesses owned by women;

(d) Working towards equal treatment for women clients through comprehensive gender-awareness training for staff at all levels and better representation of women in decision-making positions;

15. *Requests* Governments to ensure the full participation of women in decision-making and in policy formulation and implementation at all levels so that their priorities, skills and potentials can be adequately reflected in national policy;

16. *Calls upon* Governments to promote, inter alia, through legislation, family-friendly and gender-sensitive work environments and also to promote the facilitation of breastfeeding for working mothers as well as the provision of the necessary care for working women's children and other dependants;

17. *Calls upon* the international community to make efforts to mitigate the effects of excess volatility and economic disruption, which have a disproportionately negative impact on women, and to enhance trade opportunities for developing countries in order to improve the economic conditions of women;

18. *Urges* the international community, the United Nations system and relevant organizations to give priority to assisting the efforts of developing countries to ensure the full and effective participation of women in deciding and implementing development strategies and integrating gender concerns into national programmes, including by providing adequate resources to operational activities for development in support of the efforts of Governments to ensure, inter alia, full and equal access of women to health care, capital, education, training and technology, as well as full and equal participation in all decision-making;

19. *Expresses its appreciation* to the developed countries that have agreed to and have reached the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance, and calls upon the developed countries that have not yet done so to strengthen their efforts to achieve the agreed target as soon as possible and, where agreed, within that target, to earmark 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for the least developed countries;

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

21. *Encourages* the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, as appropriate, to assist Governments, at their request, in building institutional capacity and developing national action plans or further implementing existing action plans for the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

22. *Urges* multilateral donors, international financial institutions and regional development banks to review and implement policies to support national efforts to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reach women, in particular in rural and remote areas;

23. *Encourages* the International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held at Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, to examine all aspects of financing for development from a gender perspective;

24. *Encourages* Governments to integrate fully a gender perspective in their preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held at Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002;

25. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to integrate gender mainstreaming into all its programmes and policies, including in the integrated follow-up to United Nations conferences, in accordance with agreed conclusions 1997/2 on gender mainstreaming adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1997;

26. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to update the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* for the consideration of the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session; as in the past, the survey should focus on selective emerging development issues that have an impact on the role of women in the economy at the national, regional and international levels;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, including the impact of globalization on the empowerment of women and their integration in development;

28. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the sub-item entitled "Women in development".

Women in rural areas

In response to General Assembly resolution 54/135 [YUN 1999, p. 1089], the Secretary-General submitted a July report on improvement of the situation of women in rural areas [A/56/268]. The report was based on the analysis and conclusions of an expert group meeting on the situation of rural women in the context of globalization (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 4-8 June). The expert group examined the impact of major global economic trends on rural women; proposed a research and policy agenda to maximize the beneficial effects of globalization for women; and made recommendations to Governments, the UN system, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, the private sector and civil society.

In order to implement the findings of the expert group meeting, it was suggested that a high-level policy consultation be convened at the United Nations to set priorities and outline critical strategies that would meet the needs and objectives of rural women in the context of globalization. It was further suggested that the Commission on the Status of Women include consideration of the situation of rural women as a priority theme in its multi-year programme of work.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 88], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/56/576], adopted **resolution 56/129** without vote [agenda item 112].

Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/135 of 17 December 1999,

Recalling also the importance attached to the problems of rural women by the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Welcoming the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", namely, the political declaration and further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000, in which Member States resolved, inter alia, to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable,

Recognizing the critical role and contribution of rural women in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty,

Noting that some effects of globalization may deepen the socio-economic marginalization of rural women,

Noting also that the globalization process has had some benefits by providing opportunities for wage employment for rural women in new sectors,

Mindful of the fact that the available data and existing tools of measurement and analysis are insufficient for a full understanding of the gender implications of the processes of globalization and rural change, and their impact on rural women,

Recognizing the urgent need to take appropriate measures aimed at further improving the situation of women in rural areas,

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

2. *Welcomes* the holding, from 4 to 8 June 2001 at Ulaanbaatar, of the expert group meeting on the situation of rural women within the context of globalization;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a user-friendly publication based, inter alia, on case studies presented at the expert group meeting referred to in paragraph 2 above in order to raise awareness of the situation of rural women in the context of globalization;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the desirability of convening a high-level policy consultation at the governmental level with a view to setting priorities and developing critical strategies that would meet the manifold challenges faced by rural women;

5. *Welcomes* the convening of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa in September 2002, including the review of chapter 24 of Agenda 21, entitled "Global action for women towards sustainable and equitable development", entailing, inter alia, measures to improve the situation of women in rural areas, and the World Food Summit: five years later, to be held in Italy in June 2002, and urges Governments to integrate a gender perspective, with attention to the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas, in the respective processes and outcome documents;

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

(a) Creating an enabling environment for improving the situation of rural women, including integrating a gender perspective in macroeconomic policies and developing appropriate social support systems;

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

(c) Taking steps towards ensuring that women's unpaid work and contributions to on-farm and off-farm production, including income generated in the informal sector, are visible, and assessing the feasibility of developing and improving mechanisms, such as time-use studies, to measure in quantitative terms unpaid

work, recognizing the potential for it to be reflected in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes at the national and regional levels;

(d) Investing in and strengthening efforts to meet the basic needs of rural women through capacity-building and human resources development measures and the provision of a safe and reliable water supply, health services, including family planning services, and nutritional programmes as well as education and literacy programmes and social support measures;

(e) Pursuing the political and socio-economic empowerment of rural women by supporting their full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels, including in rural institutions through, inter alia, the provision of training and capacity-building programmes, including legal literacy;

(f) Promoting programmes to enable rural women and men to reconcile their work and family responsibilities and to encourage men to share equally with women household and childcare responsibilities;

(g) Integrating a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development policies and programmes with an emphasis on reducing the disproportionate number of rural women living in poverty;

(h) Designing and implementing policies that promote and protect the enjoyment by women of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and creating an environment that does not tolerate violations of the rights of women and girls;

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

7. *Invites* the Commission on the Status of Women to pay due attention to the situation of rural women in the consideration of the priority themes identified in its multi-year programme of work for the period 2002-2006;

8. *Invites* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system dealing with issues of development to address and support the empowerment of rural women and their specific needs in their programmes and strategies, including in the context of globalization;

9. *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 technologies, inter alia, through specific studies, and invites the International Telecommunication Union to consider this matter in connection with the preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society;

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

Mainstreaming a gender perspective

Inter-Agency Meeting. The Inter-Agency Meeting on Women and Gender Equality of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) (New York, 27 February-2 March) [ACC/2001/3] held a one-day workshop on approaches and methodologies for gender mainstreaming. The

workshop's recommendations included that ACC members should be invited to establish within their own organizations regular reporting mechanisms for all senior managers on gender mainstreaming and that ACC should be invited to undertake in 2002 a review of progress made in implementing Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1997/2 [YUN 1997, p. 1186].

Commission on the Status of Women. In his January report to the Commission on the Status of Women on follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action [E/CN.6/2001/2], the Secretary-General stated that, in accordance with the Council's agreed conclusions 1997/2 on gender mainstreaming, the UN Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women had continued systematically to promote, facilitate and monitor the integration of gender perspectives into all areas of the work of the UN system. He noted that a framework had been developed for assessing progress towards gender mainstreaming, which would facilitate more systematic and effective reports and provide a monitoring tool for the Special Adviser in her efforts to promote and support gender mainstreaming throughout the system.

On 17 March [E/2001/27 (res. 45/2)], the Commission reaffirmed that the primary goal of mainstreaming a gender perspective was the achievement of gender equality. It called on the Secretary-General, in future reports on follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, to assess progress made on mainstreaming a gender perspective within the UN system, including by providing information on key achievements, lessons learned and best practices, and to recommend strategies for future action. The Commission recommended that the Economic and Social Council consider including a regular item in its agenda on mainstreaming a gender perspective in the UN system and devoting a future coordination segment, by 2005, to the review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of Council agreed conclusions 1997/2. The Council was further asked to ensure that a gender perspective was mainstreamed into all its work.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 26 July [meeting 43], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2001/41** [draft: E/2001/L.29] without vote [agenda item 14 (a)].

