

**REPORT OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE  
TO REVIEW AND APPRAISE THE ACHIEVEMENTS  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN:  
EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE**

**Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985**



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NOTE

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## CONTENTS

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE .....	1	1
A. The Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women .....		2
B. Resolution and decisions .....		90
1. Expression of gratitude to the host country .....		90
2. Credentials of the representatives to the Conference .....		90
3. Draft resolutions and a draft declaration on which no action was taken by the Conference .....		90
II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE CONFERENCE .....	2 - 20	91
III. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK .....	21 - 61	95
A. Date and place of the Conference .....	21	95
B. Pre-Conference consultations .....	22	95
C. Attendance .....	23 - 32	95
D. Opening of the Conference and election of its President .....	33 - 48	98
E. Messages from Heads of State or Government .....	49	101
F. Other messages .....	50 - 51	102
G. Adoption of the rules of procedure .....	52 - 53	102
H. Adoption of the agenda .....	54	103
I. Election of officers other than the President .....	55 - 58	104
J. Other organizational matters .....	59 - 60	105
1. Allocation of agenda items .....	59	105
2. Credentials of representatives to the Conference ..	60	105
K. Implications of Conference decisions for the programme budget of the United Nations .....	61	105
IV. SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL DEBATE .....	62 - 160	106

CONTENTS (continued)

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Paragraphs</u>
V. REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE CONFERENCE AND ACTION TAKEN ON THESE REPORTS BY THE CONFERENCE .....	161 - 339
A. Report of the First Committee .....	161 - 169
B. Report of the Second Committee .....	170 - 177
C. Action taken in plenary on the reports of the First and Second Committees .....	178 - 339
1. Action with respect to the text of the Forward-looking Strategies .....	179 - 304
2. Action with respect to draft resolutions submitted to the First and Second Committees .....	305 - 308
D. Report of the Credentials Committee .....	309 - 339
VI. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE .....	340 - 347

ANNEXES

I. Text of draft resolutions and a draft declaration on which no action was taken by the Conference .....	11
II. List of non-governmental organizations represented at the Conference ..	21
III. List of documents .....	21

## Chapter I

### DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE

1. At its 18th, 19th and 20th (closing) plenary meetings on 25 and 26 July 1985 the Conference adopted the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (sect. A below) and at its 17th and 20th plenary meetings it adopted the resolution and decisions (sect. B below) the text of which is set out in this chapter.

A. THE NAIROBI FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

CONTENTS

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Pa</u>
INTRODUCTION .....	1 - 42	
A. Historical background .....	1 - 8	
B. Substantive background of the Forward-looking Strategies .....	9 - 21	
C. Current trends and perspectives to the year 2000 .....	22 - 36	1
D. Basic approach to the formulation of the Forward- looking Strategies .....	37 - 42	15
I. EQUALITY .....	43 - 92	16
A. Obstacles .....	43 - 50	16
B. Basic strategies ... ..	51 - 59	18
C. Measures for the implementation of the basic strategies at the national level .....	60 - 92	20
1. Constitutional and legal .....	60 - 76	20
2. Equality in social participation .....	77 - 85	23
3. Equality in political participation and decision- making .....	86 - 92	24
II. DEVELOPMENT .....	93 - 231	26
A. Obstacles .....	93 - 106	26
B. Basic strategies .....	107 - 124	29
C. Measures for the implementation of the basic strategies at the national level .....	125 - 231	33
1. Overall .....	125 - 131	33
2. Areas for specific action .....	132 - 231	34
Employment .....	132 - 147	34
Health .....	148 - 162	37
Education .....	163 - 173	41

CONTENTS (continued)

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
	Food, water and agriculture .....	174 - 188 43
	Industry .....	189 - 196 46
	Trade and commercial services .....	197 - 199 48
	Science and technology .....	200 - 205 49
	Communications .....	206 - 208 50
	Housing, settlement, community development and transport .....	209 - 217 50
	Energy .....	218 - 223 52
	Environment .....	224 - 227 53
	Social services .....	228 - 231 54
III.	PEACE .....	232 - 276 55
	A. Obstacles .....	232 - 238 55
	B. Basic strategies .....	239 - 258 56
	C. Women and children under <u>apartheid</u> .....	259 60
	D. Palestinian women and children .....	260 62
	E. Women in areas affected by armed conflicts, foreign intervention and threats to peace .....	261 - 262 63
	F. Measures for the implementation of the basic strategies at the national level .....	263 - 276 63
	1. Women's participation in efforts for peace .....	263 - 271 63
	2. Education for peace .....	272 - 276 65
IV.	AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN .....	277 - 304 66
	A. Women in areas affected by drought .....	283 67
	B. Urban poor women .....	284 - 285 68
	C. Elderly women .....	286 68
	D. Young women .....	287 69
	E. Abused women .....	288 70

CONTENTS (continued)

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Pa</u>
F. Destitute women .....	289	7
G. Women victims of trafficking and involuntary prostitution .....	290 - 291	7
H. Women deprived of their traditional means of livelihood .....	292 - 293	7
I. Women who are the sole supporters of families .....	294 - 295	7
J. Women with physical and mental disabilities .....	296	7
K. Women in detention and subject to penal law .....	297	7
L. Refugee and displaced women and children .....	298 - 299	7
M. Migrant women .....	300 - 301	7
N. Minority and "indigenous" women .....	302 - 304	7
V. INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL CO-OPERATION .....	305 - 372	7
A. Obstacles .....	305 - 308	7
B. Basic strategies .....	309 - 316	7
C. Measures for the implementation of the basic strategies .....	317 - 372	7
1. Monitoring .....	317 - 321	7
2. Technical co-operation, training and advisory services .....	322 - 337	7
3. Institutional co-ordination .....	338 - 344	8
4. Research and policy analysis .....	345 - 355	8
5. Participation of women in activities at the international and regional levels and in decision-making .....	356 - 365	8
6. Information dissemination .....	366 - 372	8



## INTRODUCTION

### A. Historical background

#### Paragraph 1

The founding of the United Nations after the victory in the Second World War and the emergence of independent States following decolonization were some of the important events in the political, economic and social liberation of women. The International Women's Year, the World Conferences held at Mexico City in 1975 and Copenhagen in 1980, and the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace contributed greatly to the process of eliminating obstacles to the improvement of the status of women at the national, regional and international levels. In the early 1970s, efforts to end discrimination against women and to ensure their equal participation in society provided the impetus for most initiatives taken at all of those levels. Those efforts were also inspired by the awareness that women's reproductive and productive roles were closely linked to the political, economic, social, cultural, legal, educational and religious conditions that constrained the advancement of women and that factors intensifying the economic exploitation, marginalization and oppression of women stemmed from chronic inequalities, injustices and exploitative conditions at the family, community, national, subregional, regional and international levels.

#### Paragraph 2

In 1972, the General Assembly, in its resolution 3010 (XXVII), proclaimed 1975 International Women's Year, to be devoted to intensified action to promote equality between men and women, to ensure the full integration of women in the total development effort and to increase women's contribution to the strengthening of world peace. The World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year, 1/ adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year at Mexico City in 1975, was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 3520 (XXX). The General Assembly, in that resolution, proclaimed 1976-1985 the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. In its resolution 33/185, the General Assembly decided upon the sub-theme "Employment, Health and Education" for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, to be held at Copenhagen to review and evaluate the progress made in the first half of the Decade.

#### Paragraph 3

In 1980, at the mid-point of the Decade, the Copenhagen World Conference adopted the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, 2/ which further elaborated on the existing obstacles and on the existing international consensus on measures to be taken for the advancement of women. The Programme of Action was endorsed by the General Assembly that year in its resolution 35/136.

#### Paragraph 4

Also in 1980, the General Assembly, in its resolution 35/56, adopted the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and reaffirmed the recommendations of the Copenhagen World Conference (General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex, para. 51). In the Strategy, the importance of participation of women in the development process, as both agents and

beneficiaries, was stressed. Also, the Strategy called for appropriate measures to be taken in order to bring about profound social and economic changes and to eliminate the structural imbalances that compounded and perpetuated women's disadvantages in society.

#### Paragraph 5

The strategies contained in the World Plan of Action and in the Programme of Action were important contributions towards enlarging the perspective for the future of women. In most areas, however, further action is required. In this connection the General Assembly confirmed the goals and objectives of the Decade - equality, development and peace - stressed their validity for the future and indicated the need for concrete measures to overcome the obstacles to their achievement during the period 1986-2000.

#### Paragraph 6

The Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women during the Period from 1986 to the Year 2000 set forth in the present document present concrete measures to overcome the obstacles to the Decade's goals and objectives for the advancement of women. Building on principles of equality also espoused in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 3/ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 4/ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 5/ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 6/ and the Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace and Co-operation, 7/ the Forward-looking Strategies reaffirm the international concern regarding the status of women and provide a framework for renewed commitment by the international community to the advancement of women and the elimination of gender-based discrimination. The efforts for the integration of women in the development process should be strengthened and should take into account the objectives of a new international economic order and the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

#### Paragraph 7

The Nairobi World Conference is taking place at a critical moment for the developing countries. Ten years ago, when the Decade was launched, there was hope that accelerated economic growth, sustained by growing international trade, financial flows and technological developments, would allow the increased participation of women in the economic and social development of those countries. These hopes have been belied owing to the persistence and, in some cases, the aggravation of an economic crisis in the developing countries, which has been an important obstacle that endangers not only the pursuance of new programmes in support of women but also the maintenance of those that were already under way.

#### Paragraph 8

The critical international economic situation since the end of the 1970s has particularly adversely affected developing countries and, most acutely, the women of those countries. The overall picture for the developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, the drought-stricken and famine-stricken areas of Africa, the debt-ridden countries and the low-income countries, has reached a critical point as a result of structural imbalances and the continuing critical international economic situation. The situation calls for an increased commitment

to improving and promoting national policies and multilateral co-operation for development in support of national programmes, bearing in mind that each country is responsible for its own development policy. The gap between the developed and developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, instead of narrowing, is widening further. In order to stem such negative trends and mitigate the current difficulties of the developing countries, which affect women the most, one of the primary tasks of the international community is to pursue with all vigour the efforts directed towards the establishment of a New International Economic Order founded on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence and common interest.

## B. Substantive background of the Forward-looking Strategies

### Paragraph 9

The three objectives of the Decade - equality, development and peace - are broad, interrelated and mutually reinforcing, so that the achievement of one contributes to the achievement of another.

### Paragraph 10

The Copenhagen World Conference interpreted equality as meaning not only legal equality, the elimination of de jure discrimination, but also equality of rights, responsibilities and opportunities for the participation of women in development, both as beneficiaries and as active agents.

### Paragraph 11

Equality is both a goal and a means whereby individuals are accorded equal treatment under the law and equal opportunities to enjoy their rights and to develop their potential talents and skills so that they can participate in national political, economic, social and cultural development and can benefit from its results. For women in particular, equality means the realization of rights that have been denied as a result of cultural, institutional, behavioural and attitudinal discrimination. Equality is important for development and peace because national and global inequities perpetuate themselves and increase tensions of all types.

### Paragraph 12

The role of women in development is directly related to the goal of comprehensive social and economic development and is fundamental to the development of all societies. Development means total development, including development in political, economic, social, cultural and other dimensions of human life, as well as the development of the economic and other material resources and the physical, moral, intellectual and cultural growth of human beings. It should be conducive to providing women, particularly those who are poor or destitute, with necessary means for increasingly claiming, achieving, enjoying and utilizing equality of opportunity. More directly, the increasingly successful participation of each woman in societal activities as a legally independent agent will contribute to further recognition in practice of her right to equality. Development also requires a moral dimension to ensure that it is just and responsive to the needs and rights of the individual and that science and technology are applied within a social and economic framework that ensures environmental safety for all life forms on our planet.

### Paragraph 13

The full and effective promotion of women's rights can best occur in conditions of international peace and security where relations among States are based on the respect for the legitimate rights of all nations, great and small, and peoples to self-determination, independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and the right to live in peace within their national borders.

Peace depends on the prevention of the use or threat of the use of force, aggression, military occupation, interference in the internal affairs of others, the elimination of domination, discrimination, oppression and exploitation, as well as of gross and mass violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Peace includes not only the absence of war, violence and hostilities at the national and international levels but also the enjoyment of economic and social justice, equality and the entire range of human rights and fundamental freedoms within society. It depends upon respect for the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as international covenants and the other relevant international instruments on human rights, upon mutual co-operation and understanding among all States irrespective of their social political and economic systems and upon the effective implementation by States of the fundamental human rights standards to which their citizens are entitled.

It also embraces the whole range of actions reflected in concerns for security and implicit assumptions of trust between nations, social groups and individuals. It represents goodwill toward others and promotes respect for life while protecting freedom, human rights and the dignity of peoples and of individuals. Peace cannot be realized under conditions of economic and sexual inequality, denial of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms, deliberate exploitation of large sectors of the population, unequal development of countries, and exploitative economic relations. Without peace and stability there can be no development. Peace and development are interrelated and mutually reinforcing.

In this respect special attention is drawn to the final document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament encompassing all measures thought to be advisable in order to ensure that the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control is realized. This document describes a comprehensive programme of disarmament, including nuclear disarmament, which is important not only for peace but also for the promotion of the economic and social development of all, particularly in the developing countries, through the constructive use of the enormous amount of material and human resources otherwise expended on the arms race.

Peace is promoted by equality of the sexes, economic equality and the universal enjoyment of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms. Its enjoyment by all requires that women be enabled to exercise their right to participate on an equal footing with men in all spheres of the political, economic and social life of their respective countries, particularly in the decision-making process, while exercising their right to freedom of opinion, expression, information and association in the promotion of international peace and co-operation.

### Paragraph 14

The effective participation of women in development and in the strengthening of peace, as well as the promotion of the equality of women and men, require

concerted multi-dimensional strategies and measures that should be people-oriented. Such strategies and measures will require continual upgrading and the productive utilization of human resources with a view to promoting equality and producing sustained, endogenous development of societies and groups of individuals.

#### Paragraph 15

The three goals of the Decade - equality, development and peace - are inextricably linked to the three sub-themes - employment, health and education. They constitute the concrete basis on which equality, development and peace rest. The enhancement of women's equal participation in development and peace requires the development of human resources, recognition by society of the need to improve women's status, and the participation of all in the restructuring of society. It involves, in particular, building a participatory human infrastructure to permit the mobilization of women at all levels, within different spheres and sectors. To achieve optimum development of human and material resources, women's strengths and capabilities, including their great contribution to the welfare of families and to the development of society, must be fully acknowledged and valued. The attainment of the goals and objectives of the Decade requires a sharing of this responsibility by men and women and by society as a whole and requires that women play a central role as intellectuals, policy-makers, decision-makers, planners, and contributors and beneficiaries of development.

#### Paragraph 16

The need for women's perspective on human development is critical since it is in the interest of human enrichment and progress to introduce and weave into the social fabric women's concept of equality, their choices between alternative development strategies and their approach to peace, in accordance with their aspirations, interests and talents. These things are not only desirable in themselves but are also essential for the attainment of the goals and objectives of the Decade.

#### Paragraph 17

The review and appraisal of progress achieved and obstacles encountered at the national level in the realization of the goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (see A/CONF.116/5 and Add.1-14) identifies various levels of experience. Despite the considerable progress achieved and the increasing participation of women in society, the Decade has only partially attained its goals and objectives. Although the earlier years of the Decade were characterized by relatively favourable economic conditions in both the developed and developing countries, deteriorating economic conditions have slowed efforts directed towards promoting the equal participation of women in society and have given rise to new problems. With regard to development, there are indications that in some cases, although the participation of women is increasing, their benefits are not increasing proportionately.

#### Paragraph 18

Many of the obstacles discussed in the Forward-looking Strategies were identified in the review and appraisal (see A/CONF.116/5 and Add.1-14). The overwhelming obstacles to the advancement of women are in practice caused by varying combinations of political and economic as well as social and cultural factors. Furthermore, the social and cultural obstacles are sometimes aggravated

by political and economic factors such as the critical international economic situation and the consequent adjustment programmes, which in general entail a high social cost. In this context, the economic constraints due in part to the prevailing macro-economic factors have contributed to the aggravation of economic conditions at the national level. Moreover, the devaluation of women's productive and reproductive roles, as a result of which the status of women continued to be regarded as secondary to that of men, and the low priority assigned to promoting the participation of women in development are historical factors that limit women's access to employment, health and education, as well as to other sectoral resources, and to the effective integration of women in the decision-making process. Regardless of gains, the structural constraints imposed by a socio-economic framework in which women are second-class persons still limit progress. Despite changes in some countries to promote equity in all spheres of life, the "double burden" for women of having the major responsibility for domestic tasks and of participating in the labour force remains. For example, several countries in both the developed and developing world identify as a major obstacle the lack of adequate supportive services for working women.

#### Paragraph 19

According to responses from the developing countries, particularly the least developed, to the United Nations questionnaire to Governments (see A/CONF.116/5 and Add.1-14), poverty is on the increase in some countries and constitutes another major obstacle to the advancement of women. The exigencies created by problems of mass poverty, compounded by scarce national resources, have compelled Governments to concentrate on alleviating the poverty of both women and men rather than on equality issues for women. At the same time, because women's secondary position increases their vulnerability to marginalization, those belonging to the lowest socio-economic strata are likely to be the poorest of the poor and should be given priority. Women are an essential productive force in all economies; therefore it is particularly important in times of economic recession that programmes and measures designed to raise the status of women should not be relaxed but rather intensified.

#### Paragraph 20

To economic problems, with their attendant social and cultural implications, must be added the threat to international peace and security resulting from violations of the principles of the United Nations Charter. This situation, affecting inter alia the lives of women, constitutes a most serious obstacle to development and thus hinders the fulfilment of the Forward-looking Strategies.

#### Paragraph 21

What is now needed is the political will to promote development in such a way that the strategy for the advancement of women seeks first and foremost to alter the current unequal conditions and structures that continue to define women as secondary persons and give women's issues a low priority. Development should now move to another plane in which women's pivotal role in society is recognized and given its true value. That will allow women to assume their legitimate and core positions in the strategies for effecting the changes necessary to promote and sustain development.



### C. Current trends and perspectives to the year 2000

#### Paragraph 22

In the absence of major structural changes or technological breakthroughs, it can be predicted that up to the year 2000 recent trends will, for the most part, be extended and adjusted. The situation of women, as it evolves during the period 1986-2000, will also cause other changes, establishing a process of cause and effect of great complexity. Changes in women's material conditions, consciousness and aspirations, as well as societal attitudes towards women, are themselves social and cultural processes having major implications and a profound influence on institutions such as the family. Women's advancement has achieved a certain momentum that will be affected by the social and economic changes of the next 15 years, but it will also continue to exist as a force to be reckoned with. Internal processes will exercise a major influence in the economic sphere, but the state of the global economic system and of the political, social, cultural, demographic and communication processes directly affected by it will invariably have a more profound impact on the advancement of women.

#### Paragraph 23

At the beginning of the Decade there was an optimistic outlook for development, but during the early 1980s the world economy experienced a widespread recession due, inter alia, to sharp inflationary pressures that affected regions and some groups of countries, irrespective of their level of development or economic structure. During the same period, however, the countries with centrally planned economies as a group experienced stable economic growth. The developed market economy countries also experienced growth after the recession.

Despite the recovery in the developed market economy countries which is being felt in the world economy, the immediate outlook for recovery in developing countries, especially in the low-income and the least developed countries, remains bleak, particularly in view of their enormous public and private external debts and the cost of servicing that debt, which are an evident manifestation of this critical situation. This heavy burden has serious political, economic and social consequences for them. No lasting recovery can be achieved without rectifying the structural imbalances in the context of the critical international economic situation and without continued efforts towards the establishment of a new international economic order. The present situation clearly has serious repercussions for the status of women, particularly underprivileged women, and for human resource development.

Women, subject to compound discrimination on the basis of race, colour, ethnicity and national origin, in addition to sex, could be even more adversely affected by deteriorating economic conditions.

#### Paragraph 24

If current trends continue, the prospects for the developing world, particularly the low-income and least developed countries, will be sombre. The overall growth in the developing countries as currently projected will be lower in the period 1980-2000 than that experienced in the period 1960-1980. In order to address this outlook and thereby promote the advancement of women, policies should be reoriented and reinforced to promote world trade, in particular so as to promote better access for the exports of developing countries. Similarly, policies should

be pursued in other areas which would also promote growth and development in developing countries, for example, in respect of further lowering interest rates and pursuit of non-inflationary growth policies.

#### Paragraph 25

It is feared that, if there is slow growth in the world economy, there will inevitably be negative implications for women since, as a result of diminished resources, action to combat women's low position, in particular, their high rates of illiteracy, low levels of education, discrimination in employment, their unrecognized contribution to the economy and their special health needs, may be postponed. A pattern of development promoting just and equitable growth on the basis of justice and equality in international economic relations could make possible the attainment of the goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy, which could make a significant improvement in the status of women while enhancing women's effective contribution to development and peace. Such a pattern of development has its own internal dynamics that would facilitate an equitable distribution of resources and is conducive to promoting sustained, endogenous development, which will reduce dependence.

#### Paragraph 26

It is very important that the efforts to promote the economic and social status of women should rely in particular on the development strategies that stem from the goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy and the principles of a new international economic order. These principles include, inter alia, self-reliance, collective self-reliance, the activation of indigenous human and material resources. The restructuring of the world economy, viewed on a long-term basis, is to the benefit of all people - women and men of all countries.

#### Paragraph 27

According to estimates and projections of the International Labour Office, women constitute 35 per cent of the world's labour force, and this figure is likely to increase steadily to the year 2000. Unless profound and extensive changes are made, the type of work available to the majority of women, as well as the rewards, will continue to be low. Women's employment is likely to be concentrated in areas requiring lower skills and lower wages and minimum job security. While women's total input of labour in the formal and informal sector will surpass that of men by the year 2000, they will receive an unequal share of the world's assets and income. According to recent estimates, it seems that women have sole responsibility for the economic support of a large number of the world's children, approximately one third and higher in some countries, and the numbers seem to be rising. Forward-looking strategies must be progressive, equitable and designed to support effectively women's roles and responsibilities as they evolve up to the year 2000. It will continue to be necessary to take specific measures to prevent discrimination and exploitation of their economic contribution at national and international levels.

#### Paragraph 28

During the period from 1986 to the year 2000, changes in the natural environment will be critical for women. One area of change is that of the role of women as intermediaries between the natural environment and society with respect to agro-ecosystems, as well as the provision of safe water and fuel supplies and the



closely associated question of sanitation. The problem will continue to be greatest where water resources are limited - in arid and semi-arid areas - and in areas experiencing increasing demographic pressure. In a general manner, an improvement in the situation of women could bring about a reduction in mortality and morbidity as well as better regulation of fertility and hence of population growth, which would be beneficial for the environment and, ultimately, for women, children and men.

Paragraph 29\*

The issues of fertility rates and population growth should be treated in a context that permits women to exercise effectively their rights in matters pertaining to population concerns, including the basic right to control their own fertility which forms an important basis for the enjoyment of other rights, as stated in the report of the International Population Conference held at Mexico City in 1984. 8/

Paragraph 30

It is expected that the ever-expanding communications network will be better attuned than before to the concerns of women and that planners in this field will provide increasing information on the objectives of the Decade - equality, development and peace - on the Forward-looking Strategies, and on the issues included in the subtheme - employment, health and education. All channels, including computers, formal and non-formal education and the media, as well as traditional mechanisms of communication involving the cultural media of ritual, drama, dialogue, oral literature and music, should be used.

Paragraph 31

Political and governmental factors that are likely to affect prospects for the achievement of progress by women during the period 1986-2000 will depend in large measure upon the existence or absence of peace. If widespread international tensions continue, with threats not only of nuclear catastrophe but also of localized conventional warfare, then the attention of policy-makers will be diverted from tasks directly and indirectly relevant to the advancement of women and men, and vast resources will be further applied to military and related activities. This should be avoided and these resources should be directed to the improvement of humanity.

Paragraph 32

To promote their interests effectively, women must be able to enjoy their right to take part in national and international decision-making processes, including the right to dissent publicly and peacefully from their Government's policies, and to mobilize to increase their participation in the promotion of peace within and between nations.

\* The Holy See delegation reserved its position with respect to Paragraph 29 because it had not joined in the consensus at the International Conference on Population (Mexico City, 1984) and did not agree with the substance of Paragraph 29.

### Paragraph 33

There is no doubt that, unless major measures are taken, numerous obstacles will continue to exist which retard the participation of women in political life, in the formulation of policies that affect them and in the formulation of national women's policies. Success will depend in large measure upon whether or not women can unite to help each other to change their poor material circumstances and secondary status and to obtain the time, energy and experience required to participate in political life. At the same time, improvements in health and educational status, legal and constitutional provisions and networking will increase the effectiveness of the political action taken by women so that they can obtain a much greater share in political decision-making than before.

### Paragraph 34

In some countries and in some areas, women have made significant advances, but overall progress has been modest during the Decade, as is evident from the review and appraisal. During this period, women's consciousness and expectations have been raised, and it is important that this momentum should not be lost, regardless of the poor performance of the world economy. The changes occurring in the family, in women's roles and in relationships between women and men may present new challenges requiring new perspectives, strategies and measures. At the same time, it will be necessary to build alliances and solidarity groups across sexual lines in an attempt to overcome structural obstacles to the advancement of women.

### Paragraph 35\*

The World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the objectives of the International Women's Year, 1/ the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975, 9/ regional plans of action, the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, 2/ and the sub-theme - employment, health and education - the Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace and Co-operation 7/ and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 6/ remain valid and therefore constitute the basis for the strategies and concrete measures to be pursued up to the year 2000. The continuing relevance of the goals of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace - and of its sub-theme - health, education and employment - should be stressed, as should the implementation of the relevant recommendations of the 1975 Plan of Action and the 1980 Programme of Action, so as to ensure the complete integration of women in the development process and the effective realization of the objectives of the Decade. The challenge now is for the international community to ensure that the achievements of the Decade become strong building blocks for development and to promote equality and peace, especially for the sake of future generations of women. The obstacles of the next 15 years must be met through concerted global, regional and national efforts. By the year 2000 illiteracy should have been eliminated, life expectancy for all women

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\* Reservations to paragraph 35 were formulated by Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and United States of America. The United States reserved its position on the reference in paragraph 35 to the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975.

increased to at least 65 years of good quality life and opportunities for self-supporting employment made available. Above all, laws guaranteeing equality for women in all spheres of life must by then be fully and comprehensively implemented to ensure a truly equitable socio-economic framework within which real development can take place. Forward-looking Strategies for the advancement of women at the regional level should be based on a clear assessment of demographic trends and development forecasts that provide a realistic context for their implementation.

#### Paragraph 36

The Forward-looking Strategies and multidimensional measures must be pursued within the framework of a just international society in which equitable economic relations will allow the closing of the gap that separates the industrialized countries from the developing countries. In this regard, all countries are called upon to show their commitment as was decided in General Assembly resolution 34/138 and, therefore, to continue informal consultations on the launching of global negotiations, as decided by the General Assembly in decision 39/454.

#### D. Basic approach to the formulation of the Forward-looking Strategies

#### Paragraph 37

It is necessary to reiterate the unity, inseparability and interdependence of the objectives of the Decade - equality, development and peace - as regards the advancement of women and their full integration in economic, political, social and cultural development, for which purpose the objectives should remain in effect in the operational strategies for the advancement of women to the year 2000.

#### Paragraph 38

The Forward-looking Strategies are intended to provide a practical and effective guide for global action on a long-term basis and within the context of the broader goals and objectives of a new international economic order. Measures are designed for immediate action, with monitoring and evaluation occurring every five years, depending on the decision of the General Assembly. Since countries are at various stages of development, they should have the option to set their own priorities based on their own development policies and resource capabilities. What may be possible for immediate action in one country may require more long-range planning in another, and even more so in respect of countries which are still under colonialism, domination and foreign occupation. The exact methods and procedures for implementing measures will depend upon the nature of the political process and the administrative capabilities of each country.

#### Paragraph 39

Some measures are intended to affect women and others directly and are designed to make the societal context less obstructive and more supportive of their progress. These measures would include the elimination of sex-based stereotyping, which is at the root of continuing discrimination. Measures to improve the situation of women are bound to have a ripple effect in society, since the advancement of women is without doubt a pre-condition for the establishment of a free and progressive society.

#### Paragraph 40

The feasibility of policies, programmes and projects concerning women will be affected not only by their numbers and socio-economic heterogeneity but also by the different life-styles of women and by the constant changes in their life cycle.

#### Paragraph 41

The Forward-looking Strategies not only suggest measures for overcoming obstacles that are fundamental and operational, but also identify those that are emerging. Thus, the strategies and measures presented are intended to serve as guidelines for a process of continuous adaptation to diverse and changing national situations at speeds and modes determined by overall national priorities, within which the integration of women in development should rank high. The Forward-looking Strategies, acknowledging existing and potential obstacles, include separate basic strategies for the achievement of equality, development and peace. In line with the recommendations of the Commission on the Status of Women, acting as the Preparatory Body for the Conference at its second session, particular attention is given to "especially vulnerable and underprivileged groups of women, such as rural and urban poor women; women in areas affected by armed conflicts, foreign intervention and international threats to peace; elderly women; young women; abused women; destitute women; women victims of trafficking and women in involuntary prostitution; women deprived of their traditional means of livelihood; women who are sole supporters of families; physically and mentally disabled women; women in detention; refugee and displaced women; migrant women; minority women; and indigenous women". 10/

#### Paragraph 42

Although addressed primarily to Governments, international and regional organizations, and non-governmental organizations, an appeal is made to all women and men in a spirit of solidarity. In particular, it is addressed to those women and men who now enjoy certain improvements in their material circumstances and who have achieved positions where they may influence policy-making, development priorities and public opinion to change the current inferior and exploited condition of the majority of women in order to serve the goals of equality for all women, their full participation in development, and the achievement and strengthening of peace.

#### I. EQUALITY

##### A. Obstacles

#### Paragraph 43

One of the objectives of the Decade entails the full observance of the equal rights of women and the elimination of de jure and de facto discrimination. This is a critical first step towards human resource development. In developing countries inequality is, to a great extent, the result of underdevelopment and its various manifestations, which in turn are aggravated by the unjust distribution of the benefits of the international economy. The United Nations system, particularly the Commission on the Status of Women, has worked for four decades to establish international standards and to identify and propose measures to prevent discrimination on the basis of sex. Although much progress has been made in

legislation, measures are necessary for effective implementation and enforcement. Legislative enactment is only one element in the struggle for equality, but an essential one as it provides the legitimate basis for action and acts as a catalyst for societal change.

Paragraph 44\*

The inequality of women in most countries stems to a very large extent from mass poverty and the general backwardness of the majority of the world's population caused by underdevelopment, which is a product of imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, racism, racial discrimination and of unjust international economic relations. The unfavourable status of women is aggravated in many countries, developed and underdeveloped, by de facto discrimination on the grounds of sex.

Paragraph 45

One of the fundamental obstacles to women's equality is that de facto discrimination and inequality in the status of women and men derive from larger social, economic, political and cultural factors that have been justified on the basis of physiological differences. Although there is no physiological basis for regarding the household and family as essentially the domain of women, for the devaluation of domestic work and for regarding the capacities of women as inferior to those of men, the belief that such a basis exists perpetuates inequality and inhibits the structural and attitudinal changes necessary to eliminate such inequality.

Paragraph 46

Women, by virtue of their gender, experience discrimination in terms of denial of equal access to the power structure that controls society and determines development issues and peace initiatives. Additional differences, such as race, colour and ethnicity, may have even more serious implications in some countries, since such factors can be used as justification for compound discrimination.

Paragraph 47

Fundamental resistance creates obstacles, which have wide-ranging implications for the objectives of the Decade. Discrimination promotes an uneconomic use of women's talents and wastes the valuable human resources necessary for development and for the strengthening of peace. Ultimately, society is the loser if the talents of women are under-utilized as a result of discrimination.

Paragraph 48

The sharp contrasts between legislative changes and effective implementation of these changes are a major obstacle to the full participation of women in society. De facto and indirect discrimination, particularly by reference to marital or family status, often persists despite legislative action. The law as a course does not automatically benefit all women equally, owing to the socio-economic inequalities determining women's knowledge of and access to the law,

The United States reserved its position on paragraph 44 because it did not agree that the obstacles listed should be considered the main reasons for the inequality of women in most countries.

as well as their ability to exercise their full legal rights without fear of retribution or intimidation. The lack or inadequacy of the dissemination of information on women's rights and the available recourse to justice has hampered, in many instances, the achievement of expected results.

#### Paragraph 49

Some legislative changes are made without a thorough understanding of the relationship between existing legal systems. In practice, however, certain aspects of the law - for instance, customary provisions - may be in operation in societies with multiple and conflicting legal systems. Emerging and potential obstacles resulting from possible contradictions should be anticipated so that preventive measures can be taken. When passing new legislation, whatever its subject-matter, all possible care should be taken to ensure that it implies no direct or indirect discrimination so that women's right to equality is fully respected in law.

#### Paragraph 50

In some countries, discriminatory legislative provisions in the social, economic and political spheres still exist, including civil, penal and commercial codes and certain administrative rules and regulations. Civil codes in some instances have not yet been adequately studied to determine action for repealing those laws that still discriminate against women and for determining, on the basis of equality, the legal capacity and status of women, married women in particular, in terms of nationality, inheritance, ownership and control of property, freedom of movement and the custody and nationality of children. Above all, there is still a deeply rooted resistance on the part of conservative elements in society to the change in attitude necessary for a total ban on discriminatory practices against women at the family, local, national and international levels.

### B. Basic strategies

#### Paragraph 51

The political commitment to establish, modify, expand or enforce a comprehensive legal base for the equality of women and men and on the basis of human dignity must be strengthened. Legislative changes are most effective when made within a supportive framework promoting simultaneous changes in the economic, social, political and cultural spheres, which can help bring about a social transformation. For true equality to become a reality for women, the sharing of power on equal terms with men must be a major strategy.

#### Paragraph 52

Governments should take the relevant steps to ensure that both men and women enjoy equal rights, opportunities and responsibilities so as to guarantee the development of their individual aptitudes and capacities and enable women to participate as beneficiaries and active agents in development.

#### Paragraph 53

Changes in social and economic structures should be promoted which would make possible the full equality of women and their free access to all types of development as active agents and beneficiaries, without discrimination of any kind, and to all types of education, training and employment. Special attention should be paid to implementing this right to the maximum extent possible for young women.

Paragraph 54

In order to promote equality of women and men, Governments should ensure, for both women and men, equality before the law, the provision of facilities for equality of educational opportunities and training, health services, equality in conditions and opportunities of employment, including remuneration, and adequate social security. Governments should recognize and undertake measures to implement the right of men and women to employment on equal conditions, regardless of marital status, and their equal access to the whole range of economic activities.

Paragraph 55

Effective institutions and procedures must be established or strengthened to monitor the situation of women comprehensively and identify the causes, both traditional and new, of discrimination and to help formulate new policies and effectively carry out strategies and measures to end discrimination. These arrangements and procedures must be integrated within a coherent policy for development but cannot wait indefinitely for such a policy to be formulated and implemented.

Paragraph 56

The obstacles to the equality of women created by stereotypes, perceptions of and attitudes towards women should be totally removed. Elimination of these obstacles will require, in addition to legislation, education of the population at large through formal and informal channels, including the media, non-governmental organizations, political party platforms and executive action.

Paragraph 57

Appropriate governmental machinery for monitoring and improving the status of women should be established where it is lacking. To be effective, this machinery should be established at a high level of government and should be ensured adequate resources, commitment and authority to advise on the impact on women of all government policies. Such machinery can play a vital role in enhancing the status of women, *inter alia*, through the dissemination of information to women on their rights and entitlements, through collaborative action with various ministries and other government agencies and with non-governmental organizations and indigenous women's societies and groups.

Paragraph 58

Timely and reliable statistics on the situation of women have an important role to play in the elimination of stereotypes and the movement towards full equality. Governments should help collect statistics and make periodic assessment identifying stereotypes and inequalities, in providing concrete evidence concerning many of the harmful consequences of unequal laws and practices and in assuring progress in the elimination of inequities.

Paragraph 59

The sharing of domestic responsibilities by all members of the family and the recognition of women's informal and invisible economic contributions in the mainstream of society should be developed as complementary strategies for the elimination of women's secondary status, which has fostered discrimination.



C. Measures for the implementation of the basic strategies at the national level

1. Constitutional and legal

Paragraph 60

Governments that have not yet done so are urged to sign the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 5/ and to take all the necessary steps to ensure its ratification, or their accession to it. They should consider the possibility of establishing appropriate bodies charged with reviewing the national legislation concerned and with drawing up recommendations thereon to ensure that the provisions of the Convention and of the other international instruments to which they are parties that are relevant to the role, status and material circumstances of women are complied with.

Paragraph 61

Governments that have not yet done so should establish appropriate institutional procedures whereby the application of a revised set of laws and administrative measures may be effectively enforced from the village level up and may be adequately monitored so that individual women may, without obstruction or cost to themselves, seek to have discriminatory treatment redressed. Legislation that concerns women as a group should also be effectively enforced and monitored so that areas of systemic or de facto discrimination against women can be redressed. To this end, positive action policy should be developed.

Paragraph 62

Agrarian reform measures have not always ensured women's rights even in countries where women predominate in the agricultural labour force. Such reforms should guarantee women's constitutional and legal rights in terms of access to land and other means of production and should ensure that women will control the products of their labour and their income, as well as benefits from agricultural inputs, research, training, credits and other infrastructural facilities.

Paragraph 63

National research institutions, both governmental and private, are urged to undertake investigations of the problems associated with the relationship between the law and the role, status and material circumstances of women. These should be integrated into the curricula of relevant educational institutions in an attempt to promote general knowledge and awareness of the law.

Paragraph 64

In the past decade there have been significant advances in the development of statistical concepts and methods for measuring inequality between women and men. The capabilities of national institutions concerned with statistics and women's issues should be improved to implement these concepts and methods in the regular statistical programmes of countries and to make effective use of these statistics in the policy-planning process. Training for producers and users of statistics on women should play a key role in this process.



Paragraph 65

In-depth research should be undertaken to determine instances when customary law may be discriminatory or protective of women's rights and the extent to which the interfaces between customary and statutory law may retard progress in the implementation of new legislative measures. Particular attention should be paid to double standards in every aspect of life, with a view to abolishing them.

Paragraph 66

Law-reform committees with equal representation of women and men from Governments and from non-governmental organizations should be set up to review all laws, not only as a monitoring device but also with a view to determining research-related activities, amendments and new legislative measures.

Paragraph 67

Employment legislation should ensure equity and provide benefits for women not only in the conventional and formal labour force but also in the informal sector, particularly with regard to migrant and service workers, by providing minimum wage standards, insurance benefits, safe working conditions and the right to organize. Opportunities for similar guarantees and benefits should also be extended to women making vital economic contributions in activities involving food production and processing, fisheries and food distribution through trade. These benefits should also pertain to women working in family enterprises and, if possible, to other self-employed women in an effort to give due recognition to the vital contribution of all these informal and invisible economic activities to the development of human resources.

Paragraph 68

Civil codes, particularly those pertaining to family law, should be revised to eliminate discriminatory practices where these exist and wherever women are considered minors. The legal capacity of married women should be reviewed in order to grant them equal rights and duties.

Paragraph 69\*

Such social and economic development should be encouraged as would secure the participation of women as equal partners with men in all fields of work, equal access to all positions of employment, equal pay for work of equal value and equal opportunities for education and vocational training, and would co-ordinate the legislation on the protection of women at work with the need for women to work and highly productive producers and managers of all political, economic and social affairs and would develop branches of the social services to make domestic duties easier for women and men.

\* The United States reserved its position on paragraphs 69, 72 and 137 specifically because it did not agree with the concept of "equal pay for work of equal value" and maintained the principle of "equal pay for equal work".

#### Paragraph 70

Measures for the implementation of legislation relating to working conditions for women must be taken.

#### Paragraph 71

Legislative and/or other measures should be adopted and implemented to secure for men and women the same right to work and to unemployment benefits, as well as to prohibit, through, inter alia, the imposition of sanctions, dismissal on the grounds of pregnancy or of maternity leave and discrimination in dismissals on the grounds of marital status. Legislative and other measures should be adopted and implemented to facilitate the return to the labour market of women who have left it for family reasons and to guarantee the right of women to return to work after maternity leave.

#### Paragraph 72

Governments should continue to take special action to institute programmes that would inform women workers of their rights under legislation and other remedial measures. The importance of freedom of association and the protection of the right to organize should be emphasized, this being particularly relevant to the position of women in employment. Special measures should be taken to ratify and implement in national legislation the relevant conventions and recommendations of the International Labour Organisation concerning the rights of women as regards access to equal employment opportunities, equal pay for work of equal value, equal working conditions, job security and maternity protection.

#### Paragraph 73

Marriage agreements should be based on mutual understanding, respect and freedom of choice. Careful attention should be paid to the equal participation and valuation of both partners so that the value of housework is considered equivalent of financial contributions.

#### Paragraph 74

The right of all women, in particular married women, to own, administer, sell or buy property independently should be guaranteed as an aspect of their equality and freedom under the law. The right to divorce should be granted equally to both partners under the same conditions, and custody of children decided in a non-discriminatory manner with full awareness of the importance of the input from both parents in the maintenance, rearing and socialization of children. Women should not forfeit their right to custody of their children or to any other benefits and freedoms simply because they have initiated a divorce. Without prejudice to the religious and cultural traditions of countries, and taking into account the de facto situations, legal or other appropriate provisions should be made to eliminate discrimination against single mothers and their children.

#### Paragraph 75

Appropriate action is necessary to ensure that the judiciary and all paralegal personnel are fully aware of the importance of the achievement by women of rights set out in internationally agreed instruments, constitutions and the law. Appropriate forms of in-service training and retraining should be designed and carried out for this purpose, with special attention given to the recruitment and training of women.

#### Paragraph 76

Special attention should be given in criminology training to the particular situation of women as victims of violent crimes, including crimes that violate women's bodies and result in serious physical and psychological damage. Legislation should be passed and laws enforced in every country to end the degradation of women through sex-related crimes. Guidance should be given to law enforcement and other authorities on the need to deal sensibly and sensitively with the victims of such crimes.

## 2. Equality in social participation

#### Paragraph 77

A comprehensive and sustained public campaign should be launched by all Governments, in close collaboration with non-governmental organizations, women's pressure groups, where they exist, and research institutions, as well as the media, educational institutions and traditional institutions of communication, to challenge and abolish all discriminatory perceptions, attitudes and practices by the year 2000. Target groups should include policy-makers and decision-makers, legal technical advisers, bureaucrats, labour and business leaders, business persons, professionals and the general public.

#### Paragraph 78

By the year 2000, all Governments should have adequate comprehensive and coherent national women's policies to abolish all obstacles to the full and equal participation of women in all spheres of society.

#### Paragraph 79

Governments should take all appropriate measures to ensure to women, on equal terms with men and without discrimination, the opportunity to represent their Government at all levels on delegations to subregional, regional and international meetings. More women should be appointed as diplomats and to decision-making posts within the United Nations system, including posts in fields relating to peace and development activities. Support services, such as educational facilities and day care, for families of diplomats and other civil servants stationed abroad, of United Nations officials, as well as employment of spouses at the duty station, wherever possible, should be strongly encouraged.

#### Paragraph 80

As future parents, young people and children should be educated and mobilized to act as stimulators for and monitors of changes in attitudes towards women at all levels of society, particularly with regard to the need for greater flexibility in assignment of roles between women and men.

#### Paragraph 81

Research activities should be promoted to identify discriminatory practices in education and training and to ensure quality at those two levels. One priority area for research should be the impact of sexual discrimination on the development of human resources.

#### Paragraph 82

Governments and private institutions are urged to include in the curricula of all schools, colleges and universities courses and seminars on women's history and roles in society and to incorporate women's issues in the general curriculum and to strengthen research institutions in the area of women's studies by promoting indigenous research activities and collaboration.

#### Paragraph 83

New teaching methods should be encouraged, especially audio-visual techniques, to demonstrate clearly the equality of the sexes. Programmes, curricula and standards of education and training should be the same for females and males. Textbooks and other teaching materials should be continuously evaluated, updated and, where necessary, redesigned, rewritten to ensure that they reflect positive, dynamic and participatory images of women and to present men actively involved in all aspects of family responsibilities.

#### Paragraph 84

Governments are urged to encourage the full participation of women in the whole range of occupations, especially in fields previously regarded as male preserves, in order to break down occupational barriers and taboos. Employment equity programmes should be developed to integrate women into all economic activities on an equal basis with men. Special measures designed to redress the imbalance imposed by centuries of discrimination against women should be promoted to accelerate de facto equality between men and women. Those measures should not be considered discriminatory or entail the maintenance of unequal or separate standards. They are to be discontinued when the objectives of equality of opportunity and treatment have been achieved. Governments should ensure that their public service is an exemplary equal opportunity employer.