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

The Economic and Social Council,

Affirming that gender mainstreaming constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing

Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and for achieving the overall goal of gender equality,

Recalling its agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 55/71 of 4 December 2000, in which the Assembly, inter alia, invited the Council to continue to further policy coordination and inter-agency cooperation towards the achievement of the objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including by considering the dedication of specific segments to the advancement of women and the implementation of the above-mentioned instruments and by mainstreaming a gender perspective in all its work,

Having considered resolution 45/2 of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Determined to further intensify its efforts to ensure that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of all its activities concerning integrated and coordinated follow-up to United Nations conferences,

1. *Decides* to include in its agenda, under the item entitled "Coordination, programme and other questions", a sub-item entitled "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system", in order to, inter alia, monitor and evaluate achievements made and obstacles encountered by the United Nations system, and to consider further measures to strengthen the implementation and monitoring of gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

2. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, in future reports to the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, to assess progress made on mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system, including by providing information on key achievements, lessons learned and best practices, and to recommend further actions and strategies for future action within the United Nations system;

3. *Also calls upon* the Secretary-General and all bodies reporting to the Economic and Social Council to address the gender aspects of issues before the Council in their reports;

4. *Decides* to devote the coordination segment of one of its substantive sessions, before 2005, to the review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of agreed conclusions 1997/2 of the Council on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system.

(See also p. 680.)

System-wide plan

In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/16 [YUN 1999, p. 1099], the Secretary-General submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women the proposed system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 2002-2005 [E/CN.6/2001/4]. The plan outlined actions to be taken by each UN

system organization to achieve the objectives set out in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the General Assembly's twenty-third special session on women. The plan was structured around the activities of the system to mainstream a gender perspective in all of its activities, as well as in relation to the 12 critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action.

On 9 May [E/2001/27 (res. 45/3)], the Commission recommended the adoption of the proposed system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women 2002-2005 by the Economic and Social Council and that the Council, through the Commission, follow up the implementation of the plan and undertake a comprehensive mid-term review in 2004. The Commission recommended that the Council request the formulation of a new system-wide medium-term plan to cover the period 2006-2010 and that the Secretary-General submit, in 2005, the new draft plan to the Council and a draft of the proposal to the Commission.

CPC action. By a 24 May letter [E/AC.51/2001/8], the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women transmitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) the text of Commission resolution 45/3 (above) and summaries of the comments of Member States on the plan.

At its forty-first session (New York, 11 June-6 July) [A/56/16], CPC took note of the proposed system-wide medium-term plan for 2002-2005 and of the Commission Chairperson's letter.

By **decision 2001/326** of 20 December, the Economic and Social Council adopted the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women 2002-2005.

UN machinery

Convention on elimination of discrimination against women

As at 31 December 2001, 168 States were parties to the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 34/180 [YUN 1979, p. 895]. During the year, the Democratic Republic of Korea and Mauritania acceded to the Convention and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia succeeded to it, replacing the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. At year's end, 26 States parties had also accepted the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention in respect of the meeting time of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which was

adopted by the States parties in 1995 [YUN 1995, p. 1178]. The amendment would enter into force when accepted by a two-thirds majority of States parties.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention, adopted by the Assembly in resolution 54/4 [YUN 1999, p. 1100], which entered into force in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 1123], had 28 States parties by the end of 2001. The Protocol entitled individuals or groups to submit directly to CEDAW complaints concerning alleged Convention violations and established procedures for inquiries into situations of grave or systematic violations of women's rights.

The Secretary-General submitted his annual report to the Assembly on the status of the Convention as at 1 August [A/56/328].

CEDAW

In 2001, the 23-member Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, established in 1982 [YUN 1982, p. 1149] to monitor compliance with the 1979 Convention, held two sessions in New York [A/56/38].

At its twenty-fourth session (15 January-2 February), CEDAW reviewed the initial or periodic reports of Burundi, Egypt, Finland, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Mongolia and Uzbekistan on measures they had taken to implement the Convention. CEDAW also considered a Secretariat report on ways of expediting the Committee's work [CEDAW/C/2001/1/4] and the Committee's revised rules of procedure [CEDAW/C/2001/1/WG.1/WP.1]. By three decisions, CEDAW adopted its rules of procedure [A/56/38 (dec. 24/1)]; adopted a statement on gender and racial discrimination to be forwarded to the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (see p. 616) [dec. 24/II]; and decided to develop closer links with the Commission on the Status of Women [dec. 24/III].

At its twenty-fifth session (2-20 July), CEDAW reviewed the initial or periodic reports of Andorra, Guinea, Guyana, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Singapore, Sweden and Viet Nam. It also considered Secretariat reports on ways of improving the Committee's work [CEDAW/C/2001/II/4] and on the Committee's approach to article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention (on temporary special measures) [CEDAW/C/2001/II/5]. By three decisions, CEDAW requested approval from the General Assembly to hold, on an exceptional basis, a three-week session in August 2002, in order to consider the backlog of States parties' reports, and to enlarge the pre-session working group, to meet in February 2002, to prepare issues and questions relating to the backlog [A/56/38 (dec. 25/1)]; decided that the pre-session working

group should formulate a short list of issues and questions, focusing on themes addressed by the Convention [dec. 25/II]; and adopted a statement to be forwarded to the special session of the Assembly on children in 2002 [dec. 25/III]. The Committee also adopted suggestions, one recommending that the Division for the Advancement of Women (UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs) establish a confidential electronic database for the registration of communications submitted under the Optional Protocol to the Convention [suggestion 25/1] and the other on the content of reports of UN bodies and specialized agencies submitted to CEDAW [suggestion 25/2].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 24 December [meeting 92], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/56/576], adopted **resolution 56/229** without vote [agenda item 112].

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/70 of 4 December 2000 and its previous resolutions on the elimination of discrimination against women,

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as stated in Articles 1 and 55 of the Charter, is to promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind, including distinction as to sex,

Affirming that women and men should participate equally in social, economic and political development, should contribute equally to such development and should share equally in improved conditions of life,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, in which the Conference reaffirmed that the human rights of women and the girl child were an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights,

Acknowledging the need for a comprehensive and integrated approach to the promotion and protection of the human rights of women, which includes the integration of the human rights of women into the mainstream of United Nations activities system-wide,

Reaffirming the commitments made in the political declaration and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", in particular paragraphs 68 (c) and (d) concerning the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto,

Recalling that, in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, heads of State and Government resolved to implement the Convention,

Welcoming the progress made in the implementation of the Convention, but expressing concern about the remaining challenges,

Welcoming also the growing number of States parties to the Convention, which now stands at one hundred and sixty-eight,

Welcoming further the entry into force on 22 December 2000 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Bearing in mind the recommendation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women that national reports should contain information on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, in accordance with paragraph 323 of the Platform,

Having considered the report of the Committee on its twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth sessions,

Expressing concern at the great number of reports that are overdue and that continue to be overdue, in particular initial reports, which constitutes an obstacle to the full implementation of the Convention,

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

2. *Expresses disappointment* that universal ratification of the Convention was not achieved by 2000, and urges all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of full compliance by States parties with their obligations under the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto;

4. *Welcomes* the rapidly growing number of State parties to the Optional Protocol, which now stands at twenty-eight, and urges other States parties to the Convention to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

5. *Also welcomes* the fact that the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women has adopted the rules governing its work under the Optional Protocol as part of its revised rules of procedure;

6. *Notes* that some States parties have modified their reservations, expresses satisfaction that some reservations have been withdrawn, and urges States parties to limit the extent of any reservations that they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any such reservations as precisely and as narrowly as possible, to ensure that no reservations are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention or otherwise incompatible with international treaty law, to review their reservations regularly with a view to withdrawing them and to withdraw reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention or that are otherwise incompatible with international treaty law;

7. *Urges* States parties to the Convention to make every possible effort to submit their reports on the implementation of the Convention in accordance with article 18 thereof and with the guidelines provided by the Committee and to cooperate fully with the Committee in the presentation of their reports;

8. *Encourages* the Secretariat to extend further technical assistance to States parties, upon their request, in the preparation of reports, in particular initial reports, and invites Governments to contribute to these efforts;