#### Paragraph 85

High priority should be given to substantial and continuing improvement in the portrayal of women in the mass media. Every effort should be made to develop attitudes and to produce materials that portray positive aspects of women's roles and status in intellectual and other activities as well as egalitarian relations of sexes. Steps also should be taken to control pornography, other obscene portrayals of women and the portrayal of women as sex objects. In this regard all measures should be taken to ensure that women participate effectively in relevant councils and review bodies regarding mass media, including advertisement, and in the implementation of decisions of these bodies.

### 3. Equality in political participation and decision-making

#### Paragraph 86

Governments and political parties should intensify efforts to stimulate and ensure equality of participation by women in all national and local legislative bodies and to achieve equity in the appointment, election and promotion of women to high posts in executive, legislative and judiciary branches in these bodies. At the local level, strategies to ensure equality of women in political participation should be pragmatic, should bear a close relationship to issues of concern to women in the locality and should take into account the suitability of the proposed measures to local needs and values.

Paragraph 87

Governments and other employers should devote special attention to the broader and more equitable access and inclusion of women in management in various forms of popular participation, which is a significant factor in the development and realization of all human rights.

Paragraph 88

Governments should effectively secure participation of women in the decision-making processes at a national, state and local level through legislative and administrative measures. It is desirable that governmental departments establish a special office in each of them, headed preferably by a woman, to monitor periodically and accelerate the process of equitable representation of women. Special activities should be undertaken to increase the recruitment, nomination and promotion of women, especially to decision-making and policy-making positions, by publicizing posts more widely, increasing upward mobility and so on, until equitable representation of women is achieved. Reports should be compiled periodically on the numbers of women in public service and on their levels of responsibility in their areas of work.

Paragraph 89

With respect to the increase in the number of couples in which both partners are employed in the public service, especially the foreign service, Governments are urged to consider their special needs, in particular the couple's desire to be assigned to the same duty station, with a view to reconciling family and professional duties.

Paragraph 90

Awareness of women's political rights should be promoted through many channels, including formal and informal education, political education, non-governmental organizations, trade unions, the media and business organizations. Women should be encouraged and motivated and should help each other to exercise their right to vote and to be elected and to participate in the political process at all levels on equal terms with men.

Paragraph 91

Political parties and other organizations such as trade unions should make a deliberate effort to increase and improve women's participation within their ranks. They should institute measures to activate women's constitutional and legal guarantees of the right to be elected and appointed by selecting candidates. Equal access to the political machinery of the organizations and to resources and tools for developing skills in the art and tactics of practical politics, as well as effective leadership capabilities, should be given to women. Women in leadership positions also have a special responsibility to assist in this field.

Paragraph 92

Governments that have not already done so should establish institutional arrangements and procedures whereby individual women, as well as representatives of types of women's interest groups, including those from the most vulnerable, most privileged and most oppressed groups, may participate actively in all aspects of the formulation, monitoring, review and appraisal of national and local policies, issues and activities.

## II. DEVELOPMENT

### A. Obstacles

#### Paragraph 93

The United Nations Decade for Women has facilitated the identification and overcoming of obstacles encountered by Member States in integrating women into society effectively and in formulating and implementing solutions to current problems. The continuation of women's stereotyped reproductive and productive roles, justified primarily on physiological, social and cultural grounds, has subordinated them in the general as well as sectoral spheres of development, even where some progress has been achieved.

#### Paragraph 94\*

There are coercive measures of an economic, political and other nature that are promoted and adopted by certain developed States and are directed towards exerting pressure on developing countries, with the aim of preventing them from exercising their sovereign rights and of obtaining from them advantages of all kinds, and furthermore affect possibilities for dialogue and negotiation. Such measures, which include trade restrictions, blockades, embargoes and other economic sanctions incompatible with the principles of the United Nations Charter and in violation of multilateral or bilateral commitments, have adverse effects on the economic, political and social development of developing countries and therefore directly affect the integration of women in development, since that is directly related to the objective of general social, economic and political development.

#### Paragraph 95\*\*

One of the main obstacles to the effective integration of women in the process of development is the aggravation of the international situation, resulting in a continuing arms race, which now may spread also to outer space. As a result, immense material and human resources needed for development are wasted. Other major obstacles to the implementation of goals and objectives set by the United Nations in the field of the advancement of women include imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, expansionism, apartheid and all other forms of racism and racial discrimination, exploitation, policies of force and all forms of manifestations of foreign occupation, domination and hegemony, and the growing gap between the levels of economic development of developed and developing countries.

#### Paragraph 96

The efforts of many countries to implement the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women were undermined by a series of grave economic crises that

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\* The United States abstained in the vote on paragraph 94 because of unacceptable language relating to economic measures by developed countries against developing States.

\*\* The United States reserved its position on paragraph 95 because it did not agree with the listing of those obstacles categorized as being major impediments to the advancement of women.

have had severe repercussions, especially for many developing countries because of their generally greater vulnerability to external economic factors as well as because the main burden of adjustment to the economic crises has been borne by the developing countries, pushing the majority of them towards economic collapse.

Paragraph 97

The worsening of the social situation in many parts of the world, and particularly in Africa, as a result of the disruptive consequences of the economic crisis had a great negative impact on the process of effective and equal integration of women in development. This adverse social situation reflects the lack of implementation of relevant United Nations conventions, declarations and resolutions in the social and economic fields, and of the objectives and overall development goals adopted and reaffirmed in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

Paragraph 98\*

The lack of political will of certain developed countries to eliminate obstacles to the practical realization of such fundamental documents adopted by the United Nations as the Declaration on Social Progress and Development (General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV)), the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (General Assembly resolution 3281 (XXIX)), the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI), respectively), the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex), aimed at the restructuring of international economic relations on a just and democratic basis, should be counted among the main reasons for the conservation of the unfavourable and unequal position of women from the point of view of development, especially in the developing countries.

Paragraph 99

The last years of the Decade have witnessed a deterioration of the general economic situation in the developing countries. The financial, economic and social crisis of the developing world has worsened the situation of large sectors of the population, especially women. In particular, the decline in economic activity is having a negative impact on an already unbalanced distribution of income, as well as on the high levels of unemployment, which affect women more than men.

Paragraph 100\*\*

Protectionism against developing countries' exports in all its forms, the deterioration in the terms of trade, monetary instability, including high interest rates and the inadequate flow of official development assistance have aggravated the development problems of the developing countries, and consequently have complicated the difficulties hampering the integration of women in the development process.

\* The United States requested a vote on paragraph 98 and voted against the paragraph.

\*\* The United States reserved its position on paragraph 100 because it did not accept the underlying philosophy of the paragraph as it concerned the economic situation in debtor and developing countries.



One of the principal obstacles now confronting the developing countries is their gigantic public and private external debt, which constitutes a palpable expression of the economic crisis and has serious political, economic and social consequences for these countries. The amount of the external debt obliges the developing countries to devote enormous sums of their already scarce export income to the servicing of the debt, which affects their peoples' lives and possibilities of development, with particular effects on women. In many developing countries there is a growing conviction that the conditions for the payment and servicing of the external debt cause those countries enormous difficulties and that the adjustment policies traditionally imposed are inadequate and lead to a disproportionate social cost.

The negative effects of the present international economic situation on the least developed countries have been particularly grave and have caused serious difficulties in the process of integrating women in development.

The growth prospects of the low-income countries have seriously deteriorated owing to the reduction in international economic co-operation, particularly the inadequate flow of official development assistance and the growing trade protectionism in the developed countries, which restricts the capacity of the low-income countries to attain the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women.

This situation is even more grave in the developing countries that are afflicted by drought, famine and desertification.

#### Paragraph 101

Despite significant efforts in many countries to transfer tasks traditionally performed by women to men or to public services, traditional attitudes still continue to persist and in fact have contributed to the increased burden of work placed on women. The complexity and multidimensional aspects of changing sex roles and norms and the difficulty of determining the specific structural and organizational requirements of such a change have hindered the formulation of measures to alter sex roles and to develop appropriate perspectives on the image of women in society. Thus, despite gains made by a few women, for the majority subordination in the labour force and in society has continued, through the exploitative conditions under which women often work have become more visible.

#### Paragraph 102

The effective participation of women in development has also been impeded by the difficult international economic situation, the debt crisis, poverty, continued population growth, rising divorce rates, increasing migration, and the growing incidence of female-headed households. Yet, neither the actual expansion of employment for women nor the recognition that women constitute a significant proportion of producers has been accompanied by social adjustments to ease women's burden of child and household care. The economic recession led to a reduction in investments, particularly in those services that allow greater societal sharing of the social and economic costs of child care and housework.

#### Paragraph 103

Insufficient awareness and understanding of the complex and multifaceted relationships between development and the advancement of women have continued to make policy, programme and project formulation difficult. While during the earlier

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part of the Decade the belief that economic growth would automatically benefit women was more widely shared, an evaluation of the experience of the Decade has shed considerable doubt on this over-simplified premise. Consequently, the need to understand better the relationship between development and the advancement of women and to gather, analyse and disseminate information for the more effective formulation of policies, programmes and projects has become greater.

#### Paragraph 104

Although throughout history and in many societies women have been sharing similar experiences, in the developing countries the problems of women, particularly those pertaining to their integration in the development process, are different from the problems women face in the industrialized countries and are often a matter of survival. Failure to recognize these differences leads, *inter alia*, to neglect the adverse effect of the insufficient progress made towards improvement in national policies or programmes and the present international economic situation as well as the interrelationships that exist between the goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and the objectives of equality, development and peace.

#### Paragraph 105

The lack of political will and commitment continued to retard action to promote effective participation by women in development. Exclusion of women from policy-making and decision-making made it difficult for women and women's organizations to include in their preferences and interests the largely male-dominated choices of progress and development. Furthermore, because the issue of women in development has often been perceived as a welfare problem, it has received low priority, viewed simply as a cost to society rather than as a contribution. Thus, the specific formulation of targets, programmes and projects concerning women and development has often received little attention, awaiting the attainment of development rather than being instrumental to it. This, in turn, caused a parallel weakness in the institutional, technical and material resources devoted to the promotion of activities for effective participation by women in development.

#### Paragraph 106

Appropriate national machinery for the effective integration of women in the development process has been either insufficient or lacking. Where the machinery exists, it often lacks the resources, focus, responsibility and authority to be effective.

### B. Basic strategies

#### Paragraph 107

The commitment to remove obstacles to the effective participation of all women in development as intellectuals, policy-makers and decision-makers, planners, contributors and beneficiaries should be strengthened according to the specific problems of women in different regions and countries and the needs of different categories of women in them. That commitment should guide the formulation and implementation of policies, plans, programmes and projects, with the awareness that development prospects will be improved and society advanced through the full and effective participation of women.

#### Paragraph 108

Different socio-economic and cultural conditions are to be taken into account when identifying the foremost obstacles to the advancement of women. The current economic situation and the imbalances within the world monetary and financial system need adjustment programmes to overcome the difficulties. These programmes should not adversely affect the most vulnerable segments of society among whom women are disproportionately represented.

#### Paragraph 109

Development, being conceived as a comprehensive process, must be characterized by the search for economic and social objectives and goals that guarantee the effective participation of the entire population, especially women, in the process of development. It is also necessary to work in favour of the structural changes needed for the fulfilment of these aspirations. In line with these concerns, one should endeavour to speed up social and economic development in developing countries; accelerate the development of the scientific and technological capabilities of those countries; promote an equitable distribution of national income; and eradicate absolute poverty, experienced disproportionately by women and children, with the shortest possible delay by applying an overall strategy that, on the one hand, eliminates hunger and malnutrition and, on the other, works towards the construction of more just societies, in which women may reach their full development.

#### Paragraph 110

As the primary objective of development is to bring about sustained improvement in the well-being of the individual and of society and to bestow benefits on all, development should be seen not only as a desirable goal in itself but also as an important means of furthering equality of the sexes and the maintenance of peace.

#### Paragraph 111

Women should be an integral part of the process of defining the objectives and modes of development, as well as of developing strategies and measures for their implementation. The need for women to participate fully in political processes and to have an equal share of power in guiding development efforts and in benefiting from them should be recognized. Organizational and other means of enabling women to bring their interests and preferences into the evaluation and choice of alternative development objectives and strategies should be identified and supported. This would include special measures designed to enhance women's autonomy, bringing women into the mainstream of the development process on an equal basis with men, or other measures designed to integrate women fully in the total development effort.

#### Paragraph 112

The actual and potential impact on women of macro-economic processes operating at the international and national levels, as well as of financial spatial and physical development policies, should be assessed and appropriate modifications made to ensure that women are not adversely affected. Initial emphasis should be placed on employment, health and education. Priority should be given to the development of human resources, bearing in mind the need to avoid further increases

in the work-load of women, particularly when alternative policies are formulated to deal with the economic and debt crisis.

#### Paragraph 113

With due recognition of the difficulties involved, Governments, international and regional organizations, and non-governmental organizations should intensify their efforts to enhance the self-reliance of women in a viable and sustained fashion. Because economic independence is a necessary pre-condition for self-reliance, such efforts should above all be focused on increasing women's access to gainful activities. Grass-roots participatory processes and planning approaches using local talent, expertise and resources are vital and should be supported and encouraged.

#### Paragraph 114

The incorporation of women's issues in all areas and sectors and at the local, national, regional and international levels should be institutionalized. To this end, appropriate machinery should be established or strengthened, and further legislative action taken. Sectoral policies and plans should be developed, and the effective participation of women in development should be integrated both in those plans and in the formulation and implementation of mainstream programmes and projects and should not be confined solely to statements of intent within plans or to small-scale, transitory projects relating to women.

#### Paragraph 115

The gender bias evident in most development programmes should be eliminated and the prejudices hindering the solution of women's problems removed. Particular attention should be given to the restructuring of employment, health and education systems and to ensuring equal access to land, capital and other productive resources. Emphasis should be placed on strategies to assist women in generating and keeping income, including measures designed to improve women's access to credit. Such strategies must focus on the removal of legal, customary and other barriers and on strengthening women's capacity to use existing credit systems.

#### Paragraph 116

Governments should seek means to increase substantially the number of women who are decision-makers, policy-makers, managers, professionals and technicians in both traditional and non-traditional areas and sectors. Women should be provided with equal opportunities for access to resources, especially education and training, in order to facilitate their equal representation at higher managerial and professional levels.

#### Paragraph 117

The role of women as a factor of development is in many ways linked to their involvement in various forms and levels of decision-making and management in economic and social structures, such as worker participation in management, industrial democracy, worker self-management, trade unions and co-operatives. The development of these forms of participation, which have an impact on the development and promotion of working and living conditions, and the inclusion of women in these forms of participation on an equal footing with men is of crucial importance.

#### Paragraph 118

The relationships between development and the advancement of women under specific socio-cultural conditions should be studied locally to permit the effective formulation of policies, programmes and projects designed for stable and equitable growth. The findings should be used to develop social awareness of the need for effective participation of women in development and to create realistic images of women in society.

#### Paragraph 119

It is vital that the link between the advancement of women and socio-economic and political development be emphasized for the effective mobilization of resources for women.

#### Paragraph 120

The remunerated and, in particular, the unremunerated contributions of women to all aspects and sectors of development should be recognized, and appropriate efforts should be made to measure and reflect these contributions in national accounts and economic statistics and in the gross national product. Concrete steps should be taken to quantify the unremunerated contribution of women to agriculture, food production, reproduction and household activities.

#### Paragraph 121

Concerted action should be directed towards the establishment of a system of sharing parental responsibilities by women and men in the family and by society. To this end, priority should be given to the provision of a social infrastructure that will enable society to share these responsibilities with families and, simultaneously, to bring about changes in social attitudes so that new or modified gender roles will be accepted, promoted and become exercisable. Household tasks and parental responsibilities, including decision-making regarding family size and child spacing, should be re-examined with a view to a better sharing of responsibilities between men and women and therefore, be conducive to the attainment of women's and men's self-reliance and to the development of future human resources.

#### Paragraph 122

Monitoring and evaluation efforts should be strengthened and directed specifically towards women's issues and should be based on a thorough review and extensive development of improved statistics and indicators on the situation of women as compared with men, over time and in all fields.

#### Paragraph 123

Appropriate national machinery should be established and should be utilized to integrate women effectively in the development process. To be effective, this machinery should be provided with adequate resources, commitment and authority to encourage and enhance development efforts.

Paragraph 124

Regional and international co-operation, within the framework of technical co-operation among developing countries, should be strengthened and extended to promote the effective participation of women in development.

C. Measures for the implementation of the basic strategies at the national level

1. Overall

Paragraph 125

Appropriate machinery with sufficient resources and authority should be established at the highest level of government as a focal point to ensure that the full range of development policies and programmes in all sectors recognizes women's contribution to development and incorporates strategies to include women and to ensure that they receive an equitable share of the benefits of development.

Paragraph 126

To achieve the goal of development, which is inseparably linked to the goals of equality and peace, Governments should institutionalize women's issues by establishing or strengthening appropriate machinery in all areas and sectors of development. In addition, they should direct specific attention to effecting a positive change in the attitudes of male decision-makers. Governments should ensure the establishment and implementation of legislation and administrative policies and mobilize communications and information systems to create social awareness of the legal rights of women to participate in all aspects of development at all levels and at all stages - that is, planning, implementation and evaluation. Governments should stimulate the formation and growth of women's organizations and women's groups and give financial and organizational support to their activities when appropriate.

Paragraph 127

National resources should be directed so as to promote the participation of women at all levels and in all areas and sectors. Governments should establish national and sectoral plans and specific targets for women in development; equip the machinery in charge of women's issues with political, financial and technical resources; strengthen intersectoral co-ordination in promoting women's participation; and establish institutional mechanisms to address the needs of especially vulnerable groups of women.

Paragraph 128

Governments should recognize the importance of and the need for the full utilization of women's potential for self-reliance and for the attainment of national development goals and should enact legislation to ensure this. Programmes should be formulated and implemented to provide women's organizations, co-operatives, trade unions and professional associations with access to credit and other financial assistance and to training and extension services. Consultative mechanisms through which the views of women may be incorporated in governmental activities should be set up, and supportive ties with women's grass-roots

organizations, such as self-help community development and mutual aid societies and non-governmental organizations committed to the cause of women should be created and maintained to facilitate the integration of women in mainstream development.

Paragraph 129

There should be close co-ordination between Governments, agencies and other bodies at the national and local level. The effectiveness of national machinery, including the relationship between Governments and non-governmental organizations, should be evaluated and strengthened with a view to improving co-operation. Positive experiences and good models should be widely publicized.

Paragraph 130

Governments should compile gender-specific statistics and information and should develop or reorganize an information system to take decisions and action on the advancement of women. They should also support local research activities and local experts to help identify mechanisms for the advancement of women, focusing on the self-reliant, self-sustaining and self-generating social, economic and political development of women.

Paragraph 131

Governmental mechanisms should be established for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of institutional and administrative arrangements and of delivery systems, plans, programmes and projects to promote an equitable participation of women in development.

2. Areas for specific action

Employment

Paragraph 132

Special measures aimed at the advancement of women in all types of employment should be consistent with the economic and social policies promoting full productive and freely chosen employment.

Paragraph 133

Policies should provide the means to mobilize public awareness, political support, and institutional and financial resources to enable women to obtain jobs involving more skills and responsibility, including those at the managerial level, in all sectors of the economy. These measures should include the promotion of women's occupational mobility, especially in the middle and lower levels of the work-force, where the majority of women work.

Paragraph 134

Governments that have not yet done so should ratify and implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other international instruments relating to the improvement of the condition of women workers.

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Paragraph 135

Measures based on legislation and trade union action should be taken to ensure equity in all jobs and avoid exploitative trends in part-time work, as well as the tendency towards the feminization of part-time, temporary and seasonal work.

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Paragraph 136

Flexible working hours for all are strongly recommended as a measure for encouraging the sharing of parental and domestic responsibilities by women and men, provided that such measures are not used against the interests of employees. Re-entry programmes, complete with training and stipends, should be provided for women who have been out of the labour force for some time. Tax structures should be revised so that the tax liability on the combined earnings of married couples does not constitute a disincentive to women's employment.

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Paragraph 137

Eliminating all forms of employment discrimination, inter alia through legislative measures, especially wage differentials between women and men carrying out work of equal value, is strongly recommended to all parties concerned. Additional programmes should help to overcome still existing disparities in wages between women and men. Differences in the legal conditions of work of women and men should also be eliminated, where there are disadvantages to women, and privileges should be accorded to male and female parents. Occupational desegregation of women and men should be promoted.

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Paragraph 138

The public and private sectors should make concerted efforts to diversify and create new employment opportunities for women in the traditional, non-traditional and high productivity areas and sectors in both rural and urban areas through the design and implementation of incentive schemes for both employers and women employees and through widespread dissemination of information. Gender stereotyping in all areas should be avoided and the occupational prospects of women should be enhanced.

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Paragraph 139

The working conditions of women should be improved in all formal and informal areas by the public and private sectors. Occupational health and safety and job security should be enhanced and protective measures against work-related health hazards effectively implemented for women and men. Appropriate measures should be taken to prevent sexual harassment on the job or sexual exploitation in specific jobs, such as domestic service. Appropriate measures for redress should be provided by Governments and legislative measures guaranteeing these rights should be enforced. In addition, Governments and the private sector should put in place mechanisms to identify and correct harmful working conditions.

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Paragraph 140

National planning should give urgent consideration to the development and strengthening of social security and health schemes and maternity protection schemes in keeping with the principles laid down in the ILO maternity protection convention and maternity protection recommendation and other relevant ILO

conventions and recommendations as a prerequisite to the hastening of women's effective participation in production, and all business and trade unions should seek to promote the rights and compensations of working women and to ensure that appropriate infrastructures are provided. Parental leave following the birth of a child should be available to both women and men and preferably shared between them. Provision should be made for accessible child-care facilities for working parents.

#### Paragraph 141

Governments and non-governmental organizations should recognize the contribution of older women and the importance of their input in those areas that directly affect their well-being. Urgent attention should be paid to the education and training of young women in all fields. Special retraining programmes including technical training should also be developed for young women in both urban and rural sectors, who lack qualifications and are ill-equipped to enter productive employment. Steps should be taken to eliminate exploitative treatment of young women at work, in line with ILO Convention No. 111 concerning discrimination in respect of employment and occupation, 1958 and ILO Convention No. 122 concerning employment policy, 1964.

#### Paragraph 142

National planning, programmes and projects should launch a twofold attack on poverty and unemployment. To enable women to gain access to equal economic opportunities, Governments should seek to involve and integrate women in all phases of the planning, delivery and evaluation of multisectoral programmes that eliminate discrimination against women, provide required supportive services and emphasize income generation. An increased number of women should be hired in national planning mechanisms. Particular attention should be devoted to the informal sector since it will be the major employment outlet of a considerable number of underprivileged urban and rural women. The co-operative movement could play an indispensable role in this area.