9. *Commends* the Committee on its contributions to the effective implementation of the Convention;

10. *Strongly urges* States parties to the Convention to take appropriate measures so that acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention by a two-thirds majority of States parties can be reached as soon as possible so that the amendment may enter into force;

11. *Expresses its appreciation* for the additional meeting time that allows the Committee to hold two sessions annually, each session of three weeks' duration and each preceded by a pre-session working group of the Committee;

12. *Also expresses its appreciation* for the efforts made by the Committee to improve the efficiency of its working methods, and encourages further efforts in this regard;

13. *Acknowledges* the number of reports awaiting consideration by the Committee, and in this regard decides to authorize the Committee to hold, on an exceptional basis, an extraordinary session of three weeks' duration in 2002 to be used entirely for the consideration of the reports of the States parties in order to reduce the backlog of reports, and to enlarge the membership of the pre-session working group in 2002 to prepare for the exceptional session of the Committee, taking into account decision 25/1 of the Committee;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/4 of 6 October 1999, to provide the resources, including staff and facilities, necessary for the effective functioning of the Committee within its full mandate, in particular taking into account the entry into force of the Optional Protocol;

15. *Urges* Governments, agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to disseminate the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto;

16. *Encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their mandates, as well as Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in particular women's organizations, as appropriate, to continue to assist States parties, upon their request, in implementing the Convention, and in this regard encourages States parties to pay attention to the concluding comments as well as the general recommendations of the Committee;

17. *Encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue to build women's knowledge and understanding of and capacity to utilize human rights instruments, in particular the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto;

18. *Welcomes* the submission by the specialized agencies, at the invitation of the Committee, of reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities and the contribution of non-governmental organizations to the work of the Committee, and encourages the specialized agencies to continue to submit reports;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the implementation of the present resolution.

Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women, at its forty-fifth session (New York, 6-17 March and 9-11 May) [E/2001/27 & Corr.1], recommended four resolutions to the Economic and Social Council for adoption on the situation of Palestinian

women (see p. 1067); discrimination against women and girls in Afghanistan (see p. 1065); proposals for the Commission's multi-year programme of work for 2002-2006 (see p. 1084); and its agreed conclusions on thematic issues (women and HIV/AIDS; gender and all forms of discrimination) (below). The Commission also adopted and brought to the Council's attention resolutions on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those imprisoned during armed conflicts (see p. 1060); mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the UN system (see p. 1072); and the proposed system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women (2002-2005) (see p. 1073). The Commission further adopted six decisions, by which it requested that a decision for enhancing the review of progress in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action and of the outcome documents of the General Assembly's twenty-third special session should be taken in coordination with the conference reviews of other functional commissions [E/2001/27 (dec. 45/101)]; requested its Bureau to undertake the preparatory work for a further discussion of the Commission's working methods at its forty-sixth (2002) session [dec. 45/102]; requested the Secretary-General to submit another report on the Commission's communications procedure to the forty-sixth session [dec. 45/103]; decided to meet in resumed session from 9 to 11 May [dec. 45/104]; recommended that CPC, when reviewing the proposed programme budget for 2002-2003, take into consideration the discussion on the subject in the Commission [dec. 45/105]; and took note of the documents before it [dec. 45/106].

By **decision 2001/317** of 26 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the Commission's report on its forty-fifth session.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 24 July [meeting 40], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women [E/2001/27 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 2001/5** without vote [agenda item 14 (a)].

Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on thematic issues

The Economic and Social Council

Endorses the following agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women with respect to the thematic issues addressed by the Commission at its forty-fifth session:

A. Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome

1. Women play a vital role in the social and economic development of their countries. It is a profound concern that by the end of 2000, 36.1 million people were

living with human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), and of those infected, 95 per cent were living in developing countries, and 16.4 million were women. The proportion of women infected with HIV is increasing and in sub-Saharan Africa women constitute 55 per cent of all adult HIV-infected, while teenage girls are infected at a rate of five to six times greater than their male counterparts.

2. Full enjoyment by women and girls of all human rights, civil, cultural, economic, political and social, including the right to development—which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated—is of crucial importance in preventing the further spread of HIV/AIDS. The majority of women and girls do not fully enjoy their rights, in particular to education, the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and social security, especially in developing countries. These inequalities begin early in life and render women and girls more vulnerable in the area of sexual and reproductive health, thus increasing their risk and vulnerability to HIV infection and their disproportionate suffering from the consequences of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

3. Poverty and the negative and harmful traditional and customary practices that subordinate women in the household, community and society render women especially vulnerable to HIV/sexually transmitted infections. Millions of women and girls lack access and/or have insufficient access to health care, medication and social support in general, including in the case of sexually transmitted infections/HIV/AIDS.

4. The Commission on the Status of Women has taken into account the recommendations on women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS as contained in the following documents: the Beijing Platform for Action, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, the outcome documents of the twenty-first, twenty-third and twenty-fourth special sessions of the General Assembly, the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on women and health, and Commission resolution 44/2 of 2 March 2000.

5. The Commission recalls the internationally agreed targets as contained in the documents referred to in paragraph 4 above, and suggests that the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS should fully integrate a gender perspective, including in any new targets, and focus on actions needed to achieve existing targets.

6. The Commission welcomes the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and other Related Infectious Diseases, in particular its gender dimension, adopted by the Organization of African Unity at its Special Summit on HIV/AIDS, held at Abuja, on 26 and 27 April 2001.

7. The Commission notes with appreciation the efforts of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and its co-sponsors, bilateral and multilateral donors, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to empower women through capacity-development programmes, as well as programmes that provide women with access to development resources and strengthen their networks

that offer care and support to women affected by HIV/AIDS.

8. The highest level of political commitment to the empowerment and advancement of women and to the prevention, research, care and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, especially HIV/AIDS, must be secured.

9. It is important to integrate fully a gender perspective in the preparatory process and in the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, including, inter alia, the full integration of a gender perspective in any new targets and in actions needed to achieve internationally agreed targets that relate to women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS as contained in the documents referred to in paragraph 4 above.

10. In order to accelerate the implementation of the strategic objectives of the conferences and documents mentioned in paragraph 4 above, especially of those objectives related to women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS, the Commission recommends that the following actions be taken:

**Actions to be taken by Governments,
the United Nations system and
civil society, as appropriate**

1. Empowerment of women:

(a) The rapid progression of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, particularly in the developing world, has had a devastating impact on women. The unequal power relationships between women and men, in which women often do not have the power to insist on safe and responsible sex practices, and lack of communication and understanding between women and men on women's health needs, inter alia, endanger women's health, in particular by increasing their susceptibility to sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS;

(b) Responsible behaviour and gender equality are among the important prerequisites for its prevention;

(c) Ensure that the sexual health and reproductive rights of women of all ages as defined in paragraphs 94 to 96 of the Beijing Platform for Action is seen as an essential part in efforts to promote women's empowerment, bearing in mind that women and girls are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS and, in this context, further promote the advancement and empowerment of women and women's full enjoyment of all human rights, including the right to development and their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, in order to protect themselves from high risk and irresponsible behaviour leading to sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, and access to health information and education, health care and health services, which are critical to increasing the ability of women and young girls to protect themselves from HIV infection;

(d) Focus national and international policies towards the eradication of poverty in order to empower women to better protect themselves from the spread of the pandemic and to deal more effectively with the adverse effects of HIV/AIDS;

(e) Alleviate the social and economic impact of HIV/AIDS on women who, in their roles as food suppliers and traditional caregivers, are primarily affected by the negative consequences of the pandemic, such as a

reduced labour force and a breakdown of social service systems;

(f) Reaffirm the equal rights of women and the girl child infected and affected by sexually transmitted infections/HIV/AIDS to have access to health, education and social services and to be protected from all forms of discrimination, stigma, abuse and neglect;

(g) Also reaffirm the human rights of girls and women to equal access to education, skill training and employment opportunities as a means to reduce their vulnerability to sexually transmitted diseases/HIV;

(h) Urge Governments to take all necessary measures to empower women and strengthen women's economic independence and protect and promote full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to allow women and girls to better protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections/HIV;