#### Paragraph 143

Recognition and application should be given to the fact that women and men have equal rights to work and, on the same footing, to acquire a personal income on equal terms and conditions, regardless of the economic situation. They should be given opportunities in accordance with the protective legislation of each country and especially in the labour market, in the context of measures to stimulate economic development and to promote employment growth.

#### Paragraph 144

In view of the persistence of high unemployment levels in many countries, Governments should endeavour to strengthen the efforts to cope with this issue and provide more job opportunities for women. Given that in many cases women account for a disproportionate share of total unemployment, that their unemployment rates are higher than those of men and that, owing to lower qualifications, geographical mobility and other barriers, women's prospects for alternative jobs are mostly limited, more attention should be given to unemployment as it affects women. Measures should be taken to alleviate the consequences of unemployment for women in declining sectors and occupations. In particular, training measures must be instituted to facilitate the transition.



#### Paragraph 145

Although general policies designed to reduce unemployment or to create jobs may benefit both men and women, by their nature they are often of greater assistance to men than to women. For this reason, specific measures should be taken to permit women to benefit equally with men from national policies to create jobs.

#### Paragraph 146

As high unemployment among youth, wherever it exists, is a matter of serious concern, policies designed to deal with this problem should take into account that unemployment rates for young women are often much higher than those for young men. Moreover, measures aimed at mitigating unemployment among youth should not negatively affect the employment of women in other age groups - for example, by lowering minimum wages. Women should not face any impediment to employment opportunities and benefits in cases where their husbands are employed.

#### Paragraph 147

Governments should also give special attention to women in the peripheral or marginal labour market, such as those in unstable temporary work or unregulated part-time work, as well as to the increasing number of women working in the informal economy.

#### Health

#### Paragraph 148

The vital role of women as providers of health care both inside and outside the home should be recognized, taking into account the following: the creation and strengthening of basic services for the delivery of health care, with due regard to levels of fertility and infant and maternal mortality and the needs of the most vulnerable groups and the need to control locally prevalent endemic and epidemic diseases. Governments that have not already done so should undertake, in co-operation with the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, plans of action relating to women in health and development in order to identify and reduce risks to women's health and to promote the positive health of women at all stages of life, bearing in mind the productive role of women in society and their responsibilities for bearing and rearing children. Women's participation in the achievement of Health for All by the Year 2000 should be recognized, since their health knowledge is crucial in their multiple roles as health providers and health brokers for the family and community, and as informed consumers of adequate and appropriate health care.

#### Paragraph 149

The participation of women in higher professional and managerial positions in health institutions should be increased through appropriate legislation; training and supportive action should be taken to increase women's enrolment at higher levels of medical training and training in health-related fields. For effective community involvement to ensure the attainment of the World Health Organization's goal of Health for All by the Year 2000 and responsiveness to women's health needs,

women should be represented in national and local health councils and committees. The employment and working conditions of women health personnel and health workers should be expanded and improved at all levels. Female traditional healers and birth attendants should be more fully and constructively integrated in national health planning.

#### Paragraph 150

Health education should be geared towards changing those attitudes and values and actions that are discriminatory and detrimental to women's and girls' health. Steps should be taken to change the attitudes and health knowledge and composition of health personnel so that there can be an appropriate understanding of women's health needs. A greater sharing by men and women of family and health-care responsibilities should be encouraged. Women must be involved in the formulation and planning of their health education needs. Health education should be available to the entire family not only through the health care system, but also through all appropriate channels and in particular the educational system. To this end, Governments should ensure that information meant to be received by women is relevant to women's health priorities and is suitably presented.

#### Paragraph 151

Promotive, preventive and curative health measures should be strengthened through combined measures and a supportive health infrastructure which, in accordance with the International Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes, should be free of commercial pressure. To provide immediate access to water and sanitary facilities for women, Governments should ensure that women are consulted and involved in the planning and implementation of water and sanitation projects, trained in the maintenance of water-supply systems, and consulted with regard to technologies used in water and sanitation projects. In this regard, recommendations arising from the activities generated by the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade and other public health programmes should be taken into account.

#### Paragraph 152

Governments should take measures to vaccinate children and pregnant women against certain endemic local diseases as well as other diseases as recommended by the vaccination schedule of the World Health Organization and to eliminate any differences in coverage between boys and girls (cf. WHO report EB 75/22). In regions where rubella is prevalent, vaccinations should preferably be given to girls before puberty. Governments should ensure that adequate arrangements are made to preserve the quality of vaccines. Governments should ensure the quality of vaccines. Governments should also ensure the full and informed participation of women in programmes to control chronic and communicable diseases.

#### Paragraph 153

The international community should intensify efforts to eradicate the trafficking, marketing and distribution of unsafe and ineffective drugs and to disseminate information on their ill effects. Those efforts should include educational programmes to promote the proper prescription and informed use of drugs. Efforts should also be strengthened to eliminate all practices detrimental to the health of women and children. Efforts should be made to ensure that all women have access to essential drugs appropriate to their specific needs and as recommended in the WHO List of Essential Drugs as applied in 1978. It is

operative that information on the appropriate use of such drugs is made widely available to all women. When drugs are imported or exported Governments should use the WHO Certification Scheme on the Quality of Pharmaceutical Products Moving in International Commerce.

Paragraph 154

Women should have access to and control over income to provide adequate nutrition for themselves and their children. Also, Governments should foster activities that will increase awareness of the special nutritional needs of women; provide support to ensure sufficient rest in the last trimester of pregnancy and while breast-feeding; and promote interventions to reduce the prevalence of nutritional diseases such as anaemia in women of all ages, particularly young women, and promote the development and use of locally produced weaning food.

Paragraph 155

Appropriate health facilities should be planned, designed, constructed and equipped to be readily accessible and acceptable. Services should be in harmony with the timing and patterns of women's work, as well as with women's needs and perspectives. Maternal and child-care facilities, including family planning services, should be within easy reach of all women. Governments should also ensure that women have the same access as men to affordable curative, preventive and rehabilitative treatment. Wherever possible, measures should be taken to conduct general screening and treatment of women's common diseases and cancer. In view of the unacceptably high levels of maternal mortality in many developing countries, the reduction of maternal mortality from now to the year 2000 to a minimum level should be a key target for Governments and non-governmental organizations, including professional organizations.

Paragraph 156\*

The ability of women to control their own fertility forms an important basis for the enjoyment of other rights. As recognized in the World Population Plan of Action 11/ and reaffirmed at the International Conference on Population, 1984, all couples and individuals have the basic human right to decide freely and informedly the number and spacing of their children; maternal and child health and family-planning components of primary health care should be strengthened; and family-planning information should be produced and services created. Access to such services should be encouraged by Governments irrespective of their population policies and should be carried out with the participation of women's organizations to ensure their success.

Paragraph 157\*

Governments should make available, as a matter of urgency, information, education and the means to assist women and men to take decisions about their desired number of children. To ensure a voluntary and free choice, family-planning education and means should include all medically approved and appropriate methods of family planning. Education for responsible parenthood and family-life education should be widely available and should be directed towards

The Holy See delegation reserved its position with respect to Paragraphs 156 to 159 because it did not agree with the substance of those Paragraphs.

both men and women. Non-governmental organizations, particularly women's organizations, should be involved in such programmes because they can be the most effective media for motivating people at that level.

#### Paragraph 158\*

Recognizing that pregnancy occurring in adolescent girls, whether married or unmarried, has adverse effects on the morbidity and mortality of both mother and child, Governments are urged to develop policies to encourage delay in the commencement of childbearing. Governments should make efforts to raise the age of entry into marriage in countries in which this age is still quite low. Attention should also be given to ensuring that adolescents, both girls and boys, receive adequate information and education.

#### Paragraph 159\*

All Governments should ensure that fertility-control methods and drugs conform to adequate standards of quality, efficiency and safety. This should also apply to organizations responsible for distributing and administering these methods. Information on contraceptives should be made available to women. Programmes of incentives and disincentives should be neither coercive nor discriminatory and should be consistent with internationally recognized human rights, as well as with changing individual and cultural values.

#### Paragraph 160

Governments should encourage local women's organizations to participate in primary health-care activities including traditional medicine, and should devise ways to support women, especially underprivileged women, in taking responsibility for self-care and in promoting community care, particularly in rural areas. More emphasis should be placed on preventive rather than curative measures.

#### Paragraph 161

The appropriate gender-specific indicators for monitoring women's health that have been or are being developed by the World Health Organization should be widely applied and utilized by Governments and other interested organizations in order to develop and sustain measures for treating low-grade ill health and for reducing high morbidity rates among women, particularly when illnesses are psychosomatic or social and cultural in nature. Governments that have not yet done so should establish focal points to carry out such monitoring.

#### Paragraph 162

Occupational health and safety should be enhanced by the public and private sectors. Concern with the occupational health risks should cover female as well as male workers and focus among other things on risks endangering their reproductive capabilities and unborn children. Efforts should equally be directed at the health of pregnant and lactating women, the health impact of new technologies and the harmonization of work and family responsibilities.

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\* The Holy See delegation reserved its position with respect to paragraphs 156 to 159 because it did not agree with the substance of those paragraphs.

## Education

### Paragraph 163

Education is the basis for the full promotion and improvement of the status of women. It is the basic tool that should be given to women in order to fulfil their role as full members of society. Governments should strengthen the participation of women at all levels of national educational policy and in formulating and implementing plans, programmes and projects. Special measures should be adopted to revise and adapt women's education to the realities of the developing world. Existing and new services should be directed to women as intellectuals, policy-makers, decision-makers, planners, contributors and beneficiaries, with particular attention to the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960). Special measures should also be adopted to increase equal access to scientific, technical and vocational education, particularly for young women, and evaluate progress made by the poorest women in urban and rural areas.

### Paragraph 164

Special measures should be taken by Governments and the international organizations, especially UNESCO, to eliminate the high rate of illiteracy by the year 2000, with the support of the international community. Governments should establish targets and adopt appropriate measures for this purpose. While the elimination of illiteracy is important to all, priority programmes are still required to overcome the special obstacles that have generally led to higher illiteracy rates among women than among men. Efforts should be made to promote functional literacy, with special emphasis on health, nutrition and viable economic skills and opportunities, in order to eradicate illiteracy among women and to produce additional material for the eradication of illiteracy. Programmes for legal literacy in low-income urban and rural areas should be initiated and intensified. Raising the level of education among women is important for the general welfare of society and because of its close link to child survival and child spacing.

### Paragraph 165

The causes of high absenteeism and drop-out rates of girls in the educational system must be addressed. Measures must be developed, strengthened and implemented that will, *inter alia*, create the appropriate incentives to ensure that women have an equal opportunity to acquire education at all levels, as well as to apply their education in a work or career context. Such measures should include the strengthening of communication and information systems, the implementation of appropriate legislation and the reorientation of educational personnel. Moreover, governments should encourage and finance adult education programmes for those women who have never completed their studies or were forced to interrupt their studies, owing to family responsibilities, lack of financial resources or early pregnancies.

### Paragraph 166

Efforts should be made to ensure that available scholarships and other forms of support from governmental, non-governmental and private sources are expanded and equitably distributed to girls and boys and that boarding and lodging facilities are equally accessible to them.

#### Paragraph 167

The curricula of public and private schools should be examined, textbooks and other educational materials reviewed and educational personnel retrained in order to eliminate all discriminatory gender stereotyping in education. Educational institutions should be encouraged to expand their curricula to include studies on women's contribution to all aspects of development.

#### Paragraph 168

The Decade has witnessed the rise of centres and programmes of women's studies in response to social forces and to the need for developing a new scholarship and a body of knowledge on women's studies from the perspective of women. Women's studies should be developed to reformulate the current models influencing the constitution of knowledge and sustaining a value system that reinforces inequality. The promotion and application of women's studies inside and outside and conventional institutions of learning will help to create a just and equitable society in which men and women enjoy equal partnership.

#### Paragraph 169

Encouragement and incentives, as well as counselling services, should be provided for girls to study scientific, technical and managerial subjects at all levels, in order to develop and enhance the aptitudes of women for decision-making, management and leadership in these fields.

#### Paragraph 170

All educational and occupational training should be flexible and accessible to both women and men. It should aim to improve employment possibilities and promotion prospects for women including those areas where technologies are improving rapidly, and vocational training programmes, as well as workers' educational schemes dealing with co-operatives, trade unions and work associations, should stress the importance of equal opportunity for women at all levels of work and work-related activities.

#### Paragraph 171

Extensive measures should be taken to diversify women's vocational education and training in order to extend their opportunities for employment in occupations that are non-traditional or are new to women and that are important to development. The present educational system, which in many countries is sharply divided by sex, with girls receiving instruction in home economics and boys in technical subjects, should be altered. Existing vocational training centres should be opened to girls and women instead of continuing a segregated training system.

#### Paragraph 172

A fully integrated system of training, having direct linkages with employment needs, pertinent to future employment and development trends should be created and implemented in order to avoid wastage of human resources.

#### Paragraph 173

Educational programmes to enable men to assume as much responsibility as women in the upbringing of children and the maintenance of the household should be introduced at all levels of the educational system.

## food, water and agriculture

### Paragraph 174

Women, as key food producers in many regions of the world, play a central role in the development and production of food and agriculture, participating actively in all phases of the production cycle, including the conservation, storage, processing and marketing of food and agricultural products. Women therefore make a vital contribution to economic development, particularly in agriculturally based economies, which must be better recognized and rewarded. Development strategies and programmes, as well as incentive programmes and projects in the field of food and agriculture, need to be designed in a manner that fully integrates women at all levels of planning, implementation, monitoring evaluation in all stages of the development process of a project cycle, so as to facilitate and enhance this key role of women and to ensure that women receive proper benefits and remuneration commensurate with their important contribution in this field. Moreover, women should be fully integrated and involved in the technological research and energy aspects of food and agricultural development.

### Paragraph 175

During the Decade, the significant contribution of women to agricultural development has been more widely recognized, particularly their contribution in working hours to agricultural, fishery and forestry production and conservation, and to various parts of the food system. There are indications, however, that poverty and landlessness among rural women will increase significantly by the year 2000. In order to stem this trend, Governments should implement, as a matter of priority, equitable and stable investment and growth policies for rural development to ensure that there is a reallocation of the country's resources which, in many cases, are largely derived from the rural areas but allocated to urban development.

### Paragraph 176

Governments should establish multisectoral programmes to promote the productive capacity of rural poor women in food and animal production, create off-farm employment opportunities, reduce their work-load, inter alia, by supporting the establishment of adequate child-care facilities and that of their children, reverse their pauperization, improve their access to all sources of energy, and provide them with adequate water, health, education, effective extension services and transportation within their region. In this connection it should be noted that the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, held at Rome in 1979, 12/ recognized women's vital role in the socio-economic life in both agricultural and non-agricultural activities as a prerequisite for successful rural development policies, planning and programmes, and proposed specific measures for improving their condition, which are still valid. The Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women also included specific measures to improve the situation of women in food and agriculture, which remain a valid guide for action.

### Paragraph 177

The General Assembly, in resolution 39/165 on the critical situation of food production and agriculture in Africa, confirmed the growing concern of the international community at the dramatic deterioration in African food and agricultural production and the resulting alarming increase in the number of



people, especially women and children, exposed to hunger, malnutrition and even starvation. Concrete measures and adequate resources for the benefit of African women should be a priority. The international community, particularly donor countries, should be urged to assist African women by continuing and, where possible, by increasing financial assistance to enhance the role of women as food producers, with an emphasis on providing training in food technologies, thereby alleviating the problems of the continent resulting from extended drought and a severe shortage of food. Donor countries should also contribute to the special funds that have been launched by various organizations - for example, the United Nations Development Fund for Women. Emergency assistance should be increased and accelerated to alleviate the suffering of starving and dying women and children under famine conditions in Africa. Furthermore, given the critical food situation in Africa, aggravated inter alia by demographic pressures, the international community is urged to give priority to and provide support for the efforts of the African countries to overcome this serious situation. These efforts include the Lagos Plan of Action and the Nairobi Programme of Action, as well as the consultation by African Governments on the role of women in food production and food security.

#### Paragraph 178

Governments should give priority to supporting effective participation by women in food production and in food security programmes and should develop specific plans of action for this purpose. This would ensure that resources are directed towards women's programmes, that women are integrated in all mainstream rural development projects and that projects are located within technical ministries as well as ministries of social affairs. Governments should promote integrated solutions, such as national food policies, which are diversified according to specific natural regions for the improvement of self-reliance in food production, instead of resorting to palliatives or fragmented remedies.

#### Paragraph 179

Mechanisms should also include monitoring and evaluation and, where necessary, should modify the allocation of resources between women and men in mixed projects; should restructure rural development schemes to respond to women's needs; should assess women's projects in terms of technical and economic viability, as well as on social grounds; and should develop gender-specific statistics and information that reflect accurately women's contribution to food staples. Women's participation in programmes and projects to promote food security should be enhanced by providing them with opportunities to hold official positions, to receive training in leadership, administration and financial management and to organize on a co-operative basis. Research and experimentation should be conducted on food production and storage techniques to improve traditional knowledge and introduce modern technology.

#### Paragraph 180

Animal husbandry, fishery and forestry programmes should give greater attention to the effective participation of women as contributors and beneficiaries. Similarly, all other off-farm rural production programmes, as well as rural settlement, health, educational and social service programmes, should secure the participation of women as planners, contributors and beneficiaries.



#### Paragraph 181

Also important are the dissemination of information to rural women through national information campaigns, using all available media and established women's groups; the exposure of local populations to innovation and creativity through open-air films, talks, visits to areas where needs are similar, and demonstrations of scientific and technological innovations; the participation of women farmers in research and information campaigns; and the involvement of women in technical co-operation among developing countries and the exchange of information.

#### Paragraph 182

Rural women's access to land, capital, technology, know-how and other productive resources should be secured. Women should be given full and effective rights to land ownership, registration of land titles and allocation of tenancies on irrigation or settlement schemes and should also benefit from land reform. Women's customary land and inheritance rights under conditions of land shortage, land improvement or shifts into cash-cropping should be protected. Implementation of inheritance laws should be modified so that women can inherit a fair share of livestock, agricultural machinery and other property. Women's access to investment finance to increase their productivity and income should be supported by removing legal and institutional restrictions and by promoting women's savings groups and co-operatives and intermediary institutions, as well as training in and assistance with financial management, savings and investments and reallocation of land resources, with priority placed on production, especially of staple foods.

#### Paragraph 183

Women should be integrated into modern technology programmes that introduce new crops and improved varieties, rotation of crops, mixed farming, mixed and intercropping systems, low-cost soil fertility techniques, soil and water conservation methods and other modern improvements. In this connection, women's involvement in the construction, management and maintenance of irrigation schemes should be promoted.

#### Paragraph 184

Appropriate food-processing technologies can free women from time- and energy-consuming tasks and thus effect improvements in their health. Appropriate technologies can also increase the productivity and income of women, either directly or by freeing them to engage in other activities. Such technologies should be designed and introduced, however, in a manner that ensures women's access to the new technology and to its benefits and does not displace women from means of livelihood when alternative opportunities are not available. Appropriate labour-saving technologies should utilize local human and material resources and inexpensive sources of energy. The design, testing and dissemination of the technology should be appropriate also to the women who will be the users. Non-governmental organizations can play a valuable role in this process. Appropriate and affordable food-processing technologies should be made widely available to rural women, along with appropriate and affordable storage, marketing and transportation facilities to reduce post-harvest and income losses. Information on improved methods which have been ecologically confirmed of reducing post-harvest food loss and of preserving and conserving food products should be widely disseminated.

Paragraph 185

Financial, technical, advisory and institutional support should be provided to women's organizations and groups to enhance the self-reliance of rural women. Women's co-operatives should be promoted to operate on a larger scale by improving farm input provisions, primary processing and the wholesale marketing of women's production. Comprehensive support should be given to women's organizations to facilitate the acquisition of farm inputs and information and to facilitate the marketing of produce.

Paragraph 186

Governments should set targets for increased extension contracts with rural women, reorient the training of male extension workers and train adequate numbers of female extension workers. Women should be given access to training programmes at different levels that develop various types of skills to widen the range of methods and technologies used for agricultural production.

Paragraph 187

Governments should involve women in the mobilization and distribution of food aid in countries affected by the drought, as well as in the fight against desertification, through large-scale afforestation campaigns (planting of woodlots, collective farms and seedlings).

Paragraph 188

Governments should pay greater attention to the preservation and the maintenance free from pollution of any kind of sources of water supply for irrigation and domestic consumption, applying special remedial measures to relieve the burden placed on women by the task of fetching water. To this end, they should construct wells, bore-holes, dams and locally made water-catchment devices sufficient for all irrigation and domestic needs, including those of livestock. Women should be included by Governments and agencies in all policy planning, implementation and administration of water supply projects and trained to take responsibility for the management of hydraulic infrastructures and equipment and for its maintenance.

Industry

Paragraph 189

The problems related to the industrial development of the developing countries reflect the dependent nature of their economies and the need to promote transformation industries based on domestic agricultural production as a fundamental issue of development. Women are an important part of the agricultural work-force; therefore, there should be special interest in the promotion of the technical training of women in this particular field. In this respect, Governments should take into account the following recommendations:

- (a) There should be a link between agriculture and industry;
- (b) Steps should be taken to eliminate the particular obstacles to industrialization and to the participation of women in industry, such as energy, the limited markets of some developing countries, the rural exodus, poor infrastructure, a lack of technical know-how, the dependence of the industries of some countries and a lack of financial resources;

to participate in adult education and in-service programmes that teach not only literacy but also saleable income-generating skills, and by encouraging women to participate in collective organizations, including trade unions;

(d) Industrial co-operation among developing countries should be promoted by creating subregional industries;

(e) International organizations and developed countries should assist developing countries in their industrialization effort and the integration of women in that process.

Paragraph 190

Governments should ensure that, at all levels of the planning process, women participate both directly in decision-making and indirectly through effective consultation with the potential beneficiaries of programmes and projects. To this end, resources should be allocated to prepare women, through training, vocational guidance and career counselling and through increased incentives and other support measures, for increased participation in policy-making and decision-making roles and to integrate them by means of special measures at all levels.

Paragraph 191

Women should be viewed as users and agents of change in science and technology, and their technological and managerial skills should be enhanced in order to increase national self-reliance in industrial production and to promote innovations in productive design, product adaptation and production techniques. At the same time, industrial technologies should be applied appropriately to the needs and situations of women so as to free them from time- and energy-consuming tasks.

Paragraph 192

The introduction of advanced technologies in industry in particular, must allow women to enter into sectors from which they have been so far excluded.

Paragraph 193

Governments should direct their efforts to expanding women's employment opportunities in the modern, traditional and self-employed sectors of both the rural and urban economy and to avoiding the exploitation of female labour. Efforts to improve the absolute and relative levels of women's earnings and working conditions should be directed simultaneously to all three sectors.

Paragraph 194

In accordance with accepted international labour standards, particularly, not exclusively, in the field of female employment, appropriate legislation should be adopted and fully implemented at the national level. Specific attention should be given to the removal of discriminatory practices concerning working conditions, health and safety, and to guaranteeing provisions for women and maternity benefits and child care. Social security benefits, including unemployment benefits, should be guaranteed to women on an equal footing with men. Recruitment of female workers in existing or new capital-intensive, productivity sectors should be encouraged.

#### Paragraph 195

Governments should recognize the importance of improving the conditions and structure of the informal sector for national industrial development and the role of women within it. Traditional craft and cottage industries, as well as the small industrial efforts of women, should be supported with credits, training facilities, marketing opportunities and technological guidance. To this end, producers' co-operatives should be supported and women should be encouraged to establish, manage and own small enterprises.

#### Paragraph 196

Governments should design and promote as well as encourage the design and promotion of programmes and should allocate resources to prepare women to take up traditional and non-traditional industrial activities in organized and small enterprises, as well as in the informal sector, through innovative approaches to training, and should prepare and disseminate training materials and provide training to the trainers. They should support self-employment initiatives and offer guidance and career counselling.

#### Trade and commercial services

#### Paragraph 197

Governments should recognize the potential impact of short-term economic adjustment policies on women in the areas of trade and commerce. Government policies should promote the full participation and integration of women in these areas. Alternative sources of finance and new markets should be sought to maintain and increase women's participation in these activities. Not only should appropriate measures be taken to ensure that legal and administrative impediments that prevent women from enjoying effective and equal access to finance and credit are removed but in addition positive measures such as loan guarantees, technical advice and marketing development services should be introduced.

#### Paragraph 198

Governments should also recognize the positive contribution of women traders to local and national economies and should adopt policies to assist and organize these women. The infrastructure and management of markets, transportation and social services should be improved to increase the efficiency, security and income of women traders and to reduce their work-load and the hazards to their health, as well as to avoid wastage of marketable produce. Training opportunities in bookkeeping, finance, packaging, standardization and processing technology should be provided to women traders. Such training should also aim at opening up employment opportunities to these women in other marketing and credit institutions. Governments should design innovative mechanisms to provide women traders with access to credit and to encourage the establishment and reinforcement of women's trade associations.

#### Paragraph 199

Efforts should be made to encourage enterprises to train women in economic sectors that traditionally have been closed to them, to promote diversification of women's employment and to eliminate gender bias from labour markets.

## Science and technology

### Paragraph 200

The full and effective participation of women in the decision-making and implementation process related to science and technology, including planning and setting priorities for research and development, and the choice, acquisition, adaptation, innovation and application of science and technology for development should be enhanced. Governments should reassess their technological capabilities and monitor current processes of change so as to anticipate and ameliorate any adverse impact on women, particularly adverse effects upon the quality of job.

### Paragraph 201

The involvement of women in all of the peaceful uses of outer space should be enhanced, and effective measures should be undertaken to integrate women into all levels of decision-making and the implementation of such activities. In all countries special efforts should be made by Governments and non-governmental organizations to provide women and women's organizations with information on the peaceful uses of outer space. Special incentives should be provided to enable women to obtain advanced education and training in areas related to outer space in order to expand their participation in the application of outer space technology for peaceful uses, especially in the high-priority development areas of water, health, energy, food production and nutrition. To achieve these goals, increased opportunities and encouragement should be given to women to study science, mathematics and engineering at the university level and to girls to study mathematics and science at the pre-university level.

### Paragraph 202

Women with appropriate skills should be employed at managerial and professional levels and not restricted to service-level jobs. Special measures should be taken to improve working conditions for women in the science and technology fields, to eliminate discriminatory classification of jobs and to protect the right of women to promotion. Efforts should be made to ensure that women obtain their fair share of jobs at all levels in new technology industries.

### Paragraph 203

Major efforts should be undertaken and effective incentives created to increase the access of women to both scientific and technological education and training. To achieve these goals, efforts should be made by Governments and women themselves to enhance, where necessary, the change of attitudes towards women's performance in scientific fields.

### Paragraph 204

The potential and actual impact of science and technology on the developments that affect women's integration into the various sectors of the economy, as well as their health, income and status, should be assessed. Relevant findings should be integrated in policy formulation to ensure that women benefit fully from available technologies and that any adverse effects are minimized.

Paragraph 205

Efforts in the design and delivery of appropriate technology to women should be intensified, and attention should be given to the achievement of the best possible standard in such technologies. In particular, the implications of advances in medical technology for women should be carefully examined.

Communications

Paragraph 206

In view of the critical role of this sector in eliminating stereotyped images of women and providing women with easier access to information, the participation of women at all levels of communications policy and decision-making and in programme design, implementation and monitoring should be given high priority. The media's portrayal of stereotyped images of women and also that of the advertising industry can have a profoundly adverse effect on attitudes towards and among women. Women should be made an integral part of the decision-making concerning the choice and development of alternative forms of communication and should have an equal say in the determination of the content of all public information efforts. The cultural media, involving ritual, drama, dialogue, oral literature and music, should be integrated in all development efforts to enhance communication. Women's own cultural projects aimed at changing the traditional images of women and men should be promoted and women should have equal access to financial support. In the field of communication, there is ample scope for international co-operation regarding information related to the sharing of experience by women and to projecting activities concerning the role of women in development and peace in order to enhance the awareness of both accomplishments and the tasks that remain to be fulfilled.

Paragraph 207

The enrolment of women in publicly operated mass communication networks and in education and training should be increased. The employment of women within the sector should be promoted and directed towards professional, advisory and decision-making positions.

Paragraph 208

Organizations aimed at promoting the role of women in development as contributors and beneficiaries should be assisted in their efforts to establish effective communications and information networks.

Housing, settlement, community development and transport

Paragraph 209

Governments should integrate women in the formulation of policies, programmes and projects for the provision of basic shelter and infrastructure. To this end, enrolment of women in architectural, engineering and related fields should be encouraged, and qualified women graduates in these fields should be assigned to professional and policy-making and decision-making positions. The shelter and infrastructural needs of women should be assessed and specifically incorporated in housing, community development, and slum and squatter projects.

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#### Paragraph 210

Women and women's groups should be participants in and equal beneficiaries of housing and infrastructure construction projects. They should be consulted in the choice of design and technology of construction and should be involved in the management and maintenance of the facilities. To this end, women should be provided with construction, maintenance and management skills and should be participants in related training and educational programmes. Special attention must be given to the provision of adequate water to all communities, in consultation with women.

#### Paragraph 211

Housing credit schemes should be reviewed and women's direct access to housing construction and improvement credits secured. In this connection, programmes aimed at increasing the possibilities of sources of income for women should be promoted and existing legislation or administrative practices endangering women's ownership and tenancy rights should be revoked.

#### Paragraph 212

Government efforts for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless <sup>13/</sup> should incorporate assessments of the shelter needs of women and encourage the design and implementation of innovative projects that will increase women's access to services and finance. In these efforts special attention should be paid to women who are the sole supporters of their families. Low-cost housing and facilities should be designed for such women.

#### Paragraph 213

All measures to increase the efficiency of land, water and air transportation should be formulated with due regard to women as producers and consumers. All national and local decisions concerning transportation policies, including subsidies, pricing, choice of technology for construction and maintenance, and means of transport, should consider women's needs and should be based on consideration of the possible impact on the employment, income and health of women.

#### Paragraph 214

Women's roles as operators and owners of means of transport should be promoted through greater access to credit for women and other appropriate means and equal consideration with regard to the allocation of contracts. This is particularly important for women's groups and collectives, especially in rural areas, that are usually well organized but are cut off from serviceable means of transport and communication.

#### Paragraph 215

Rural transportation planning in developing countries should aim at reducing the heavy burden on women who carry agricultural produce, water and fuelwood as head-loads. In exploring modes of transportation, efforts should be made to avoid loss of income and employment for women by introducing costs that may be too high for them.

Paragraph 216

In the choice of modes of transportation and the design of transport routes, the increasing ratio of women whose income is essential for family survival should be taken into account.

Paragraph 217

In the design and choice of both commercial and appropriate vehicular technology, the needs of women, especially those with young children, should be taken into consideration. Institutional support to give women access to appropriate vehicles should be provided.

Energy

Paragraph 218

Measures developed to rationalize energy consumption and to improve energy systems, especially of hydrocarbons, and to increase technical training should be formulated with a view to women as producers, users and managers of energy sources.

Paragraph 219

In conventional and non-conventional national energy programmes, women should be integrated as contributors and beneficiaries with a view to their needs, as determined by specific socio-cultural factors at local and national levels and in both rural and urban contexts. Assessment of new energy sources, energy technologies and energy-delivery systems should specifically consider the reduction of the drudgery that constitutes a large part of the work of poor urban and rural women.

Paragraph 220

The grass-roots participation of women in energy-needs assessment, technology and energy conservation, management and maintenance efforts should be supported.

Paragraph 221

Priority should be given to substituting energy for muscle in the performance of the industrial and domestic work of women without loss of their jobs and tasks to men. In view of the high percentage of domestic use in total energy consumption in low-income countries, the implications of increasing energy costs, and the current threats posed by inflation, immediate attention should be directed towards action concerning adapted technologies, fuel conservation and improved or new sources of energy, such as biomass, solar and wind energy, geothermal and nuclear energy, as well as mini-hydroelectric power plants. Improved stoves should be designed and disseminated to reduce the drudgery involved in the collection of fuel by women.

Paragraph 222

In order to prevent depletion of the forest areas on which most rural women rely for much of their energy needs and income, innovative programmes, such as farm woodlot development, should be initiated with the involvement of both women and men. In the commercialization of fuelwood energy, measures should be taken to

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avoid the loss of women's income to middlemen and urban industries. Development of fuelwood plantations, diffusion of fast-growing varieties of trees and technologies for more efficient production of charcoal should be accelerated with a view to poor rural and urban women being the major beneficiaries. The use of solar energy and biogas should be promoted with due regard to affordability, as well as to use and management by women who are the principal consumers.

#### Paragraph 223

The involvement of women at all levels of decision-making and implementation of energy-related decisions including peaceful use of nuclear energy should be enhanced. Special efforts should be made by Governments and non-governmental organizations to provide women and women's organizations with information on all sources and uses of energy, including nuclear energy. Special incentives should be provided to enable women to obtain advanced levels of education and training in all energy-related areas in order to expand their participation in decision-making relating to the application of nuclear technology for peaceful uses especially in high priority development areas of water, health, energy, food production and nutrition. To achieve these goals, increased opportunities and encouragement should be given to women to study science, mathematics and engineering at the university level and for girls to study mathematics and science at the pre-university level.

#### Environment

#### Paragraph 224

Deprivation of traditional means of livelihood is most often a result of environmental degradation resulting from such natural and man-made disasters as droughts, floods, hurricanes, erosion, desertification, deforestation and inappropriate land use. Such conditions have already pushed great numbers of poor women into marginal environments where critically low levels of water supplies, shortages of fuel, over-utilization of grazing and arable lands and population density have deprived them of their livelihood. Most seriously affected are women in drought-afflicted arid and semi-arid areas and in urban slums and squatter settlements. These women need options for alternative means of livelihood. Women should have the same opportunity as men to participate in the wage-earning labour force in such programmes as irrigation and tree planting and in other programmes aimed to upgrade urban and rural environments. Urgent steps need to be taken to strengthen the machinery for international economic co-operation in the exploration of water resources and the control of desertification and other environmental disasters.

#### Paragraph 225

Efforts to improve sanitary conditions, including drinking water supplies, in communities should be strengthened, especially in urban slums and squatter settlements and in rural areas, with due regard to relevant environmental factors. These efforts should be extended to include improvements of the home and the work environment and should be effected with the participation of women at all levels in the planning and implementation process.

#### Paragraph 226

Awareness by individual women and all types of women's organizations of environmental issues and the capacity of women and men to manage their environment

and sustain productive resources should be enhanced. All sources of information dissemination should be mobilized to increase the self-help potential of women in conserving and improving their environment. National and international emphasis on ecosystem management and the control of environmental degradation should be strengthened and women should be recognized as active and equal participants in this process.

#### Paragraph 227

The environmental impact of policies, programmes and projects on women's health and activities, including their sources of employment and income, should be assessed and the negative effects eliminated.

#### Social services

#### Paragraph 228

Governments are urged to give priority to the development of social infrastructure, such as adequate care and education for the children of working parents, whether such work is carried out at home, in the fields or in factories, to reduce the "double burden" of working women in both urban and rural areas. Likewise they are urged to offer incentives to employers to provide adequate child-care services which meet the requirements of parents regarding opening hours. Employers should allow either parent to work flexible hours in order to share the responsibilities of child care. Simultaneously, Governments and non-governmental organizations should mobilize the mass media and other means of communication to ensure public consensus on the need for men and society as a whole to share with women the responsibilities of producing and rearing children, who represent the human resource capabilities of the future.

#### Paragraph 229

Governments should further establish ways and means of assisting women consumers through the provision of information and the creation of legislation that will increase consumer consciousness and protect consumers from unsafe goods, dangerous drugs, unhealthy foods and unethical and exploitative marketing practices.\* Non-governmental organizations should work towards establishing strong and active organizations for consumer protection.

#### Paragraph 230

Public expenditure directed towards health, education and training and towards providing health-care and child-care services for women should be increased.

#### Paragraph 231

Governments should undertake effective measures, including mobilizing community resources, to identify, prevent and eliminate all violence, including family violence, against women and children and to provide shelter, support and reorientation services for abused women and children. These measures should notably be aimed at making women conscious that maltreatment is not an incurable

\* The General Assembly adopted guidelines for consumer protection in resolution 39/248 of 9 April 1985.

phenomenon, but a blow to their physical and moral integrity, against which they have the right (and the duty) to fight, whether they are themselves the victims or the witnesses. Beyond these urgent protective measures for maltreated women and children, as well as repressive measures for the authors of this maltreatment, it would be proper to set in motion long-term supportive machineries of aid and guidance for maltreated women and children, as well as the people, often men, who maltreat them.

### III. PEACE

#### A. Obstacles

##### Paragraph 232

The threat to peace resulting from continuing international tension and violations of the United Nations Charter, resulting in the unabated arms race, in particular in the nuclear field, as well as wars, armed conflicts, external domination, foreign occupation, acquisition of land by force, aggression, imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, apartheid, gross violation of human rights, terrorism, repression, the disappearance of persons and discrimination on the basis of sex are major obstacles to human progress, specifically to the advancement of women.

##### Paragraph 233

Such obstacles, some of which occur with increasing frequency, continually reinforce and are reinforced by historically established hostile attitudes, ignorance and bigotry between countries, ethnic groups, races, sexes, socio-economic groups and by lack of tolerance and respect for different cultures and traditions. Their negative effects are increased by poverty, tensions in international economic and political relations which are often aggravated, as well as by the arms race, both nuclear and conventional. The arms race in particular diverts resources which could be used for developmental and humanitarian purposes, hinders national and international development efforts and further handicaps the well-being of the poorest nations and the most disadvantaged segments of the population.

##### Paragraph 234

Despite the achievements of the Decade, women's involvement in governmental and non-governmental activities, decision-making processes related to peace, mobilization efforts for peace, education for peace and peace research remains limited. Their participation in the struggle to eradicate colonialism, neo-colonialism, imperialism, totalitarianism including fascism and similar ideologies, alien occupation, foreign domination, aggression, racism, racial discrimination, apartheid and other violations of human rights has often gone unnoticed.

##### Paragraph 235

Universal and durable peace cannot be attained without the full and equal participation of women in international relations, particularly in decision-making concerning peace, including the processes envisaged for the peaceful settlement of disputes under the Charter of the United Nations nor without overcoming the obstacles mentioned in paragraph 232.

Paragraph 236

Full equality between women and men is severely hampered by the threats to international peace and security, lack of satisfying progress in the field of disarmament, including the spread of the arms race to outer space, violation of the principle of the right of peoples under alien and colonial domination and foreign occupation to self-determination and independence and respect for the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of States as well as justice, equality and mutual benefit in international relations.

Paragraph 237

It is evident that women all over the world have manifested their love for peace and their wish to play a greater role in international co-operation, amity and peace among different nations. All obstacles at national and international levels in the way of women's participation in promoting international peace and co-operation should be removed as soon as possible.

Paragraph 238

It is equally important to increase women's understanding and awareness of constructive negotiations aimed at reaching positive results for international peace and security. Governments should take measures to encourage the full and effective participation of women in negotiations on international peace and security. The rejection of the use of force or of the threat of the use of force and foreign interference and intervention should become widespread.

B. Basic strategies

Paragraph 239

The main principles and directions for women's activities aimed at strengthening peace and formulated in the Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace and Co-operation 7/ should be put into practice. The Declaration calls for Governments, the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, relevant institutions and individuals to strengthen women's participation in this sphere and it provides the overall framework for such activities.

Paragraph 240

Women and men have an equal right and the same vital interest in contributing to international peace and co-operation. Women should participate fully in all efforts to strengthen and maintain international peace and security and to promote international co-operation, diplomacy, the process of détente, disarmament in the nuclear field in particular, and respect for the principle of the Charter of the United Nations, including respect for the sovereign rights of States, guarantees of fundamental freedoms and human rights, such as recognition of the dignity of the individual and self-determination, and freedom of thought, conscience, expression, association, assembly, communication and movement without distinction as to race, sex, political and religious beliefs, language or ethnic origin. The commitment to remove the obstacles to women's participation in the promotion of peace should be strengthened.

#### Paragraph 241

In view of the fact that women are still very inadequately represented in national and international political processes dealing with peace and conflict settlement, it is essential that women support and encourage each other in their initiatives and action relating either to universal issues, such as disarmament and the development of confidence-building measures between nations and people, or to specific conflict situations between or within States.

#### Paragraph 242

There exist situations in several regions of the world where the violation of principles of non-use of force, non-intervention, non-interference, non-aggression and the right to self-determination endangers international peace and security and creates massive humanitarian problems which constitute an impediment to the advancement of women and hence to the full implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies. In regard to these situations strict adherence to and respect for the cardinal principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and implementation of relevant resolutions consistent with the principles of the Charter are an imperative requirement with a view to seeking solutions to such problems, thereby ensuring a secure and better future for the people affected, most of whom are invariably women and children.

#### Paragraph 243

Since women are one of the most vulnerable groups in the regions affected by armed conflicts, special attention has to be drawn to the need to eliminate obstacles to the fulfilment of the objectives of equality, development and peace and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

#### Paragraph 244

One of the important obstacles to achieving international peace is the persistent violation of the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations and the lack of political will of Governments of some countries to promote constructive negotiations aimed at decreasing international tension on the issues that seriously threaten the maintenance of international peace and security. For this reason, the strategies in this field should include the mobilization of women in favour of all acts and actions that tend to promote peace, in particular, the elimination of wars and danger of nuclear war.

#### Paragraph 245

Immediate and special priority should be given to the promotion and the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to sex, the full application of the rights of peoples to self-determination and the elimination of colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, all forms of racism and racial discrimination, oppression and aggression, foreign occupation, as well as domestic violence and violence against women.

#### Paragraph 246

In South-West Asia women and children have endured serious suffering owing to violation of the Charter of the United Nations, leading, among other things, to a vast problem of refugees in neighbouring countries.

Paragraph 247

The situation of violence and destabilization that exists in Central America constitutes the most serious obstacle to the achievement of peace in the region and thus hinders the fulfilment of the Forward-looking Strategies vital to the advancement of women. In this regard and to promote conditions favourable to the objectives of the Strategies, it is important to reiterate the principles of non-intervention and self-determination, as well as the non-use of force or rejection of the threat of use of force in the solution of conflicts in the region. Therefore, the validity of the United Nations resolutions that establish the right of all sovereign States in the area to live in peace, free from all interference in their internal affairs, should be reaffirmed. It is necessary to support the negotiated political solutions and the peace proposals that the Central American States adopt under the auspices of the Contadora Group, as the most viable alternative for the solution of the crisis in Central America for the benefit of their people. In this sense it is important that the five Central American Governments speed up their consultations with the Contadora Group with the aim of bringing to a conclusion the negotiation process with the early signing of the Contadora Act on Peace and Co-operation in Central America (see A/39/562-S/16775, annex).

Paragraph 248

Women have played and continue to play an important role in the self-determination of peoples, including through national liberation, in accordance with the United Nations Charter. Their efforts should be recognized and commended and used as one basis for their full participation in the construction of their countries, and in the creation of humane and just social and political systems. Women's contribution in this area should be ensured by their equal access to political power and their full participation in the decision-making process.

Paragraph 249

Strategies at the national, regional and the global levels should be based on a clear recognition that peace and security, self-determination and national independence are fundamental for the attainment of the three objectives of the Decade: equality, development and peace.

Paragraph 250

Safeguarding world peace and averting a nuclear catastrophe is one of the most important tasks today in which women have an essential role to play, especially by supporting actively the halting of the arms race followed by arms reduction and the attainment of a general and complete disarmament under effective international control, and thus contributing to the improvement of their economic position. Irrespective of their socio-economic system, the States should strive to avoid confrontation and to build friendly relations instead, which should be also supported by women.

Paragraph 251

Peace requires the participation of all members of society, women and men alike, in rejecting any type of intervention in the domestic affairs of States, whether it is openly or covertly carried out by other States or by transnational corporations. Peace also requires that women and men alike should promote respect

for the sovereign right of a State to establish its own economic, social and political system without undergoing political and economic pressures or coercion of any type.

Paragraph 252

There exists a relationship between the world economic situation, development and the strengthening of international peace and security, disarmament and the relaxation of international tension. All efforts should be made to reduce global expenditures on armaments and to reach an agreement on the internationally agreed disarmament goals in order to prevent the waste of immense material and human resources, some part of which might otherwise be used for development, especially of the developing countries, as well as for the improvement of standards of living and well-being of people in each country. In this context, particular attention should be given to the advancement of women, including to the participation of women in the promotion of international peace and co-operation and the protection of mothers and children who represent a disproportionate share of the most vulnerable group, the poorest of the poor.