(i) Address and reduce the increased HIV/AIDS risks, vulnerabilities and impact on women and girls, including in conflict situations, through gender-sensitive economic, legal and social services and programmes, including integration of HIV/AIDS prevention and care services into minimum essential health-care packages;

(j) Strengthen concrete measures to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful traditional and customary practices, abuse and rape, battering and trafficking in women and girls, which aggravate the conditions fostering the spread of HIV/AIDS, through, inter alia, the enactment and enforcement of laws, as well as public campaigns to combat violence against women and girls;

(k) Take steps to create an environment that promotes all human rights, compassion and support for people infected/affected by HIV/AIDS, including through introducing and/or reviewing legislation, with a view to striving to remove discriminatory provisions and provide the legal framework that will protect the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, in particular of women and girls, and enable those who are vulnerable to have access to appropriate voluntary and confidential counselling services, and encourage efforts to reduce discrimination and stigmatization;

(l) Further develop and fully integrate a gender perspective into national, regional and international HIV/AIDS programmes and strategies, taking into account, inter alia, sex- and age-disaggregated data and statistics, with a particular focus on gender equality;

(m) Take measures to promote and implement women's equal access to and control over economic resources, including land, property rights and the right to inheritance, regardless of their marital status, in order to reduce the vulnerability of women in the context of the HIV/AIDS epidemic;

(n) Provide women and girls, including those in marginalized groups, with equal access to quality education, literacy programmes, health care and health services, social services, skills training and employment opportunities, support capacity-building and the strengthening of women's networks and protect them from all forms of discrimination, including racial discrimination, stigma, abuse and neglect, in order to reduce their risk and vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and alleviate the impact on those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

2. Prevention:

(a) Governments, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, individually and collectively, should make efforts to place combating HIV/AIDS as a priority on the development agenda and to implement multisectoral and decentralized effective preventive strategies and programmes, especially for the most vulnerable populations, including women, young girls and infants, also taking into account the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS;

(b) Governments, with the assistance of relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, must adopt a long-term, timely, coherent and integrated AIDS prevention policy, with public information and life skills-based education programmes specifically tailored to the needs of women and girls, adapted to their social and cultural context and sensitivities, and the specific needs in their life cycle;

(c) Intensify efforts to determine the best policies and programmes to prevent women and young girls from becoming infected with HIV/AIDS, taking into account that women, in particular young girls, are socially, physiologically and biologically more vulnerable than men to sexually transmitted infections;

(d) Take measures to integrate, inter alia, a family-based approach in programmes aimed at providing prevention, care and support to women and girls infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and a community-based approach in policies and programmes aimed at providing prevention, care and support to women and girls infected and affected by HIV/AIDS;

(e) Ensure equal and non-discriminatory access to accurate, comprehensive information, prevention education on reproductive health, and voluntary testing and counselling services and technologies, within a cultural and gender-sensitive framework and with particular emphasis on adolescents and young adults;

(f) Request the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and its co-sponsors to continue in their efforts aimed at providing complete and accurate sexual and reproductive health education for young people, within a cultural and gender-sensitive framework, while, inter alia, encouraging them to delay sexual initiation, or/and to use condoms and, in this context, urge that greater attention be given to the education of men and boys about their roles and their responsibilities in preventing the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, to their partners;

(g) Promote gender equality in relationships, and provide information and resources to promote informed, responsible and safe sexual behaviour and practices, mutual respect and gender equality in sexual relationships;

(h) Encourage all forms of media to promote non-discriminatory and gender-sensitive images and a culture of non-violence and respect for all human rights, in particular women's rights, in addressing HIV/AIDS;

(i) Encourage active involvement of men and boys through, inter alia, youth-led and youth-specific HIV education projects and peer-based programmes in challenging gender stereotypes and attitudes as well as gender inequalities in relation to HIV and AIDS, as well as their full participation in prevention, impact allevia-

tion and care, and design and implement programmes to encourage and enable men to adopt safe and responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour and to use effectively methods to prevent unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS;

(j) Intensify, especially in the most affected countries, education, services, community-based mobilization and information strategies to protect women of all ages from HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, including through the development of safe, affordable, effective and easily accessible female-controlled methods, including such methods as microbicides and female condoms that protect against sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, as well as voluntary and confidential HIV testing and counselling and the promotion of sexually responsible behaviour, including abstinence and condom use;

(k) Strengthen sustainable, efficient and accessible primary health-care systems that serve to support prevention efforts;

(l) Special attention should be given to the prevention of HIV, in particular with regard to mother-to-child transmission and for victims of rape—on the basis of informed consent and voluntary and confidential testing, counselling and treatment—including through ensuring access to care and improving the quality and availability of affordable drugs and diagnostics, especially antiretroviral therapies, and by building on existing efforts, with special attention to the issue of breastfeeding;

(m) Strive to ensure that schools at all levels, other educational institutions and non-formal systems of education play a leading role in preventing HIV infection and preventing and combating stigmatization and discrimination by providing an environment free of all forms of violence that promotes compassion and tolerance, and provide gender-sensitive education, including on responsible sexual behaviour and practices, life skills and behaviour change;

(n) Work together with civil society, including traditional, community and religious leaders, to identify the customary and traditional practices that adversely influence gender relations and to eliminate those practices that increase the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV/AIDS.

3. Treatment, care and support:

(a) Request Governments to ensure universal and equal access for women and men throughout their life cycle to social services related to health care, including education, clean water and safe sanitation, nutrition, food security and health education programmes, especially for women and girls living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, including treatment for opportunistic diseases;

(b) Request Governments to work to provide comprehensive health care for women and girls living with HIV/AIDS, including dietary and food supplements and treatment for opportunistic infections and full, equal, non-discriminatory and prompt access to health care and health services, including sexual and reproductive health and voluntary and confidential counselling, taking into account the rights of the child to access to information, privacy, confidentiality, respect and in-

formed consent and the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents and legal guardians;

(c) Care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS, in particular women and girls, should have a comprehensive approach, involving medical, social, psychological, spiritual and economic needs, targeting the community and national levels;

(d) Collaborate to strengthen efforts to create an environment and the conditions necessary, with the assistance of relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, upon request to address the challenges faced by women and girls infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, in particular orphans and widows, girls and older women who may also be primary caregivers for people living with HIV/AIDS, all of whom are particularly vulnerable to both economic and sexual exploitation; provide them with the necessary economic and psycho-social support; and encourage their economic independence through income-generating programmes and other methods;

(e) Provide support for the implementation of special programmes for the growing problems of children orphaned by AIDS, especially girls, who may easily become victims of sexual exploitation.

4. Enabling environment for regional and international cooperation:

(a) Call upon the international community, relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their support of national efforts against HIV/AIDS, in particular in favour of women and young girls, including efforts to provide affordable antiretroviral drugs, diagnostics and drugs to treat tuberculosis and other opportunistic infections; strengthening health systems, including reliable distribution and delivery systems; implementing a strong generic drug policy; bulk purchasing; negotiating with pharmaceutical companies to reduce prices; appropriate financing systems; and encouraging local manufacturing and import practices consistent with national laws and international agreements, in particular in the worst hit regions in Africa and where the epidemic is severely setting back national development gains;

(b) Take action to eradicate poverty, which is a major contributory factor in the spread of HIV infection and worsens the impact of the epidemic, in particular for women and girls, as well as depleting resources and incomes of families and endangering the survival of present and future generations;

(c) Identify and implement development-oriented and durable solutions that integrate a gender perspective to external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries, including least developed countries, inter alia, through debt relief, including the option of debt cancellation for official development assistance, in order to help them to finance programmes and projects targeted at development, including the advancement of women, inter alia, through facilitating the delivery of health care and health services and the provision of preventive programmes on HIV/AIDS, especially targeting women and girls; in this regard, welcome the Cologne initiative for the reduction of debt, in particular the speedy implementation

of the enhanced heavily indebted poor countries initiatives; and encourage Governments to ensure the provision of adequate funds for its implementation and implement the provision that funds saved should be used to support anti-poverty programmes that are gender sensitive and that address prevention, care and support of women and girls infected and affected;