Paragraph 253

Women's equal role in decision-making with respect to peace and related issues should be seen as one of their basic human rights and as such should be enhanced and encouraged at the national, regional and international levels. In accordance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, all existing impediments to the achievement by women of equality with men should be removed. To this end, efforts should be intensified at all levels to overcome prejudices, stereotyped thinking, denial to women of career prospects and appropriate educational possibilities, and resistance by decision-makers to the changes that are necessary to enable equal participation of women with men in the international and diplomatic service.

Paragraph 254

Mankind is confronted with a choice: to halt the arms race and proceed to disarmament or face annihilation. The growing opposition of women to the danger of war, especially a nuclear war, which will lead to a nuclear holocaust, and their support for disarmament must be respected. States should be encouraged to ensure unhindered flow and access to information, including to women, with regard to various aspects of disarmament to avoid dissemination of false and tendentious information concerning armaments and to concentrate on the danger of the escalation of the arms race and on the need for general and complete disarmament under effective international control. The resources released as a result of disarmament measures should be used to help promote the well-being of all peoples and improve the economic and social conditions of the developing countries. Under such conditions, States should pay increased attention to the urgent need to improve the situation of women.

Paragraph 255

Peace education should be established for all members of society, particularly children and young people. Values, such as tolerance, racial and sexual equality, respect for and understanding of others, and good-neighbourliness should be developed, promoted and strengthened.



Paragraph 256

Women of the world, together with men, should, as informal educators and socialization agents, play a special role in the process of bringing up younger generations in an atmosphere of compassion, tolerance, mutual concern and trust, with an awareness that all people belong to the same world community. Such education should be part of all formal and informal educational processes as well as of communications, information and mass-media systems.

Paragraph 257

Further action should be taken at family and neighbourhood levels, as well as at national and international levels, to achieve a peaceful social environment compatible with human dignity. The questions of women and peace and the meaning of peace for women cannot be separated from the broader question of relationships between women and men in all spheres of life and in the family. Discriminatory practices and negative attitudes towards women should be eliminated and traditional gender norms changed to enhance women's participation in peace.

Paragraph 258

Violence against women exists in various forms in everyday life in all societies. Women are beaten, mutilated, burned, sexually abused and raped. Such violence is a major obstacle to the achievement of peace and the other objectives of the Decade and should be given special attention. Women victims of violence should be given particular attention and comprehensive assistance. To this end, legal measures should be formulated to prevent violence and to assist women victims. National machinery should be established in order to deal with the question of violence against women within the family and society. Preventive policies should be elaborated, and institutionalized forms of assistance to women victims provided.

C. Women and children under apartheid

Paragraph 259\*

Women and children under apartheid and other racist minority régimes suffer from direct inhumane practices such as massacres and detention, mass population removal, separation from families and immobilization in reservations. They are subjected to the detrimental implications of the labour migrant system pass laws and of relegation to the homelands where they suffer disproportionately from poverty, poor health and illiteracy. The Programme of Action of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (1978) 14/ provides an overall framework for action. Its objective is to eradicate apartheid and to enable black African people in South Africa to enjoy their full sovereign rights in their country. Governments that have not already done so are urged to sign and ratify the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid of 30 November 1973. 15/

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\* The United States voted against paragraph 259 because of its opposition to the references in the eighth and ninth subparagraphs to the imposition of sanctions and aid to liberation movements.



Full international assistance should be given to the most oppressed group under apartheid - women and children. The United Nations system, Governments and non-governmental organizations should identify the basic needs of women and children under apartheid and other racist minority régimes, including women in refugee camps in southern Africa, and provide them with adequate legal, humanitarian, medical and material assistance as well as education, training and employment.

Assistance should be given to women's sections in national liberation movements in order to strengthen their work for women's equal opportunities, education and training so as to prepare them to play an important political role in the present struggle and in nation-building after liberation.

The Forward-looking Strategies should take into account the destabilizing effects of apartheid on the economic infrastructure of neighbouring independent African States, which impede the development of the subregion.

Institutionalized apartheid in South Africa and Namibia as realized in the day-to-day political, legal, social and cultural life remains an enormous obstacle and hindrance to advancement, equality and peace in the African region.

The Forward-looking Strategies should aim at the speedy and effective implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) concerning the independence of Namibia. The total and unconditional liberation of Namibia should be a major objective of the Forward-looking Strategies, which should also aim at the improvement of the condition of women and children.

The United Nations and the international community must strengthen their resolve to see the abhorrent apartheid system eradicated and Namibia freed from the forces of occupation. Owing to South Africa's position in the international political and economic structure, the international community has the greatest responsibility to ensure that peace and human dignity are restored to southern Africa.

In addition to measures already taken, further effective measures, including sanctions, should be taken to terminate all collaboration with the racist régime of South Africa in the political, military, diplomatic and economic fields with a view to eliminating untold misery and loss of life of the oppressed people, the majority of whom are black women and children.

The international community must insist upon the effective implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) concerning the independence of Namibia and all the United Nations resolutions calling for sanctions against South Africa, its isolation and abandonment of its racist policies. All efforts should be made for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of South African forces from Angola.

The international community must condemn the direct aggression committed by the armed forces of the racist régime of South Africa against the front-line countries as well as the recruitment, training and financing of mercenaries and of armed bandits who massacre women and children and who are used to overthrow the legitimate Governments of these countries by reason of their support for the people of South Africa and Namibia.

The international community should provide greater moral and material assistance to all the bodies struggling to remove apartheid, especially the

national liberation movements - the African National Congress of South Africa, the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania and the South West Africa People's Organization - the African front-line States, the Organization of African Unity, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and non-governmental organizations.

Women, together with their Governments, should strengthen their commitment to the eradication of apartheid and support to their struggling sisters in all possible ways. To this end, women and women's organizations should keep themselves constantly informed about the situation of women and children under apartheid, disseminate information widely and build up awareness in their countries about the situation by organizing national solidarity and support committees where these do not yet exist as a means to educate the public about the evils of apartheid and its brutal oppression of women and children in South Africa and Namibia.

#### D. Palestinian women and children

##### Paragraph 260\*

For more than three decades, Palestinian women have faced difficult living conditions in camps and outside, struggling for the survival of their families and the survival of the Palestinian people who were deprived of their ancestral lands and denied the inalienable rights to return to their homes and their property, their right to self-determination, national independence and sovereignty (see A/CONF.116/6). Palestinian women are vulnerable to imprisonment, torture, reprisals and other oppressive practices by Israel in the occupied Arab territories. The confiscation of land and the creation of further settlements has affected the lives of Palestinian women and children. Such Israeli measures and practices are a violation of the Geneva Convention. 16/ The Palestinian woman as part of her nation suffers from discrimination in employment, health care and education.

The situation of violence and destabilization which exists in southern Lebanon and the Golan Heights put Arab women and children who are living under Israeli occupation in severe situations. Lebanese women are also suffering from discrimination and detention. Therefore, all relevant United Nations resolutions, in particular Security Council resolutions 497 (1981), 508 (1982) and 509 (1982), should be implemented.

The implementation of the Programme of Action for the Achievement of Palestinian Rights 17/ should be kept under review and co-ordinated between the United Nations units and agencies concerned, with emphasis on the role of Palestinian women in preserving their national identity, traditions and heritage and in the struggle for sovereignty. Palestinian people must recover their rights to self-determination and the right to establish an independent State in accordance with all relevant United Nations resolutions. The special and immediate needs of Palestinian women and children should be identified and appropriate provision made. United Nations projects should be initiated to help Palestinian women in the

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\* The United States voted against this paragraph because of its strong objection to the introduction of tendentious and unnecessary elements into the Forward-looking Strategies document which have only a nominal connection with the unique concerns of women.

fields of health, education, and vocational training. Their living conditions inside and outside the occupied territories should be studied by the appropriate United Nations units and agencies assisted, as appropriate, by specialized research institutes from various regions. The results of these studies should be given broad publicity to promote actions at all levels. The international community should exert all efforts to stop the establishment of new Israeli settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Palestinian women should be allowed to enjoy security in a liberated homeland also in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

E. Women in areas affected by armed conflicts, foreign intervention and threats to peace

Paragraph 261

Armed conflicts and emergency situations impose a serious threat to the lives of women and children, causing constant fear, danger of displacement, destruction, devastation, physical abuse, social and family disruption, and abandonment. Sometimes these result in complete denial of access to adequate health and educational services, loss of job opportunities and overall worsening of material conditions.

Paragraph 262

International instruments, ongoing negotiations and international discussions aimed at the limitation of armed conflicts, such as the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and the First Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, adopted in 1977, provide a general framework for the protection of civilians in times of hostilities and the basis of provisions of humanitarian assistance and protection to women and children. Measures proposed in the 1974 Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict (General Assembly resolution 3318 (XXIX)) should be taken into account by Governments.

F. Measures for the implementation of the basic strategies at the national level

1. Women's participation in efforts for peace

Paragraph 263

Governments should follow the overall framework of action for disarmament as provided by the Final Document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly, which was devoted to disarmament (resolution S-10/2). Women's participation in the World Disarmament Campaign and their contribution to education for disarmament should be supported.

Paragraph 264

Publicity should be given by Governments and non-governmental organizations to main treaties concluded in the field of arms control and disarmament, and to other relevant documents. More should be done to mobilize women to overcome social apathy and helplessness in relation to disarmament and to generate wide support for implementation of these agreements. Publicity should also be given to the Declaration by the General Assembly of 1986 as the International Year of Peace, 18/ the participation of women in the programme for the Year should be encouraged.

Paragraph 265

Non-governmental organizations should be encouraged to play an active role in promoting the restoration of peace in areas of conflict, in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

Paragraph 266

Women should be able to participate actively in the decision-making process related to the promotion of international peace and co-operation. Governments should take the necessary measures to facilitate this participation by institutional, educational and organizational means. Emphasis should be given to the grass-roots participation and co-operation of women's organizations with other non-governmental organizations in this process.

Paragraph 267

Governments which have not done so should undertake all appropriate measures to eliminate existing discriminatory practices towards women and to provide them with equal opportunities to join, at all levels, the civil service, to enter the diplomatic service and to represent their countries as members of delegations to national, regional and international meetings, including conferences on peace, conflict resolution, disarmament, and meetings of the Security Council and other United Nations bodies.

Paragraph 268

Women should be encouraged and given financial support to take university courses in government, international relations and diplomacy in order to obtain the necessary professional qualifications for careers in fields relating to peace and international security.

Paragraph 269

Governments should encourage women's participation in the promotion of peace at decision-making levels by providing information on opportunities for such participation in public service and by promoting equitable representation of women in governmental and non-governmental bodies and activities.

Paragraph 270

Non-governmental organizations should provide opportunities for women to learn how to develop self-reliance and leadership capabilities in order to promote peace, disarmament, human rights and international co-operation more effectively. They should emphasize the participation of women from trade unions and organizations in rural areas that have not as yet received sufficient attention and should make periodic assessments of strategies for women's participation in the promotion of peace at all levels, including the highest decision-making levels.

Paragraph 271

National machinery should be established to deal with the question of domestic violence. Preventive policies should be elaborated and institutionalized economic and other forms of assistance and protection for women and child victims should be provided. Legislative measures should be strengthened and legal aid provided.

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## 2. Education for peace

### Paragraph 272

Governments, non-governmental organizations, women's groups and the mass media should encourage women to engage in efforts to promote education for peace in the family, neighbourhood and community. Special attention should be given to the contribution of women's grass-roots organizations. The multiple skills and talents of women artists, journalists, writers, educators and civic leaders can contribute to promoting ideas of peace if encouraged, facilitated and supported.

### Paragraph 273

Special attention should be given to the education of children for life in peace within an atmosphere of understanding, dialogue and respect for others. In this respect, suitable concrete action should be taken to discourage the provision of children and young persons with games and publications and other media promoting the notion of favouring war, aggression, cruelty, excessive desire for power and other forms of violence, within the broad processes of the reparation of society for life in peace.

### Paragraph 274

Governments, educational institutions, professional associations and non-governmental organizations should co-operate to develop a high-quality content for and to achieve widespread dissemination of books and programmes on education for peace. Women should take an active part in the preparation of those materials, which should include case studies of peaceful settlements of disputes, non-violent movements and passive resistance and the recognition of peace-seeking individuals.

### Paragraph 275

Governments should create the conditions that would enable women to increase their knowledge of the main problems in contemporary international relations. Information should be widely and freely disseminated among women, thereby contributing to their full understanding of those problems. All existing obstacles and discriminatory practices regarding women's civil and political education should be removed. Opportunities should be provided for women to organize and choose studies, training programmes and seminars related to peace, disarmament, education for peace and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

### Paragraph 276

The participation of women in peace research, including research on women and peace, should be encouraged. Existing barriers to women researchers should be removed and appropriate resources provided for peace researchers. Co-operation between peace researchers, government officials, non-governmental organizations and activists should be encouraged and fostered.

#### IV. AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN

##### Paragraph 277

There is an increasing number of categories of women who, because of their special characteristics, are experiencing not only the common problems indicated under the separate themes but also specific difficulties due to their socio-economic and health condition, age, minority status or a combination of these factors. Moreover, in many countries increasing demographic pressure, deteriorating rural conditions, curtailment of subsistence agriculture and difficult political conditions have been exacerbated by the current economic recession, leading to the dislocation of large sections of populations. In this process women experience particular difficulties and are often the more vulnerable because of their traditional lack of access to development opportunities.

##### Paragraph 278

The special groups of women identified below are extremely diverse, and their problems vary tremendously from one country to another. No single strategy or set of measures can apply adequately to all cases, and the present document is therefore limited to highlighting their special circumstances and the need for each country, as well as the international community, to give these issues the necessary attention. The basic strategy must remain one of fundamentally changing the economic conditions that produce such deprivation and of upgrading women's low status in society, which accounts for their extreme vulnerability to such conditions, especially to poverty. This is aggravated by the increase in drug-dependence, which adversely affects all sectors of society, including women. Building an organizational base for such change is a crucial strategy that can provide a rallying point for solidarity among women. Measures needed to provide immediate emergency assistance should be supplemented by longer-term efforts to enable women to break out of these situations. In many cases, permanent solutions to these issues can only be found through the broader efforts directed towards the reallocation of resources and decision-making power and towards the elimination of inequality and injustice.

##### Paragraph 279

There is a need to recognize the survival mechanisms already developed by these women as basic strategies in their own right and to build on them. A first priority would be to strengthen their organization capabilities by providing physical, financial and human resources, as well as education and training. Also of extreme importance is the need to revitalize these women's aspirations in order to eliminate the chronic despair that characterizes their daily lives.

##### Paragraph 280

The economic, social, cultural and political conditions of those groups of women should be improved basically by the implementation of the measures proposed for the attainment of equality, development and peace for women in general. Additional efforts should be directed towards ensuring the gainful and productive inclusion of these women in mainstream development and in political activities. Priority emphasis should be placed upon income-generating opportunities and for the independent and sustained improvement of their condition and by the full integration and active participation of women as agents and beneficiaries of development.

Paragraph 281

Policies, programmes and projects aimed at or incorporating especially vulnerable and underprivileged groups of women should recognize the particular difficulties of removing the multiple obstacles facing such groups and should place equal emphasis on addressing the social, economic and human dimensions of their vulnerability and their underprivileged positions. Measures needed to provide them with immediate assistance should be supplemented by comprehensive long-term plans to achieve lasting solutions to their problems. These will usually necessitate global efforts in resolving the special problems of vulnerable groups, of which women are a significant part.

Paragraph 282

Basic to all efforts to improve the condition of these women should be the identification of their needs and hence the gathering of gender-specific data and economic indicators sensitive to conditions of extreme poverty and oppression. Such data should contain spatial, socio-economic and longitudinal characteristics and should be designed specifically for use in policy, programme and project formulation and implementation. Monitoring efforts at national, subregional, regional and international levels should be intensified.

A. Women in areas affected by drought

Paragraph 283

During the Decade, the phenomenon of drought and desertification grew and developed incessantly, no longer affecting merely some localities in a single country but several entire countries. The scale and persistence of drought constitutes a grave threat, particularly for the countries of the Sahel, in which famine and a far-reaching deterioration of the environment set in as a result of the desertification process. Hence, despite the considerable efforts of the international community, the living conditions of the peoples, particularly those of women and children, which were already precarious, have become particularly miserable.

In view of that situation steps should be taken to promote concerted programmes between the countries concerned for combating drought and desertification. Efforts should be intensified for the formulation and implementation of programmes aimed at food security and self-sufficiency, in particular by the optimum control and exploitation of hydro-geological resources.

A distinction should be made between emergency aid and productive activities. Emergency aid should be intensified when necessary and as far as ever possible directed towards development aid.

Measures should be adopted to take into account women's contribution to production, involve them more closely in the design, implementation and evaluation of the programmes envisaged and ensure ample access for them to the means of production and processing and preservation techniques.



## B. Urban poor women

### Paragraph 284

Urbanization has been one of the major socio-economic trends over the past few decades and is expected to continue at an accelerating rate. Although the situation varies considerably from one region to another, it can generally be expected that by the year 2000 close to half the number of women in the world will be living in urban areas. In developing countries, the number of urban women could nearly double by the year 2000, and it is envisaged that there could be a considerable increase in the number of poor women among them.

### Paragraph 285

To deal effectively with the issue, Governments should organize multi-sectoral programmes with emphasis on economic activities, elimination of discrimination and the provision of supportive services and, inter alia, adequate child-care facilities and, where necessary, workplace canteens to enable women to gain access to economic, social and educational opportunities on an equal basis with men. Particular attention should be devoted to the informal sector, which constitutes a major outlet for employment of a considerable number of urban poor women.

## C. Elderly women

### Paragraph 286

The International Plan of Action on Aging adopted by the World Assembly on Aging in 1982 <sup>19/</sup> emphasized both the humanitarian and developmental aspects of aging. The recommendations of the Plan of Action are applicable to women and men with a view to providing them with protection and care, and ensuring their involvement and participation in social life and development. However, the Plan of Action recognizes a number of specific areas of concern for elderly women since their longer life expectancy frequently means an old age aggravated by economic need and isolation for both unmarried women and widows, possibly with little or no prospect of paid employment. This applies particularly to those women whose lifetimes were spent in unpaid and unrecognized work in the home with little or no access to a pension. If women have an income, it is generally lower than men's, partly because their former employment status has in the majority of cases been broken by maternity and family responsibilities. For this reason, the Plan of Action also noted the need for long-term policies directed towards providing social insurance for women in their own right. Governments and non-governmental organizations should, in addition to the measures recommended, explore the possibilities of employing elderly women in productive and creative ways and encouraging their participation in social and recreational activities.

It is also recommended that the care of elderly persons, including women, should go beyond disease orientation and should include their total well-being. Further efforts, in particular primary health care, health services and suitable accommodation and housing as strategies should be directed at enabling elderly women to lead a meaningful life as long as possible, in their own home and family and in the community.

Women should be prepared early in life, both psychologically and socially, to face the consequences of longer life expectancy. Although, while getting older, professional and family roles of women are undergoing fundamental changes, aging,



as a stage of development, is a challenge for women. In this period of life, women should be enabled to cope in a creative way with new opportunities. The social consequences arising from the stereotyping of elderly women should be recognized and eliminated. The media should assist by presenting positive images of women, particularly emphasizing the need for respect because of their past and continuing contributions to society.

Attention should be given to studying and treating the health problems of aging, particularly in women. Research should also be directed towards the investigation and slowing down of the process of premature aging due to a lifetime of stress, excessive work-load, malnutrition and repeated pregnancy.

#### D. Young women

##### Paragraph 287

Initiatives begun for the 1985 International Youth Year should be extended and expanded so that young women are protected from abuse and exploitation and assisted to develop their full potential. Girls and boys must be provided with equal access to health, education and employment to equip them for adult life. Both girls and boys should be educated to accept equal responsibilities for parenthood.

Urgent attention should be paid to the educational and vocational training of young women in all fields of occupation, giving particular emphasis to those who are socially and economically disadvantaged. Self-employed young women and girls should be assisted to organize co-operatives and ongoing training programmes to improve their skills in production, marketing and management techniques. Special training programmes should also be developed for teenage mothers and girls who have dropped out of school and are ill equipped to enter productive employment.

Steps should be taken to eliminate exploitative treatment of young women at work in line with ILO Convention No. 111 concerning discrimination in respect of employment and occupation, 1958 and ILO Convention No. 122 concerning employment policy, 1964. Legislative measures guaranteeing young women their rights should be enforced.

Governments should recognize and enforce the rights of young women to be free from sexual violence, sexual harassment and sexual exploitation. In particular, governments should recognize that many young women are victims of incest and sexual abuse in the family, and should take steps to assist the victims and to prevent such abuse by education, by improving the status of women and by appropriate action against offenders. Young women should be educated to assert their rights. Particular attention should also be given to sexual harassment and exploitation in employment, especially those areas of employment such as domestic service, where sexual harassment and exploitation are most prevalent.

Governments must also recognize their obligation to provide housing for young women who because of unemployment and low incomes suffer special problems in obtaining housing. Homeless young women are particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation.

In the year 2000 women aged 15-24 will constitute over 8 per cent of both rural and urban populations in developing countries. The great majority of these will be out of school and in search of jobs. For those employed, frequent exploitation, long working hours and stress have serious implications for their

health. Low nutritional levels and unplanned and repeated pregnancies are also aggravating factors.

#### E. Abused women

##### Paragraph 288

Gender-specific violence is increasing and Governments must affirm the dignity of women, as a priority action.

Governments should therefore intensify efforts to establish or strengthen forms of assistance to victims of such violence through the provision of shelter, support, legal and other services.

In addition to immediate assistance to victims of violence against women in the family and in society, Governments should undertake to increase public awareness of violence against women as a societal problem, establish policies and legislative measures to ascertain its causes and prevent and eliminate such violence, in particular by suppressing degrading images and representations of women in society, and finally encourage the development of educational and re-educational measures for offenders.

#### F. Destitute women

##### Paragraph 289

Destitution is an extreme form of poverty. It is estimated that its effects on large segments of the population in developing and developed countries are on the increase. Forward-looking Strategies to promote the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace at the national and international levels are the basis for dealing with this problem. In addition strategies already specified for the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and the new international economic order are suggested in these recommendations. Governments should therefore ensure that the special needs and concerns of destitute women are given priority in the above-mentioned strategies. Moreover, efforts being undertaken for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (1987) should focus attention on the particular situation of women commensurate with their relative needs.

#### G. Women victims of trafficking and involuntary prostitution

##### Paragraph 290

Forced prostitution is a form of slavery imposed on women by procurers. It is, inter alia, a result of economic degradation that alienates women's labour through processes of rapid urbanization and migration resulting in underemployment and unemployment. It also stems from women's dependence on men. Social and political pressures produce refugees and missing persons. Often these include vulnerable groups of women who are victimized by procurers. Sex tourism, forced prostitution and pornography reduce women to mere sex objects and marketable commodities.

Paragraph 291

States Parties to the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others should implement the provisions dealing with the exploitation of women as prostitutes. Urgent consideration should also be given to the improvement of international measures to combat trafficking in women for the purposes of prostitution. Resources for the prevention of prostitution and assistance in the professional, personal and social reintegration of prostitutes should be directed towards providing economic opportunities, including training, employment, self-employment and health facilities for women and children. Governments should also endeavour to co-operate with non-governmental organizations to create wider employment possibilities for women. Strict enforcement provisions must also be taken at all levels to stem the rising tide of violence, drug abuse and crime related to prostitution. The complex and serious problems of the exploitation of and violence against women associated with prostitution call for increased and co-ordinated efforts by police agencies internationally.

H. Women deprived of their traditional means of livelihood

Paragraph 292

The excessive and inappropriate exploitation of land by any party for any purpose, inter alia, by transnational corporations, as well as natural and man-made disasters are among the predominant causes of deprivation of traditional means of livelihood. Droughts, floods, hurricanes and other forms of environmental hazards, such as erosion, desertification and deforestation, have already pushed poor women into marginal environments. At present the pressures are greatest in drought-afflicted arid and semi-arid areas. Urban slums and squatter settlements are also seriously affected. Critically low levels of water supplies, shortage of fuel, over-utilization of grazing and arable lands, and population density are all factors that deprive women of their livelihood.

Paragraph 293

National and international emphasis on ecosystem management should be strengthened, environmental degradation should be controlled and options provided for alternative means of livelihood. Measures should be established to draw up national conservation strategies aimed at incorporating women's development programmes, among which are irrigation and tree planting and also orientation in the area of agriculture, with women constituting a substantial part of the wage-earning labour force for those programmes.

I. Women who are the sole supporters of families

Paragraph 294

Recent studies have shown that the number of families in which women are the sole supporters is on the increase. Owing to the particular difficulties (social, economic and legal) which they face, many such women are among the poorest people concentrated in urban informal labour markets and they constitute large numbers of rural unemployed and marginally employed. Those with very little economic, social and moral support face serious difficulties in supporting themselves as well

as in bringing up their children alone. This has serious repercussions for society in terms of the quality, character, productivity and human resource capabilities of its present and future citizenry.

Paragraph 295

The assumptions that underlie a large part of the relevant legislation, regulations and household surveys that confine the role of supporter and head of household to men hinder women's access to credit, loans and material and non-material resources. Changes are needed in these areas to secure for women equal access to resources. There is a need to eliminate terms such as "head of household" and introduce others that are comprehensive enough to reflect women's role appropriately in legal documents and household surveys to guarantee the rights of these women. In the provision of social services, special attention has to be given to the needs of these women. Governments are urged to ensure that women with sole responsibility for their families receive a level of income and social support sufficient to enable them to attain or maintain economic independence and to participate effectively in society. To this end, the assumptions that underlie policies, including research used in policy development, and legislation that confines the role of supporter or head of household to men should be identified and eliminated. Special attention, such as accessible, quality child care, should be given to assisting those women in discharging their domestic responsibilities and to enabling them to participate in and benefit from education, training programmes and employment. The putative father should be made to assist in the maintenance and education of those children born out of wedlock.

J. Women with physical and mental disabilities

Paragraph 296

It is generally accepted that women constitute a significant number of the estimated 500 million people who are disabled as a consequence of mental, physical or sensory impairment. Many factors contribute to the rising numbers of disabled persons, including war and other forms of violence, poverty, hunger, nutritional deficiencies, epidemics and work-related accidents. The recognition of their human dignity and human rights and the full participation by disabled persons in society is still limited, and this presents additional problems for women who may have domestic and other responsibilities. It is recommended that Governments should adopt the Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons (1975) and the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (1982) which provide an overall framework for action and also refer to problems specific to women that have not been fully appreciated by society because they are still not well known or understood. Community-based occupational and social rehabilitation measures, support services to help them with their domestic responsibilities, as well as opportunities for the participation of such women in all aspects of life should be provided. The rights of intellectually disabled women to obtain health information and advice and to consent to or refuse medical treatment should be respected; similarly, the rights of intellectually disabled minors should be respected.

K. Women in detention and subject to penal law

Paragraph 297

One of the major areas of current concern in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice is the need for equal treatment of women by the criminal justice system. In the context of changing socio-economic and cultural conditions some improvements have taken place but more need to be made. The number of women in detention has increased over the Decade and this trend is expected to continue. Women deprived of freedom are exposed to various forms of physical violence, sexual and moral harassment. The conditions of their detention are often below acceptable hygienic standards and their children are deprived of maternal care. The recommendations of the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Caracas, in 1980, 20/ and the principles of the Caracas Declaration with special reference to the "fair and equal treatment of women", should be taken into account in designing and implementing concrete measures at the national and international levels. The proportions of indigenous women imprisoned in some countries is a matter of concern.

L. Refugee and displaced women and children

Paragraph 298

The international community recognizes a humanitarian responsibility to protect and assist refugees and displaced persons. In many cases refugee and displaced women are exposed to a variety of difficult situations affecting their physical and legal protection as well as their psychological and material well-being. Problems of physical debility, physical safety, emotional stress and socio-psychological effects of separation or death in the family, as well as changes in women's roles, together with limitations often found in the new environment including lack of adequate food, shelter, health care and social services call for specialized and enlarged assistance. Special attention has to be offered to women with special needs. Furthermore, the potential and capacities of refugee and displaced women should be recognized and enhanced.

Paragraph 299

It is recognized that a lasting solution to the problems of refugees and displaced women and children should be sought in the elimination of the root causes of the flow of refugees and durable solutions should be found leading to their voluntary return to their homes in conditions of safety and honour and their full integration in the economic, social and cultural life of their country of origin in the immediate future. Until such solutions are achieved, the international community, in an expression of international solidarity and burden-sharing, should continue providing relief assistance and also launching special relief programmes taking into account the specific needs of refugee women and children in countries of first asylum. Similarly, relief assistance and special relief programmes should also continue to be provided to returnees and displaced women and children. Legal, educational, social, humanitarian and moral assistance should be offered as well as opportunities for their voluntary repatriation, return or resettlement. Steps should also be taken to promote accession by Governments to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and to implement, on a basis of equity for all refugees, provisions contained in this Convention and its 1967 Protocol.

## M. Migrant women

### Paragraph 300

The Decade has witnessed the increasing involvement of women in all forms of migration, including rural-rural, rural-urban and international movements of a temporary, seasonal or permanent nature. In addition to their lack of adequate education, skills and resources, migrant women may also face severe adjustment problems due to differences in religion, language, nationality, and socialization as well as separation from their original families. Such problems are often accentuated for international migrants as a result of the openly-expressed prejudices and hostilities, including violation of human rights in host countries. Thus recommendations of the World Population Plan of Action and the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women pertaining to migrant women should be implemented and expanded in view of the anticipated increase in the scope of the problem. It is also urgent to conclude the elaboration of the draft International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families, as agreed by the General Assembly in the relevant resolutions.

### Paragraph 301

The situation of migrant women, who are subject to double discrimination as women and as migrants, should be given special attention by the Governments of host countries, particularly with respect to protection and maintenance of family unity, employment opportunities and equal pay, equal conditions of work, health care, benefits to be provided in accordance with the existing social security rights in the host country, and racial and other forms of discrimination. Particular attention should also be given to the second generation of migrant women, especially with regard to education and professional training, to allow them to integrate themselves in their countries of adoption and to work according to their education and skills. In this process, loss of cultural values of their countries of origin should be avoided.

## N. Minority and "indigenous" women

### Paragraph 302

Some women are oppressed as a result of belonging to minority groups or populations which have historically been subjected to domination and suffered dispossession and dispersal. These women suffer the full burden of discrimination based on race, colour, descent, ethnic and national origin and the majority experienced serious economic deprivation. As women, they are therefore doubly disadvantaged. Measures should be taken by Governments in countries in which there are minority and indigenous populations to respect, preserve and promote all of their human rights, their dignity, ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic identity and their full participation in societal change.

### Paragraph 303

Governments should ensure that the fundamental human rights and freedoms as enshrined in relevant international instruments are fully guaranteed also to women belonging to minority groups and indigenous populations. Governments in countries in which there are indigenous and minority populations should ensure respect for

the economic, social and cultural rights of these women and assist them in the fulfilment of their family and parental responsibilities. Specific measures should address dietary deficiencies, high levels of infant and maternal mortality and other health problems, lack of education, housing and child care. Vocational, technical, professional and other training should be provided to enable these women to secure employment or to participate in income-generating activities and projects, and to secure adequate wages, occupational health and safety and their other rights as workers. As far as possible, Governments should ensure that these women have access to all services in their own languages.

Paragraph 304

Women belonging to minority groups or indigenous populations should be fully consulted and should participate in the development and implementation of programmes affecting them. The Governments of countries where minorities and indigenous populations exist should take proper account of the work of bodies such as the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, in particular its Working Group which is developing a set of international standards to protect the rights of indigenous populations. The General Assembly should consider the advisability of designating an international year of indigenous and traditional cultures in order to promote international understanding and to emphasize the distinctive role of women in sustaining the identity of their people.

V. INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

A. Obstacles

Paragraph 305

Insufficient attention has been devoted during the Decade at the international level and in some regions to the need to advance the status of women in relation to the goals and objectives of the Decade - equality, development and peace. International tensions, arms race, threat of nuclear war, failure to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms and failure to observe the principles of the United Nations Charter as well as global economic recession and other critical situations combined with dissatisfaction due to inadequate progress in multilateral and international co-operation since the Copenhagen World Conference has substantially affected the scope and ability for international and regional co-operation including the role of the United Nations. The progress in the developing world has slackened or in some cases turned negative under conditions of serious indebtedness, economic and monetary instability, resource constraints and unemployment. This has also affected prospects for economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, particularly with regard to women. Nevertheless some progress has been made in terms of achieving equality between women and men, and a greater appreciation of the role of women in development and peace which should also contribute toward effective international co-operation.

Paragraph 306

International and regional organizations have been called upon during the Decade to advance the position of their women staff and to extend hiring practices to include qualified women. The results have been highly uneven and in some cases the situation has actually worsened during the Decade in the face of resource



constraints and other limiting criteria, such as geographical distribution and attitudinal barriers. In particular, women are absent from the senior management levels, which seriously limits their influence on decision-making.

#### Paragraph 307

In order to institutionalize interorganizational exchanges of information and co-operation in relation to women's advancement, several United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and regional bodies have designated, in response to pressures applied during the Decade, focal points for women's activities. However, in many cases, insufficient tenure and resources accompanied those actions, thus limiting their long-term effectiveness. Moreover, activities that promote the integration of women in development have often been confined to these focal points and have not been integrated into all organizational planning and programme activities. Progress has also been limited in this area by the inadequate training of many of the staff members of international agencies and organizations with respect to the centrality of women's role in development.

#### Paragraph 308

International and regional co-operation strategies must be formulated on the premise that effective development requires the full integration of women in the development process as both agents and beneficiaries. Development agencies should take full cognizance of women as a development resource. This requires that all international and regional development institutions adopt explicit policies in this regard and put in place the management systems necessary to ensure the effective implementation and evaluation of these policies in the full range of their programmes and activities. Such policies should incorporate the principles endorsed in the Forward-looking Strategies of Implementation for the Advancement of Women. Strong and visible commitment to and interest in integrating women in the development process should be demonstrated by the senior-level management of development agencies.

### B. Basic strategies

#### Paragraph 309

Effective consultative and reporting arrangements are required to collect information on action taken to implement the Forward-looking Strategies and on successful ways and means used to overcome obstacles. Monitoring and evaluation should, therefore, be carried out at international, regional and subregional levels based on national-level monitoring, including input from non-governmental organizations.

#### Paragraph 310

Technical co-operation, training and advisory services should promote endogenous development and self-reliance with greater emphasis on economic and technical co-operation among developing countries. The special needs of women should be periodically assessed and methods developed to integrate women's concerns into the planning and evaluation of development activities. The participation of women in the formulation of technical co-operation policies and programmes should be ensured.



Paragraph 311

International, regional and subregional institutional co-ordination should be strengthened, particularly in relation to the exchange of information on the advancement of women and the establishment of collaborative arrangements to undertake activities with interrelated components.

Paragraph 312

Research and policy analysis should focus greater attention on the economic role of women in society, including access to economic resources such as land and capital. Research and policy analysis related to women should be action-oriented without losing sight of key analytical considerations. Further investment in evolving adequate gender-specific data is also required.

Paragraph 313

Steps should be taken to increase the participation of women in international, regional and subregional level activities and decision-making, including those directly or indirectly concerned with the maintenance of peace and security, the role of women in development and the achievement of equality between women and men.

Paragraph 314

Information on progress in achieving the goals of the Decade and on implementing the Forward-looking Strategies should be widely disseminated in the period from 1985 to the year 2000 at international, regional, subregional and national levels, based on experience gained during the Decade. Greater reliance is needed on audio-visual communications and expansion of networks for disseminating information on programmes and activities for women. Discriminatory, stereotyped and degrading images of women must be eliminated in the media.

Paragraph 315

On the basis of the results of the review and appraisal in the United Nations system that indicated the need for continued efforts to ensure the recruitment, promotion and retention of women, all United Nations bodies, the regional commissions and the specialized agencies should take all measures necessary to achieve an equitable balance between women and men staff members at managerial and professional levels in all substantive areas, as well as in field posts, with particular attention to promoting equitable regional representation of women. Women should be appointed to decision-making and management posts within the United Nations system in order to increase their participation in activities at the international and regional levels, including such areas as equality, development and peace.

Paragraph 316

In view of the difficulties of spouses of United Nations officials in securing employment at the various duty stations, the United Nations is urged to make every possible effort to provide the establishment of educational facilities and day care centres for families of officials in order to facilitate the employment of spouses at these duty stations.

## C. Measures for the implementation of the basic strategies

### 1. Monitoring

#### Paragraph 317

The implementation of the goals and objectives of the Decade - equality, development and peace - and of the Forward-looking Strategies should be monitored during the period 1986 to the year 2000. Monitoring at the international level should be based on reviews, at the regional, subregional and national levels, of action taken, resources allocated and progress achieved. The national reviews should take the form of a response to a regular statistical reporting request from the United Nations Secretariat, which should include indicators of the situation of women. The statistical reporting basis should be developed by the Statistical Commission, in consultation with the Commission on the Status of Women. The United Nations Secretariat should compile the results of such monitoring in consultation with the appropriate bodies of Governments, including national machinery established to monitor and improve the status of women. The action taken and progress achieved at the national level should reflect consultation with non-governmental organizations and integration of their concerns at all levels of government planning, implementation and evaluation, as appropriate.

#### Paragraph 318

The specialized agencies and other United Nations organizations, including the regional commissions, should establish monitoring capabilities and procedures to analyse the situation of women in their sectoral or geographical areas, and submit their reports regularly to their respective governing bodies and to the Commission on the Status of Women, which is the main intergovernmental body within the United Nations system concerned with women.

#### Paragraph 319

The Commission on the Status of Women should consider on a regular basis reports on the progress made and concrete measures implemented at national, regional and international levels to advance the status of women in relation to the goals of the Decade - equality, development and peace - and the sub-theme - employment, health and education - and the strategies and measures to the year 2000. The United Nations system should continue to carry out a comprehensive and critical review of progress achieved in implementing the provisions of the World Plan of Action and of the Programme for the Second Half of the Decade. The central role in carrying out this review and appraisal should be played by the Commission on the Status of Women. The Commission should also monitor progress in the implementation of international standards, codes of conduct, strategies, conventions and covenants as they pertain to women. In view of this important function, high-level expertise and representation on the Commission should be given priority, including officials with substantive policy responsibilities for the advancement of women.

#### Paragraph 320

The preparation of new instruments and strategies such as the overall strategies for international development, should pay specific, appropriate attention to the advancement of women. Intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system, particularly those concerned with the monitoring, review and

appraisal of the existing instruments, strategies, plans and programmes that may be of direct or indirect relevance to women, are urged as a matter of priority to develop explicit policies and reviewable plans of action for the integration of women in their regular work programmes.

#### Paragraph 321

The methods and procedures employed for collecting information from governments, regional commissions, non-governmental organizations and other international organizations and bodies should be streamlined and based on guidelines to be discussed by the Commission on the Status of Women.

### 2. Technical co-operation, training and advisory services

#### Paragraph 322

Measures of technical co-operation, training and advisory services directed towards improving women's status at the international, interregional and regional levels, including co-operation among developing countries, need some impetus. This would require the re-ordering of principles for the allocation of resources as well as targeted financial, material and human resource assistance. Notwithstanding resource constraints, the United Nations should continue the important role of reinforcing these increased benefits for women.

#### Paragraph 323

Technical co-operation should be approached with a new concept that will break the cycle of dependency, emphasize local needs, and use local materials and resources as well as local creativity and expertise and be based on the full integration of women as agents and beneficiaries in all technical co-operation activities. Local associations and mechanisms should be oriented to play a more active role in planning and policy-making. Emphasis should be given to broader access by women to capital for self-help projects, income-generating activities, enterprise development and projects designed to reduce the drudgery in work performed by women. Innovative demonstration projects, particularly with respect to the integration of women in non-traditional sector activities, should be an essential element in technical co-operation activities.

#### Paragraph 324

Agencies which do not have specific guidelines or project procedures relating to women in development interlinked with the other aims of the period up to the year 2000 should ensure that they are developed. Such guidelines and procedures should apply to all aspects of the project cycle. Existing guidelines and procedures have to be applied more vigorously and consistently; in particular, each project document should contain a strategy to ensure that the project has a positive impact on the situation of women.

#### Paragraph 325

Substantive staff training is needed to enhance the ability of staff to recognize and deal with the centrality of women's role in development, and adequate resources must be made available for this purpose. Implementation of policies concerning women is the responsibility of the particular organization as a whole. Responsibility is not merely a matter of personal persuasion. Systems should be developed which allocate responsibility and accountability.

Paragraph 326

Governments should strengthen and improve their institutional arrangements for technical co-operation so that policy is effectively linked to local-level implementing mechanisms, and should promote sustained, endogenous development. In these efforts Governments may wish to make use of the accumulated experience, activities and resources of the whole United Nations system.

Paragraph 327

While technical co-operation should be focused equally on women and men, the incorporation of women's needs and aspirations in the formulation and review of technical co-operation policies and programmes should be ensured and the potential negative effects on women of technical assistance should be minimized. Technical co-operation and women must be linked to overall national development objectives and priorities, and technical assistance plans and programmes should be managed so as to ensure the full integration of activities specific to women. As a standard component of technical co-operation policies, women should be full and equal participants in technical co-operation projects and activities. The needs of especially vulnerable and underprivileged groups of women should be addressed in the technical co-operation programmes.

Paragraph 328

Participation of non-governmental organizations as a means to enhance the relevance and impact of technical co-operation activities of benefit to women should be encouraged.

Paragraph 329

In allocating multilateral and bilateral assistance, agencies, in consultation with recipient Governments, should establish measurable and reviewable plans of action, with goals and time frames. They should also give adequate impetus to sustained and real increases in the flow of resources for technical co-operation activities of benefit to women, including greater mobilization of resources from non-governmental sources and the private sector. Bilateral and multilateral aid agencies should give special consideration to assisting the least developed countries in their efforts to integrate women in development. In this regard, particular attention should be given to projects in the fields of health, education and training, and the creation of employment opportunities for women, especially in rural areas.

Paragraph 330

Bilateral and multilateral aid agencies should take a corporate-wide response to the integration of women in development. Bilateral aid agencies' policies for women in development should involve all parts of donors' organizations and programmes, including participation of multilateral and bilateral programmes, training, technical assistance and financial aid. Policies for women in development should be incorporated into all applicable aid and agency procedures relating to sectoral and project levels.

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Paragraph 331

In order to enable women to define and defend their own interests and needs, the United Nations system and aid agencies should provide assistance for programmes and projects which strengthen women's autonomy, in particular in the integration process.

Paragraph 332

International non-governmental organizations, including such organizations as trade unions, should be encouraged to involve women in their day-to-day work and to increase their attention to women's issues. The capacity of non-governmental organizations at all levels to reach women and women's groups should receive greater recognition and support. The potential role of those non-governmental organizations could be fully utilized by international and governmental agencies involved in development co-operation.

Paragraph 333

Technical and advisory assistance should be provided by the United Nations system at the national level to improve systematically statistical and other forms of gender-specific indicators and information that can help redirect policy and programmes for the more effective integration of women in development as contributors and beneficiaries.

Paragraph 334

Technical co-operation among developing countries should be strengthened in the service of women at all levels and in all sectors of activity, focusing particularly on promoting the exchange of experience, expertise, technology and know-how, as well as on diffusing innovative organizational models suitable for strengthening the self-reliance of women. The urgent need for information flows to facilitate the process of integrating women in development, and the need for relevant, transferable and appropriate information should be a priority of regional co-operation within the framework of technical co-operation among developing countries. Regional co-operation to assist disadvantaged groups of women should also be promoted in this context.

Paragraph 335

Technical assistance should be given by the United Nations system and other international and non-governmental organizations to women involved in the promotion of international peace and co-operation.

Paragraph 336

The United Nations system should continue to strengthen training programmes for women, in particular in the least developed countries, through fellowships and other means of assistance, particularly in the fields of economic planning, public affairs and public administration, business management and accounting, and farming and labour relations, and in scientific, engineering and technical fields. It is necessary to support and expand technical and economic activities for women by means of collaboration with international development assistance agencies. In this respect, the United Nations Development Fund for Women is particularly recognized for its innovative contribution in the area of development and technical assistance

for disadvantaged women, and its continuation and expansion beyond the Decade is considered of vital importance to the development needs of women.

Paragraph 337

The participation of women in technical assistance monitoring, planning, programming, evaluation and follow-up missions should be promoted, and guidelines should be developed and applied to assess the relevance and impact of development assistance projects on women. The United Nations funding agencies, such as the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme, as well as the World Bank, should ensure that women benefit from and participate in all projects and programmes funded by them.

3. Institutional co-ordination

Paragraph 338

System-wide co-ordination of work on issues relating to women needs to be strengthened. The Economic and Social Council should be encouraged to play a more forceful and dynamic role in reviewing and co-ordinating all relevant United Nations activities in the field of women's issues. Regular consultations between United Nations agencies and organizations should be institutionalized in conjunction with meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women in order to exchange information on programme activities and co-ordinate future planning and programming with a view to ensuring adequate resource-allocation that would facilitate action and limit the unnecessary duplication of activities.