(d) Ensure international, regional and South-South cooperation, including development assistance and additional adequate resources, to implement gender-sensitive policies and programmes aimed at halting the spread of the epidemic by providing affordable quality treatment and care of all people, especially women and girls living with HIV/AIDS;

(e) Encourage the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and its co-sponsors, bilateral and multilateral donors and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to intensify their support to empower women and prevent HIV infection and to give urgent and priority attention to the situation of women and girls, especially in Africa, in particular through the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa;

(f) Increase investment in research on the development of HIV vaccines, microbicides and other female-controlled methods, simpler and less expensive diagnostic tests, single-dose treatments for sexually transmitted infections and quality low-cost drug combinations, including for opportunistic infections and sexually transmitted infections, as well as alternative medicine for HIV/AIDS, focusing on the needs of women and girls;

(g) Support and assist research and development centres, in particular at the national level, in the worst-hit regions, with a gender specific focus, in the field of vaccines and treatment for HIV/AIDS, as well as support the efforts by Governments in building and/or strengthening their national capacities in this area;

(h) Develop and implement as well as strengthen already existing training programmes for law enforcement officers, prison officers, medical officers and judicial personnel, as well as United Nations personnel, including peacekeeping staff, to be more sensitive and responsive to the needs of threatened and abused women and children infected with HIV/AIDS, including intravenous drug users, female inmates and orphans;

(i) Ensure that the needs of girls and women in relation to HIV/AIDS in all situations of conflict, post-conflict and peacekeeping, and in the immediate and reconstructive responses to emergencies and natural disasters, are addressed;

(j) Provide gender-sensitive prevention and treatment services for female substance abusers living with HIV/AIDS;

(k) Provide technical and financial support to networks of people living with HIV/AIDS, and non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations involved in implementing HIV/AIDS programmes, in particular women's groups, in order to strengthen their efforts;

(l) Adopt a balanced approach to prevention and comprehensive care, including treatment and support, for women and girls affected by HIV/AIDS, taking into account the role played by poverty, poor nutritional

conditions and underdevelopment, which increases the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV/AIDS;

(m) Urge relevant United Nations entities to incorporate a gender perspective into their follow-up and evaluation of the progress made in the control of sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS;

(n) Commend UNAIDS for its advocacy in successfully accelerating both increased prevention and improved access to care, urge Governments and the international community to continue advocating and lobbying, and encourage Governments to enter into negotiations with multinational drug companies for reduction in market prices of HIV/AIDS related drugs and diagnostics to ensure availability, affordability and sustainability to women and girls living with HIV/AIDS.

B. Gender and all forms of discrimination, in particular racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

1. The Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other international instruments reaffirm the principles of equality and non-discrimination.

2. The consistent efforts of the international community in promoting gender equality through the convening of world conferences on women are recalled. It should also be recalled that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", emphasize that all human rights of women and of the girl child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights. The Platform for Action reaffirms that all human rights—civil, cultural, economic, political and social, including the right to development—are universal, indivisible, interdependent and inter-related.

3. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action indicate that many women face additional barriers to the enjoyment of their human rights because of such factors as their race, language, ethnicity, culture, religion, disability or socio-economic class or because they are indigenous people, migrants, including women migrant workers, displaced women or refugees. Also, the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session indicate that in situations of armed conflict and foreign occupation, the human rights of women have been extensively violated. Among the further actions and initiatives to implement the platform adopted by the special session were several directed at the elimination of racially motivated violence against women and girls.

4. The efforts of the international community in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance are recalled.

5. There has been growing recognition that various types of discrimination do not always affect women and men in the same way. Moreover, gender discrimination may be intensified and facilitated by all other forms of discrimination. It has been increasingly recognized

that without gender analysis of all forms of discrimination, including multiple forms of discrimination and, in particular, in this context, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, violations of the human rights of women might escape detection and that remedies to address racism may also fail to meet the needs of women and girls. It is also important that efforts to address gender discrimination incorporate approaches to the elimination of all forms of discrimination, including racial discrimination.

6. By its resolution 52/111 of 12 December 1997, the General Assembly decided to convene a World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, to be held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001. In its resolution 53/132 of 9 December 1998, the Assembly proclaimed 2001 as the International Year of Mobilization against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. It is therefore timely that the gender dimensions of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance are addressed by the Commission on the Status of Women.

7. The increasing gravity of different manifestations of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia in various parts of the world requires a more integrated and effective approach on the part of relevant mechanisms of the United Nations human rights machinery. These trends affect the implementation of the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" and of the relevant international instruments against discrimination.

8. The Commission recommends that the following actions be taken:

**Actions to be taken by Governments,
the United Nations
and civil society, as appropriate**

1. An integrated, holistic approach to address multiple forms of discrimination against women and girls, in particular racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance:

(a) Examine the intersection of multiple forms of discrimination, including their root causes, from a gender perspective, with special emphasis on gender-based racial discrimination, in order to develop and implement strategies, policies and programmes aimed at the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and to increase the role that women play in the design, implementation and monitoring of gender-sensitive anti-racist policies;

(b) Establish and strengthen effective partnerships with and provide support, as appropriate, to all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations working to promote gender equality and the advancement of women, in particular women subject to multiple discrimination, in order to promote an integrated and holistic approach to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls;

(c) Acknowledge the need to address the issues of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance as and where they affect young women and men and boys and girls and recognize the role they play in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including particular

forms of racism experienced by young women and girls, and support the fundamental role played by youth non-governmental organizations in educating young people and children to build a society based on respect and solidarity;

(d) Promote respect for and the value of the full diversity of women's and girls' situations and conditions and recognize that some women face particular barriers to their empowerment, and ensure that the goals of achieving gender equality and the advancement of women, including marginalized women, are reflected in all strategies, policies and programmes aimed at the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls; and mainstream a gender perspective into the preparation and implementation of policies integrating multiculturalism, ensuring the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all women and girls and reaffirming that human rights—civil, cultural, economic, political and social, including the right to development—are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated;

(e) Promote recognition that the empowerment of women is an essential component of a proactive strategy to fight racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of related intolerance, and take measures to empower women subject to multiple discrimination to exercise fully their rights in all spheres of life and to play an active role in the design and implementation of policies and measures that affect their lives;

(f) Take action to raise awareness and promote the eradication of all forms of discrimination, including multiple discrimination experienced by women, through, *inter alia*, education and mass media campaigns;

(g) The Platform for Action recognized that women face barriers to full equality and advancement because of such factors as their race, age, language, ethnicity, culture, religion or disability, because they are indigenous women or of other status. Many women encounter specific obstacles related to their family status, particularly as single parents, and their socio-economic status, including their living conditions in rural, isolated or impoverished areas. Additional barriers also exist for refugee women, other displaced women, including internally displaced women, as well as for immigrant women and migrant women, including women migrant workers. Many women are also particularly affected by environmental disasters, serious and infectious diseases and various forms of violence against women;

(h) Acknowledge that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance manifest themselves in a differentiated manner for women, increasing poverty, causing their living conditions to deteriorate, generating violence and limiting or denying them the full enjoyment and exercise of all their human rights;

(i) Ensure the full and equal opportunity for the sustained participation and representation of indigenous women and girls and of women and girls, as appropriate, from culturally diverse backgrounds, in all relevant decision-making processes;

(j) Ensure that the Commission on the Status of Women takes into account in its work the impact of all forms of discrimination, including multiple discrimination, on the advancement of women;

(k) Acknowledge the ongoing work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in taking into account the impact of multiple forms of discrimination on the advancement of women and the achievement of gender equality.

2. Policies, legal measures, mechanisms and machineries:

(a) Establish and/or strengthen, where appropriate, legislation and regulations against all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including their gender-based manifestations;

(b) Condemn all forms of racism and racial discrimination, including propaganda, activities and organizations based on doctrines of superiority of one race or group of persons, that attempt to justify or promote racism or racial discrimination in any form;

(c) Take concrete measures to promote equality based on the elimination of gender and racial prejudice in all fields, through, inter alia, better access to education, health care, employment and other basic services, to promote full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights for all women and girls;

(d) Take measures to address, through policies and programmes, racism and racially motivated violence against women and girls and to increase cooperation, policy responses, effective implementation of national legislation and other protective and preventive measures aimed at the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls;

(e) Review, where appropriate, national legal and other mechanisms, including the criminal justice system, to ensure equality before the law so that women and girls can seek protection, shelter and remedies against all forms of discrimination, including intersectional discrimination;

(f) Review, where appropriate, policies and laws, including those on citizenship, immigration and asylum, for their impact on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and the achievement of gender equality;

(g) Design and implement policies and measures that address all forms of violence against women and girls, and empower victims of all forms of violence, in particular women and girls, to regain control over their lives, inter alia, through special protection and assistance measures;

(h) Devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in women and girls through a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy consisting of, inter alia, legislative measures, prevention campaigns, information exchange, assistance and protection for and reintegration of the victims and prosecution of all the offenders involved, including intermediaries;

(i) Develop and implement policies to ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all women and girls, regardless of race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin;

(j) Take measures, as appropriate, to promote and strengthen policies and programmes for indigenous women, with their full participation and respect for their cultural diversity, to combat discrimination based

on gender and race and to ensure their full enjoyment of all human rights;

(k) Review and revise, as appropriate, emigration policies, with a view to eliminating all discriminatory policies and practices against migrants, especially women and children, and to protect fully all their human rights, regardless of their legal status, as well as to provide them with humane treatment;

(l) Take steps to eliminate any violations of the human rights of women refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons, who are often subjected to sexual and other violence;

(m) Urge all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, in order to achieve its universal ratification, and emphasize the importance of the full compliance of States parties with the obligations they have accepted under this Convention;

(n) Consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families as a matter of priority, and consider promoting ratification of the relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization.

3. Change attitudes and eliminate stereotypes and prejudice:

(a) Develop gender-sensitive education and training programmes aimed at eliminating discriminatory attitudes towards women and girls, and adopt measures to address the intersection between racist and gender-based stereotypes;

(b) Develop and implement programmes and policies to raise awareness among all relevant actors at the national, regional and international levels to the issue of multiple discrimination against women and girls;

(c) Review and update educational materials, including textbooks, and take appropriate action to remove all elements promoting discrimination, in particular gender-based discrimination, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(d) Ensure that education and training, especially teacher training, promote respect for human rights, the culture of peace, gender equality and cultural, religious and other diversity, and encourage educational and training institutions and organizations to adopt policies of equal opportunities and follow up their implementation with the participation of teachers, parents, boys and girls and the community;

(e) Develop strategies to increase awareness among men and boys with respect to their shared responsibility in promoting gender equality and combating all forms of discrimination, in particular racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance as well as multiple discrimination;

(f) Develop anti-racist and gender-sensitive human rights training for personnel in the administration of justice, law enforcement agencies, security and health-care services, schools and migration authorities, paying particular attention to immigration officials, border police and staff of migrant detention centres, as well as for United Nations personnel;

(g) Bearing in mind gender perspective, encourage the mass media to promote ideas of tolerance and understanding among peoples and different cultures.

4. Research and collection of data and information:

(a) Develop methodologies to identify the ways in which various forms of discrimination converge and affect women and girls, and conduct studies on how racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance are reflected in laws, policies, institutions and practices and how this has contributed to the vulnerability, victimization, marginalization and exclusion of women and the girl child;

(b) Collect, analyse and disseminate quantitative, qualitative and gender-sensitive data regarding the impact of all forms of discrimination, including multiple discrimination, on women and girls, and sponsor, where appropriate, surveys and community-based research, including the collection of disaggregated data by sex, age and other variables, as appropriate.

5. Preventing conflict and promoting a culture of peace, equality, non-discrimination, respect and tolerance:

(a) Respect fully international human rights law and international humanitarian law applicable to the rights and protection of women and girls, and take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, in particular rape and all other forms of sexual violence during armed conflict, and end impunity and prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, including those relating to sexual and other gender-based violence against women and girls;

(b) Violence against women and girls is a major obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of gender equality, development and peace. Violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. Gender-based violence, such as battering and other domestic violence, sexual abuse, sexual slavery and exploitation, international trafficking in women and children, forced prostitution and sexual harassment, as well as violence against women resulting from cultural prejudice, racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia, pornography, ethnic cleansing, armed conflict, foreign occupation, religious and anti-religious extremism and terrorism, are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and must be combated and eliminated;

(c) Ensure the full and equal opportunity for sustained participation and representation of women at all levels and in all areas in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building.

6. World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance:

The Commission on the Status of Women stresses the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective into the preparations, work and outcome of the World Conference, and urges the inclusion of women in delegations to the Conference.

Communications on the status of women

Working group. At a closed meeting on 16 March [E/2001/27], the Commission took note of the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women, established in

1993 [YUN 1993, p. 1050] to consider ways of making the communications procedure more transparent and efficient. The Working Group considered 14 confidential and three non-confidential communications received directly by the Division for the Advancement of Women and 22 confidential communications received by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Working Group expressed deep concern about the continuing grave violations of women's human rights, as well as persistent and pervasive discrimination against women. In particular, the Working Group was concerned about discrimination against women in employment and in their enjoyment of the right to health; dowry-related crimes; the systematic use of physical and sexual violence against women, including rape as a weapon of armed conflict, torture, beatings, custodial killings, abduction, arbitrary arrests and harassment by military, paramilitary or police forces; the targeting of civilians in conflict situations and the mistreatment of persons internally displaced, especially women and girls; and the failure of authorities to take appropriate action in such cases. The Working Group was also gravely concerned about contemporary forms of slavery, which included domestic and sexual slavery and trafficking in women and girls for economic or sexual exploitation. It noted with concern the ongoing acts of violence, intimidation and death threats of women human rights defenders by members of the police and others in authority, and the lack of investigation by authorities. The Working Group noted with concern the continued discrimination against and systematic attacks, including killings, detention, torture, rape, forced sterilization and forced disappearances, on indigenous groups, and the discriminatory provisions against women in national legal systems. The Working Group expressed deep concern at the harmful traditional practice of female genital mutilation and recognized the urgent need for Governments to implement the relevant international commitments with regard to that practice. Having considered the responses from Governments, the Working Group recommended further public education campaigns and gender-awareness training for specific sectors directed at the elimination of stereotypic attitudes towards women and girls.

Communications procedure. The Commission on the Status of Women had before it a January report of the Secretary-General assessing the implications of the reforms of mechanisms in the human rights area (1503 procedure) for communications concerning the status of women [E/CN.6/2001/12]. The report gave an overview of

the development of the Commission's confidential communications procedures and those of the Commission on Human Rights; discussed the operation of the two confidential procedures, the relationship between them and options for better coordination of the procedures; and presented options for more fundamental reform of the existing communications procedure of the Commission on the Status of Women. Among the options presented were: the transformation of the communications procedure into a "situations" mechanism, involving the Working Group on Communications or with a working group of independent experts; the appointment of a special rapporteur who would take over the function of the Working Group; and the appointment of a thematic special rapporteur with the primary task of collecting information and preparing a detailed report.

Programme of work

In a January report [E/CN.6/2001/7 & Corr.1], the Secretary-General presented proposals for the Commission on the Status of Women's multi-year programme of work (2002-2006), which took into account challenges identified in the outcome document of Beijing+5 that impacted on the implementation of the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action. In addition to thematic proposals, the Secretary-General suggested that the Commission be sufficiently flexible and dynamic so that it could address issues in addition to those adopted in the programme of work and revisit certain issues taken up at previous sessions.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 24 July [meeting 40], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women [E/2001/27 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 2001/4** without vote [agenda item 14 (a)].

Proposals for a multi-year programme of work for the Commission on the Status of Women for 2002-2006

The Economic and Social Council

1. *Adopts* a multi-year work programme for the effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", which will provide a framework to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the special session and will be in line with the coordinated follow-up to major forthcoming United Nations conferences and summits;

2. *Decides* that the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, as set out in the programme of work,

shall be closely related to its mandate and to the relevant provisions of the Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the special session, with a view to ensuring their effective implementation through more practical and action-oriented initiatives and outcomes. To achieve effective implementation, the work of the Commission should take into account relevant cross-cutting issues, such as institutional capacity-building;

3. *Also decides* that the agenda for the sessions of the Commission shall consist of the following:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
 - (a) Review of gender mainstreaming in entities of the United Nations system
 - (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men
 - (c) Implementation of strategic objectives and actions in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives
4. Communications concerning the status of women
5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions
6. Provisional agenda for the next session of the Commission
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its present session;

4. *Further decides* on the following calendar:

2002

Item 1

Eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle in a globalizing world.

Item 2

Environmental management and mitigation of natural disasters: a gender perspective.

2003

Item 1

Participation and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women.

Item 2

Human rights of women and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century".

2004

Item 1

The role of men and boys in achieving gender equality.

Item 2

Equal participation of women in conflict prevention, management and resolution and in post-conflict peace-building.

2005*Item 1*

Review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century".

Item 2

Current challenges and forward-looking strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls.

2006*Item 1*

Enhanced participation of women in development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and the advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, the fields of education, health and work.

Item 2

Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels.

UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

During 2001 [A/57/125], the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) continued to focus on strengthening women's economic security and rights; ensuring that women's leadership shaped governance and peace-building; and promoting women's human rights and eliminating violence against women. UNIFEM's work was undertaken in the context of its 2000-2003 strategy and business plan, endorsed by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 1127].

Four key results emerged from UNIFEM's work on women's economic security and rights: new and strengthened institutions, laws and policies to facilitate women's equal ownership and access to economic resources; increased knowledge and understanding with respect to managing globalization and economic transition from the perspective of poor women; new commitments to incorporate gender perspectives in economic governance; and increased economic capacity for women entrepreneurs, producers and informal sector workers. Among notable results from UNIFEM's initiatives in the governance and peace-building area were: the creation of replicable models for increasing women's leadership in peace-building and reconstruction; and new and strengthened partnerships with UN agencies. Promoting women's human rights and eliminat-

ing violence against women continued to be a strong focus in all of the regions in which UNIFEM worked. Efforts resulted in: new and strengthened policies, legislation and commitments; the creation of new or strengthened institutional mechanisms to address gender-based violence; and scaled-up and replicable strategies based on UNIFEM-supported pilot projects and lessons learned about ending violence and addressing the gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS. Considerable progress was made in 2001 in strengthening UN system capacity to support women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming in its policies and programmes. Results included: stronger and more focused support to the resident coordinator system; the development of new agreements and strengthening of existing collaboration with UN funds, programmes and specialized agencies; and heightened visibility for field-based innovations for gender equality in the intergovernmental arena. The Fund's achievements in supporting learning and strategic partnerships included: more targeted and focused documentation and dissemination of experiences and lessons learned; increased collaboration with partners; and movement from isolated projects to thematic programmes.

UNIFEM's core resources increased by 8 per cent to \$20.7 million in 2001 from \$19.1 million in 2000. Total contributions rose to \$27.9 million in 2001, an increase of \$1.3 million over 2000. UNIFEM continued to enter into co-financing arrangements with various donors. In 2001, a total of \$12.3 million was approved by donors for multi-years, compared with \$8.2 million in 2000.

UNIFEM's Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women approved grants for 21 new projects in 2001 to address diverse forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, trafficking and sexual exploitation and female servitude.

Through an initiative to use media and communications strategies to address gender-based violence, UNIFEM awarded grants to five organizations for projects that included a soap opera in Nicaragua to reach young viewers with the message that they had a right to make their own decisions and confront discrimination; and a music video in India that focused on violence against women and its impact on women's livelihoods. The Trust Fund's learning component held regional strategic communications workshops in Mexico, Nepal, Slovakia and Zimbabwe for Trust Fund grantees. In addition, UNIFEM joined with Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, Maryland, United States) to develop a catalogue, *Picturing a Life Free of Violence*, and a database of me-

dia and communications resources on violence against women.

Since its establishment in 1996, the Trust Fund had awarded \$6.8 million in grants to 129 projects in over 73 countries.

In July [A/56/174], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly a report on UNIFEM's 2000 activities [YUN 2000, p. 1126]. The Assembly, by **decision 56/442** of 21 December, took note of the report.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 88], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/56/576], adopted **resolution 56/130** without vote [agenda item 112].

United Nations Development Fund for Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 39/125 of 14 December 1984, in which it established the United Nations Development Fund for Women as a separate and identifiable entity in autonomous association with the United Nations Development Programme, as well as its resolutions 52/94 of 12 December 1997 and 54/136 of 17 December 1999,

Recalling also the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, which recognizes the special role of the Fund in the promotion of the empowerment of women and calls upon the Fund to review and strengthen its work programme in the light of the Platform for Action, focusing on the political and economic empowerment of women,

Welcoming the contributions that the Fund has made in supporting initiatives of Member States, United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations to formulate and implement activities that promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, concentrating on three thematic areas, namely, strengthening women's economic capacity, engendering governance and leadership and promoting women's human rights and the elimination of all forms of violence against women,

Recalling and reaffirming the commitments made at United Nations world conferences and summit meetings and special sessions of the General Assembly held since 1990 and their follow-up processes,

Noting the importance of the work of the Consultative Committee on the United Nations Development Fund for Women in policy and programme directions, as stipulated in the annex to resolution 39/125,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the note by the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women;

2. *Encourages* the Fund to continue to assist, in its areas of expertise, in the implementation of commitments made at the Fourth World Conference on Women and at the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";

3. *Commends* the focus by the Fund on strategic programmes in its three thematic areas and on supporting innovative and experimental activities in im-

plementing its strategy and business plan (2000-2003) within the context of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the increased synergy between the United Nations Development Fund for Women and other funds, programmes and organizations of the United Nations system, as well as the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat, and calls upon these entities to continue their collaborative efforts;

5. *Notes* the ability of the Fund to execute projects and programmes on behalf of the United Nations Development Programme in order to fulfil their respective mandates as well as their individual and common purposes;

6. *Also notes* the activities undertaken by the Fund in follow-up to General Assembly resolution 54/136, including activities relating to the impact of armed conflict on women and the role of women in peace-building, and the support it provides for the participation of women in peace processes, and in this regard encourages the Fund to continue to consult with Member States on these activities;

7. *Emphasizes* the importance of the Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women and its learning component in extracting and sharing good practices with respect to the elimination of violence against women, and reiterates the call to Governments, non-governmental organizations and the public and private sectors to consider contributing or increasing contributions to the Trust Fund;

8. *Encourages* the Fund to continue to contribute to ensuring that a gender perspective is integrated into a comprehensive approach to the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) at all levels of the three thematic areas of the Fund, in particular in the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, building on its partnerships within the United Nations system, in particular with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS;

9. *Also encourages* the Fund to support the development or strengthening of mechanisms to increase accountability for gender equality, at the request of countries, including by building the capacity of Governments to undertake gender-responsive budget analysis;

10. *Urges* the Fund to continue its efforts to mainstream a gender perspective in United Nations operational activities, including through the resident coordinator system and the common country assessment and United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes;

11. *Welcomes* the role of the Fund in promoting the strategic importance of the empowerment of women in all of the regions in which it operates, and notes with appreciation the enhanced programme activities of the Fund in the African region;

12. *Encourages* the Fund to continue to assist Governments in implementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in order to advance gender equality at all levels, including by reinforcing the cooperation between

Governments and civil society, especially women's organizations;

13. *Recognizes* that the Fund has been able to secure increased contributions for its work, and expresses its appreciation to Member States and private organizations and foundations, whose increased contributions demonstrate their commitment to the issues on which the Fund is working;

14. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work of the national committees for the Fund, and encourages them, with appropriate support from the Fund, to increase their capacity and intensify their outreach to civil society and the private sector in terms of building broad-based visibility and mobilizing resources for the work of the Fund;

15. *Urges* Member States, non-governmental organizations and members of the private sector that have contributed to the Fund to continue to contribute and to consider increasing their financial contributions, and urges others to consider contributing to the Fund.

On 24 December, the Assembly decided that the agenda item on the advancement of women would remain for consideration at its resumed fifty-sixth (2002) session (**decision 56/464**).

International Research and Training Institute (INSTRAW)

The Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) held its twenty-first session (22-24 May) via the Internet. All Board Members were in their home countries, except for the outgoing and new Presidents of the Board, who were at the Institute's headquarters in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic [E/2001/88]. An autonomous institution, INSTRAW undertook research and training programmes for the advancement and mobilization of women in development.

The Board stated that the United Nations should take measures to ensure INSTRAW's continuity by motivating Member States to contribute to its sustainability, taking into consideration the fact that phases I and II of the Gender Awareness Information and Networking System (GAINS), launched in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 1127], had been completed, phase III had been initiated, and 50 per cent of the projected funds had been invested. It recommended that a new INSTRAW Director be appointed as soon as possible and that, if funds allowed, the new Director should assume functions while the current Director was still at the Institute in order to facilitate a smooth transition. The Board approved the proposed strategic focus, work plan and budgetary requirements for the year 2001, acknowledged the relevance of the GAINS methodology and recognized the need to secure INSTRAW's financial sustainability beyond 2001 in order to implement the

methodology fully. It requested the Economic and Social Council to recommend to the General Assembly the transfer of any funds remaining of the \$800,000 supplement provided in 2000 [ibid., p. 1128] for 2001 as a reserve for the year 2002. The Board recommended that, if insufficient funds were received for INSTRAW's core operations for 2002, operations for that year should be adjusted to the level of funds available. It recommended the immediate implementation of INSTRAW's fund-raising strategy.

INSTRAW restructuring

In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/24 [YUN 2000, p. 1127], the Secretary-General submitted a May report on the revitalization and strengthening of INSTRAW [E/2001/76]. He outlined efforts by the UN Secretariat and the Institute to improve the financial situation of the Institute and to explore new sources of funding. The report also assessed prospects for securing the Institute's sustainability beyond 31 December 2001.

INSTRAW, with a consulting firm's assistance, had developed and implemented a fund-raising strategy, which included developing a list of potential new funding sources and publicity and communications materials, expanding links and building partnerships with organizations within and outside the UN system, and raising public awareness of the capabilities of GAINS. To diversify its funding sources, the Institute prepared a portfolio of special projects for which it sought funding from non-government sources.

Secretariat efforts included the holding of a series of donor meetings, demonstrations of GAINS for delegations and NGOs, and continued appeals to Governments for contributions. Despite those efforts to improve INSTRAW's financial situation, reserves remained insufficient to assure the Institute's full transition in 2002 to the new working method mandated by the General Assembly and the Council. Without effective measures by Member States to ensure INSTRAW's financial stability beyond 2001, it would face closure by the end of the year.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 26 July [meeting 43], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2001/40** [draft: E/2001/L.25] without vote [agenda item 14 (a)].

Revitalization and strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2000/24 of 28 July 2000, in which, *inter alia*, it expressed grave concern that the level of contributions had not adequately increased to a

level to enable, in particular, the full implementation of the Gender Awareness Information and Networking System nor the operational viability of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women beyond 31 December 2000, and reiterating the importance of supporting traditional methods of information dissemination, research and training.

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 55/219 of 23 December 2000, in which it decided to provide the Institute with financial assistance on a non-recurrent basis, enabling the Institute to continue its activities throughout 2001,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Appreciates* the support of Member States in approving the advance to the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women of up to US \$800,000 for 2001, pending receipt of voluntary contributions, on a one-time, exceptional and emergency basis;
3. *Takes note* of the report of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on its twenty-first session and of the recommendations and decisions contained therein;
4. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Director of the Institute for her efforts to revitalize the Institute through the Gender Awareness Information and Networking System vision and methodology, and urges the Secretary-General to ensure that a new Director is appointed immediately in order to ensure continuity in the leadership and direction of the Institute;
5. *Commends* the Institute for the implementation of successive phases I and II of the System;
6. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts made by the Director of the Institute as well as its Board of Trustees in developing a fund-raising strategy for the Institute, and urges that it be implemented as soon as possible;
7. *Expresses its concerns* that, due to the insufficient reserves in the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women at the current time, the Institute may be unable to continue its operations beyond 2001;
8. *Takes into account* that the Institute cannot anticipate the level of contributions that will be received during the course of 2001;
9. *Recommends* that the General Assembly consider transferring to the Institute any balance remaining of the sum of \$800,000 advanced for 2001 by the Assembly as a reserve for the year 2002, and invites the Assembly to consider requesting the Joint Inspection Unit to conduct a review of the Institute's Trust Fund and an urgent evaluation of the activities of the Institute, including options for its future;
10. *Invites* the Institute to further intensify its campaign to raise funds and attract support from, inter alia, private sector foundations and corporations for its activities;
11. *Decides* to amend article V, paragraph 5, of the statute of the Institute with regard to the approval of focal points, to read:
 "Correspondents and focal points in countries or regions may be used by the Institute to assist in maintaining contact with national or regional institutions and in carrying out or advising on studies and research";
12. *Urges* the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue to encourage Member States to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund so that it can continue to operate at an adequate level during 2002;

(b) To continue to encourage other relevant sources of funding within the United Nations, including the United Nations Foundation, to contribute to the restructuring of the Institute;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2002 as well as to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Critical situation

In response to General Assembly resolution 55/219 [YUN 2000, p. 1129], the Secretary-General submitted an August report on the critical situation of INSTRAW [A/56/279]. Having described the status of implementation of INSTRAW activities during 2001, reported on the use of the financial resources provided from the UN regular budget for the year, and provided detailed information on the financial flows of the INSTRAW Trust Fund, the Secretary-General discussed prospects for the Institute beyond 31 December 2001. He stated that, by the end of the year, it was anticipated that INSTRAW would have used approximately \$369,000 of the \$800,000 subvention approved by Assembly decision 55/457 [YUN 2000, p. 1128], resulting in an unspent balance of \$431,000. He noted that the INSTRAW Board of Trustees had recommended that any unspent amounts be carried forward to 2002 to facilitate the Institute's initial operations for that year (see p. 1087). The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 2001/40, had recommended that the Assembly consider transferring the unspent balance from the subvention as a reserve for 2002, which would allow the Institute to initiate its 2002 operations. Given the flow of contributions received during 2000 and 2001, the Secretary-General estimated that during 2002 INSTRAW's core operations might need to be adjusted to a minimal budget level of \$600,000, which would entail a considerable downsizing of the core staff and a significant reduction in operational activities. He observed that, despite the persistent difficulties and uncertainties that INSTRAW had confronted during the two preceding years, it had managed to secure minimal resources with which to respond to the mandates given by the Assembly and the Council. Given that the Institute had begun to achieve tangible results through GAINS, the Secretary-General suggested that the Assembly might wish to decide on the scope within which INSTRAW could operate beyond 2001 in a productive and cost-effective manner.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 88], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/56/576], adopted **resolution 56/125** without vote [agenda item 112].

Critical situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/219 of 23 December 2000, in which it decided to provide the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women with financial assistance on a non-recurrent basis, enabling the Institute to continue its activities throughout 2001,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/40 of 26 July 2001 and the recommendation contained therein that the General Assembly consider the transfer of any balance remaining from the \$800,000 advance for 2001 to the Institute as a reserve for 2002,

Recognizing that, despite the persistent difficulties and uncertainties that the Institute has confronted during the past two years, it has managed to secure the minimal resources with which to respond to the mandates given by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
 2. *Commends* the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women for the successive implementation of phases I and II of the Gender Awareness Information and Networking System and the initiation of phase III;

3. *Expresses its concern* that, since the departure of the Director in July 2001, and notwithstanding the se-

vere predicament of the Institute, a new Director has not yet been appointed;

4. *Decides:*

(a) To establish a working group composed of two governmental representatives from each of the five regional groups of the United Nations and one representative of the host country, the mandate of the working group being to make recommendations to the General Assembly before the end of the fifty-sixth session, for its consideration by the end of 2002, on the future operation of the Institute;

(b) To examine ways, within the framework of General Assembly resolution 55/219 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/40, in which the Institute could be provided with resources to enable it to continue its operation until the Assembly has considered the recommendations of the working group;

5. *Urges* the Secretary-General:

(a) To appoint a Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women as soon as possible in order to provide the Institute with the required leadership;

(b) To continue to encourage Member States to support the Institute by making voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2002, on the implementation of the present resolution.