Paragraph 339

Future medium-term plans of the United Nations and the specialized agencies should contain intersectoral presentations of the various programmes dealing with issues of concern to women. In order to achieve greater coherence and efficiency of the policies and programmes of the United Nations system related to women and development, the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and in conformity with Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/46 of 31 May 1985, should take the initiative in formulating a system-wide medium-term plan for women and development.

Paragraph 340

The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, in particular the Branch for the Advancement of Women, should continue to serve as the focal point for co-ordination of, consultation on, promotion of and advice on matters relevant to women in the United Nations system and to co-ordinate information on system-wide activities related to the future implementation of the goals and objectives of the Decade and the Forward-looking Strategies. In this context, the United Nations system should explore ways and means of developing further collaboration between its organizations, including the regional commissions, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women, in particular in connection with the holding of United Nations world conferences on women on a regular basis, if necessary, for example every five years. It is recommended that at least one world conference be held during

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the period between 1985 and the year 2000, taking into account that the General Assembly will take the decision on the holding of the conference in each case within existing financial resources.

Paragraph 341

Existing sectoral inter-agency task forces in the United Nations system should always include issues related to the advancement of women in their agenda.

Paragraph 342

Inter-agency co-ordination should be complemented where possible by networking, particularly in the fields of information, research, training and programme development, in order to facilitate the availability of data and information in these fields and the exchange of experience with national machinery.

Paragraph 343

Resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, of governing bodies of the specialized agencies and of other organizations which promote the improvement of the status of women should be implemented. All institutions within the United Nations system that have not yet established special internal arrangements and procedures with respect to women's policies are urged to take the necessary measures to do so.

Paragraph 344

International machineries that promote and support education for peace should co-ordinate their efforts and include the role of women in promoting peace in their curricula. Particular attention should be paid to the Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace and Co-operation adopted by the General Assembly in 1962. The University for Peace should play a leading role in this regard.

4. Research and policy analysis

Paragraph 345

Institutes of women's affairs at the regional level should be strengthened or, where they do not exist, their establishment should be considered for the promotion of regional collaboration in undertaking research and analyses on emerging women's issues in order to facilitate and promote regional and international co-operation and understanding in this field.

Paragraph 346

Measures should be taken by the United Nations system to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations Secretariat to provide assistance to Governments and other international organizations and bodies concerned with integrating women in policy formulation and in assessing the impact of development policies on women. The Branch for the Advancement of Women should act as the focal point for co-ordinating the exchange of information, providing advice on matters related to the advancement of women and monitoring and evaluating the progress of other bodies in that connection. The United Nations should develop guidelines for this purpose based on comparative analyses of experience world wide.



Paragraph 347

Guidelines should also be developed by the United Nations for action to remove gender-specific discriminatory perceptions, attitudes and behaviour based on models of successful initiatives.

Paragraph 348

The United Nations system should undertake research and prepare guidelines, case studies and practical approaches on integrating women on an equal basis with men into political life. Training programmes for and consultations between women already engaged in political life should be organized.

Paragraph 349

Research should be carried out and a report prepared by the United Nations, in consultation with other organizations and specialized agencies and in co-operation with Governments, on establishing effective institutional arrangements at the national level for the formulation of policies on women, including guidelines and summaries of national case studies.

Paragraph 350

United Nations agencies and, in particular, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, as part of its regular programme of work, should undertake in-depth research on the positive and negative effects of legislative change, the persistence of de facto discrimination and conflicts between customary and statutory laws. In carrying out this research, full use should be made of the work of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Paragraph 351

In the context of the Third United Nations Development Decade and any subsequent decade, the implications for women of international decisions especially pertaining to international trade and finance, agriculture and technology transfer should be assessed by the United Nations system in consultation with the appropriate international organizations, bodies and research institutes, including the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and any others established by the United Nations University. The lack of reliable data prevents the assessment of relative improvements in women's status in the various sectors. It is therefore essential that the Statistical Commission, the Commission on the Status of Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women should co-operate at the institutional level in the collection, analysis, utilization and dissemination of statistical data on the question of women. The data base on women's role in national, regional and international economic activities should be further developed by the United Nations in co-operation with Governments, specialized agencies and the regional commissions of the United Nations system.

Paragraph 352

The United Nations regional commissions, with a view to integrating women's concerns at all levels in each commission's overall programme of work, should

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undertake further research on the status of women in their regions to the year 2000 by developing the necessary data base and indicators and by drawing upon inputs from the national and local levels, including perspectives on and by women at the grass-roots level. To this end, the regional commissions should include in their annual reports an analysis of changes in the situation of women in their regions.

Paragraph 353

It is also necessary to strengthen the activities of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women which performs an important role in the field of research, training, information and communication, and to request States and appropriate organizations, in particular, the organizations of the United Nations system, to continue to collaborate with the Institute in its work for the improvement of the status of women. The Institute should continue its work in appraising and evaluating what has been done by Governments and the United Nations system in promoting the status of women and it should be given increased voluntary financial support.

Paragraph 354

The United Nations should incorporate within its activities related to the World Disarmament Campaign the preparation of a study on the specific consequences of the arms race and modern warfare for women in general, especially aged or pregnant women and young children. Such a study should be given wide publicity in order to mobilize researchers, politicians and non-governmental organizations, as well as women themselves, for the promotion of disarmament.

Paragraph 355

The United Nations system and other intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations should encourage women, women's organizations and all the appropriate governmental bodies from different countries to discuss and study various aspects of promoting peace and other related issues in order to increase knowledge, facilitate understanding and develop friendly relations between countries and peoples. Exchange visits among women from different countries, and meetings and seminars in which women participate fully should be organized at regional and international levels.

5. Participation of women in activities at the international and regional levels and in decision-making

Paragraph 356

The United Nations system should take all necessary measures to achieve an equitable balance between women and men staff members at managerial and professional levels in all substantive areas, as well as in field posts. Regular reporting to the General Assembly, the governing bodies of the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and the Commission on the Status of Women on the establishment and implementation of targets for the equal representation of women in professional posts should be continued.

Paragraph 357

Women and women's organizations from different countries should be encouraged to discuss and study various aspects of promoting peace and development issues in

order to increase knowledge, facilitate understanding and develop friendly relations between countries and peoples. Exchange visits of women from different countries and meetings with full participation by women should be encouraged.

Paragraph 358

In order to ensure that programmes and activities of concern to women are given the necessary attention and priority, it is essential that women should participate actively in the planning and formulation of policies and programmes and in decision-making and appraisal processes in the United Nations. To this end, international, regional and national organizations have been called upon during the Decade to advance the status of their female staff and to increase the number of women recruited. In the absence of overall targets and effective mechanisms for their achievement, however, greater efforts are needed to ensure the recruitment, promotion and career development of women. All bodies and organizations of the United Nations system should therefore take all possible measures to achieve the participation of women on equal terms with men at all levels by the year 2000. To achieve this goal, the secretariats of the United Nations and all the organizations and bodies within the system should take special measures, such as the preparation of a comprehensive affirmative action plan including provisions for setting intermediate targets and for establishing and supporting special mechanisms - for example, co-ordinators - to improve the status of women staff. Progress made to implement those measures should be reported to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women on a regular basis.

Paragraph 359

Women should be assured of the opportunity to participate in international, regional and subregional meetings and seminars, including those organized by the United Nations system, particularly those related to equality, development and peace, including peace education, and those directed to promoting the role of women in development through research activities, seminars and conferences to exchange experience and expertise. Similarly, women Parliamentarians should always be included in delegations to inter-parliamentary meetings organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and regional inter-parliamentary organizations.

Paragraph 360

The participation of women in promoting peace and in the struggle against the obstacles to peace at the international level should be encouraged. Networking of women at high decision-making levels related to peace and disarmament, including women leaders, peace researchers and educators, should also be encouraged in connection with United Nations system activities such as the International Year of Peace (1986). "Women and peace" should be a separate item in the programme for that Year.

Paragraph 361

In order to provide a firm basis for the integration of issues of concern to women in the overall development process, a greater effort is needed to define such issues and to develop useful models for action in socio-cultural, economic and political contexts. Work in this area can be undertaken in the national and regional research institutions, as well as in the United Nations and other international agencies. In this context, attention should also be given to increasing the planning capabilities of women.

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Paragraph 362

Special efforts should be made at both the national and regional levels to ensure that women have equal access to all aspects of modern science and technology, particularly in educational systems. The use of science and technology can be a powerful instrument for the advancement of women. Special research to evolve appropriate technology for rural women should be carried out, and existing and new technology should be disseminated as widely as possible. The co-ordination of such activities in the regions should be the responsibility of the regional commissions, in co-operation with other intergovernmental bodies and agencies that deal with the status of women and technology.

Paragraph 363

Governments and non-governmental organizations should organize regular training programmes that are aimed at improving the status of women workers and widening women's access to and improving their performance in managerial positions in the sectors of employment or self-employment. In this connection, the United Nations is urged to support programmes on network and exchange of expertise in vocational training being carried out by regional and subregional organizations.

Paragraph 364

Regional and subregional groups have an important role to play in strengthening the roles of women in development. Existing regional and subregional information systems on women should be reinforced. A stronger data and research base on women should be developed in the developing countries and in the regional commissions, in collaboration with the appropriate specialized agencies, and the sharing of information and research data should be encouraged. Information systems at the national level should be strengthened or, where they do not exist, should be established.

Paragraph 365

International, regional, subregional and national organizations should be strengthened through the injection of additional human and financial resources and through the placement of more women at policy- and decision-making levels.

6. Information dissemination

Paragraph 366

International programmes should be designed and resources allocated to support national campaigns to improve public consciousness of the need for equality between women and men and for eliminating discriminatory practices. Special attention should be given to information about the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Paragraph 367

Studies must be carried out by the United Nations system on sex stereotyping in advertising and in the mass media, especially degrading images of women in articles and programmes disseminated world wide. Steps should be taken to promote the elimination or reduction of sex stereotyping in the media.

Paragraph 368

In order to promote peace, social justice and the advancement of women, wide publicity should be given by the United Nations to legal instruments and the United Nations resolutions and reports relating to women and the objectives of the Decade, that is, equality, development and peace. The mass media, including United Nations radio and television, should disseminate information on the role of women in achieving these objectives, particularly in promoting co-operation and understanding among peoples and the maintenance of international peace and security. Cultural mechanisms of communication should also be used to disseminate the importance of the concepts of peace and international understanding for the advancement of women.

Paragraph 369

It is essential that women be trained in the use of audio-visual forms of information dissemination, including visual display units and computers, and participate more actively in developing programmes on the advancement of women and for women at the international, regional, subregional and national levels.

Paragraph 370

The present United Nations weekly radio programme and co-production of films on women should be continued with adequate provision for distributing them in different languages.

Paragraph 371

The Joint United Nations Information Committee should continue to include women's issues in its programmes of social and economic information. Adequate resources should be made available for these activities.

Paragraph 372

Governments and the organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions and the specialized agencies, are urged to give the Forward-looking Strategies the widest publicity possible and to ensure that their content is translated and disseminated in order to make authorities and the public in general, especially women's grass-root organizations, aware of the objectives of that document and of the recommendations contained therein.

Notes

1/ Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, 19 June-2 July 1975 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. I, sect. A.

2/ Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Copenhagen, 24-30 July 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.IV.3), chap. I, sect. A.

3/ General Assembly resolution 227 A (III).

4/ General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Notes (continued)

- 5/ Ibid.
- 6/ General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.
- 7/ General Assembly resolution 37/63, annex.
- 8/ Report of the International Conference on Population, 1984, Mexico City, 6-14 August 1984 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XIII.8), chap. I, sect. A, para. 1.
- 9/ Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year ..., chap. I.
- 10/ Report of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the Preparatory Body for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace on its second session (A/CONF.116/PC/19), chap. I, draft decision I, para. 2 (h).
- 11/ Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, 1974, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3), chap. I.
- 12/ Report of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Rome, 12-20 July 1979 (WCARRD/REP) (Rome, FAO, 1979), Programme of Action, sect. IV.
- 13/ General Assembly resolution 36/71.
- 14/ Report of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, Geneva, 14-25 August 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.XIV.2), chap. II.
- 15/ General Assembly resolution 3086 (XXVIII).
- 16/ Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949 (United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973, p. 287).
- 17/ Report of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, Geneva, 29 August-7 September 1983 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.I.21), chap. I, sect. B.
- 18/ General Assembly resolution 37/16.
- 19/ Report of the World Assembly on Aging, Vienna, 26 July-6 August 1982 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.16), chap. VI, sect. A.
- 20/ See United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.IV.4.

## B. RESOLUTION AND DECISIONS

### Resolution

#### 1. Expression of gratitude to the host country

The World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

Having met in Nairobi at the invitation of the Government of Kenya from the 15th to the 26th of July 1985,

Having reviewed and evaluated the progress made and obstacles encountered during the United Nations Decade for Women,

Expressing the hope that the outcome of this Conference will strengthen and improve the situation of women throughout the world,

1. Respectfully presents its gratitude to His Excellency the President of Kenya, the Honourable Daniel T. arap Moi, for having graced the opening meeting of the Conference with his presence, for having made the inaugural address and for his personal concern for the successful outcome of the Conference,

2. Expresses its profound gratitude to the Government of Kenya for having made it possible for the Conference to be held in Nairobi and for the excellent facilities, staff and services so graciously placed at its disposal,

3. Requests the Government of Kenya to convey to the City of Nairobi and to the people of Kenya the gratitude of the Conference, for the hospitality and warm welcome extended to the participants,

4. Decides that the document on the Forward-looking Strategies adopted by the Conference shall be known as "The Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women".

### Decisions

#### 2. Credentials of the representatives to the Conference

At its 17th plenary meeting, on 25 July 1985, the Conference approved the report of the Credentials Committee (A/CONF.116/21).

#### 3. Draft resolutions and a draft declaration on which no action was taken by the Conference

At its 20th plenary meeting, on 26 July 1985, the Conference decided that the text of the draft resolutions and a draft declaration on which it had not taken any action owing to lack of time, would be reproduced in an annex to the report of the Conference and would be brought to the attention of the General Assembly for consideration and action as appropriate.

## Chapter II

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE CONFERENCE

2. In pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 3276 (XXIX) and 3277 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974 and at the invitation of the Government of Mexico, the World Conference of the International Women's Year - the first such conference held under United Nations auspices - was held in Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975, in the course of the year which had been proclaimed "International Women's Year" by General Assembly resolution 3010 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972.

3. The Conference adopted as its principal decisions the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace 1975 and the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year, and recommended, inter alia, that the General Assembly should consider at its thirtieth session the convening of another world conference on women in 1980. 1/

4. Acting on proposals and recommendations of the Mexico City Conference, the General Assembly, by its resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, proclaimed the period from 1976 to 1985 as the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace and decided to convene in 1980, at the mid-point of the Decade, a world conference to review progress made in implementing the objectives specified by the Mexico City Conference.

5. In conformity with that and other decisions of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council, and at the invitation of the Government of Denmark, the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace was held at Copenhagen from 14 to 30 July 1980. The Conference adopted the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women and a large number of resolutions and decisions concerning specific subjects, including a resolution by which it recommended that the General Assembly, at its thirty-fifth session, should consider the convening in 1985 of another world conference on women to review and appraise the achievements of the Decade. 2/

6. The report of the 1980 Conference was considered by the General Assembly later that year; on 11 December 1980 the Assembly adopted resolution 35/136 by which it responded to a number of the Conference's proposals and recommendations, and in particular decided "to convene in 1985, at the conclusion of the Decade, a World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women" (para. 17). At its subsequent session, when it considered the subject again, the Assembly adopted resolution 36/126 of 14 December 1981, by which it requested the Commission on the Status of Women to give priority at its 1982 session to the question of preparations for the 1985 Conference.

The Commission accordingly dealt with the question and reported and made certain recommendations to the Economic and Social Council in the early part of 1982. In response to the Commission's report and proposals, the Council adopted resolution 1982/26 of 4 May 1982, by which it decided, inter alia, to designate the Commission as the preparatory body for the Conference.

The question of preparations for the Conference was further considered by the General Assembly later in the same year. The Assembly adopted resolution 37/60 of 10 December 1982, by which it endorsed the Council's decisions concerning preparations for the Conference and took a number of other decisions relevant



thereto. Pursuant to paragraph 5 of that resolution, the Secretary-General appointed Mrs. L. Shahani, Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, as Secretary-General of the Conference.

9. The Commission on the Status of Women acting as the Preparatory Body for the Conference held its first session at Vienna in February/March 1983, under the chairmanship of Olajumoke Oladayo Obafemi (Nigeria). In its report 3/ on the session it addressed a number of recommendations, including the text of the provisional agenda for the Conference, to the Economic and Social Council, which in response thereto adopted decision 1983/132 of 26 May 1983; in addition, on the same date the Council adopted resolution 1983/28 concerning more specifically the participation of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council in the Conference and in the preparatory process at the national and regional levels.

10. The General Assembly considered the report of the Commission acting as the Preparatory Body on its first session (including the provisional agenda proposed for the Conference) and the Council's decisions concerning preparations for the 1985 Conference, as well as other related matters, at its thirty-eighth session. As a result of this consideration the Assembly adopted resolution 38/108 of 16 December 1983, by which it decided to accept with appreciation the offer of the Government of Kenya to act as host to the Conference in Nairobi in 1985; took note of the Commission's reports and endorsed its recommendations; and considered that at the Conference particular attention would be paid (in connection with item 7 of the provisional agenda) to the problems of women in territories under racist colonial rule and in territories under foreign occupation, on the basis of appropriate documentation from the international conferences, held at Mexico City and Copenhagen, on women under the themes of equality, development and peace.

11. The Commission acting as the Preparatory Body for the Conference held its second session from 27 February to 7 March 1984, under the chairmanship of Rosario G. Manalo (Philippines). Its report on that session 4/ was considered by the Economic and Social Council, which by its decision 1984/125 of 24 May 1984, took note of the report, and approved the recommendations contained in the report and decided to transmit it to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session. At that session the Assembly dealt once again with the subject of preparations for the Conference and on 14 December 1984 adopted resolution 39/129, by which it reiterated its appreciation to the Government of Kenya for offering to act as host to the Conference in Nairobi from 15 to 26 July 1985; urged all Member States to make all efforts to ensure the success of the Conference; took note of the Preparatory Body's second report and endorsed the recommendations made therein; and made a number of recommendations concerning documents to be submitted to the Preparatory Body at its third session and documents to be submitted to the Conference. In the final paragraph of the resolution, the Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its fortieth session the item "United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace".

12. A third session of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the Preparatory Body for the Conference was held at Vienna from 4 to 13 March 1985, under the chairmanship of Rosario G. Manalo (Philippines). As explained in the report on that session, 5/ the Preparatory Body was unable to complete its business at that time, including consideration of the Secretary-General's report (A/CONF.116/PC/21) concerning the principal item on the agenda, as well as of certain other items (the draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference and certain organizational matters). It decided that certain of the unfinished items should be referred to the Economic and Social Council for consideration at

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its first regular session of 1985. In this connection, by decision 39/459 of 12 April 1985, the General Assembly decided, inter alia, "to request the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the Preparatory Body for the Conference to resume its third session in New York for a period of not more than seven days starting from 29 April 1985, in order to complete successfully its preparatory work ...".

13. Accordingly, the Preparatory Body met in resumed third session and as an open-ended working group at United Nations Headquarters from 29 April to 7 May 1985. With respect to the principal item on its agenda, it decided 6/ to transmit to the Conference a text consisting partly of agreed recommendations and partly of proposals that were not agreed (separately identified) concerning Forward-looking Strategies of implementation for the advancement of women and concrete measures to overcome obstacles to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women for the period 1986 to the year 2000: Equality, Development and Peace". 7/

14. In conformity with Assembly decision 39/459, the Economic and Social Council, in the course of its session from 7 to 21 May 1985, gave priority to the results of the Preparatory Body's deliberations. The Council decided, inter alia, to invite Mrs. Rosario Manalo (Philippines), Chairman of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the Preparatory Body for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace at its third and resumed third sessions, to hold informal consultations in New York, prior to the Conference, with a view to facilitating the deliberations of the Conference regarding the Forward-looking Strategies for the advancement of women and concrete measures to overcome obstacles to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women for the period 1986 to the Year 2000: Equality, Development and Peace - and to make the results of those consultations available to the Conference as appropriate.

15. The Council decided in its resolution 1985/46 of 31 May 1985 to transmit to the Conference the report of the Secretary-General reviewing the issue of women and development in the medium-term plans of the organizations of the United Nations system.

16. By its decision 1985/158 the Council transmitted to the Conference the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the achievements of and obstacles encountered by States parties in the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. It also transmitted the report of the Secretary-General on the participation of non-governmental organizations in the United Nations Decade for Women.

17. The Economic and Social Council considered the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference during its session. At its 26th meeting, on 31 May 1985, by decision 1985/158 the Council authorized its Bureau to continue making every effort through informal consultations to assist in resolving outstanding issues relating to the rules of procedure for the Conference and to submit the results to the Council at a resumption of its first regular session of 1985, on 20 June 1985. At its resumed session, the Council by decision 1985/164 recommended a formulation of rule 6 relating to the composition of the General Committee of the Conference. The outstanding question of rules 32-44 was referred to the Conference.

18. The Conference was preceded by intergovernmental preparatory meetings organized by the regional commissions, in co-operation with the secretariat of the Conference, the specialized agencies and other bodies concerned. These regional meetings were held at the places and on the dates mentioned below:

Economic and Social Commission for Asia  
and the Pacific

Tokyo, 26-30 March 1984

Economic Commission for Africa

Arusha, 8-12 October 1984

Economic Commission for Europe  
(Seminar on the economic role of women  
in the ECE region)

Vienna, 15-19 October 1984

Economic Commission for Latin America  
and the Caribbean

Havana, 19-23 November 1984

Economic Commission for Western Asia

Baghdad, 3-6 December 1984

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19. At these regional intergovernmental meetings and the Seminar various recommendations, some dealing with matters of specific interest to the region concerned, were adopted for submission to the Conference. 8/

20. In addition, documentary and statistical material designed to illustrate the evolution of the status of women in recent times was gathered by specialized agencies and other bodies and organs of the United Nations system and issued in documents for submission to the Conference. An intergovernmental body - the Organization of African Unity - prepared jointly with the Economic Commission for Africa a document relating to the position of women living under a régime of apartheid. Many non-governmental organizations having an interest in the topics to be considered by the Conference arranged meetings or seminars dealing with such topics and prepared statements or documents addressed to the Conference. (See the list of documents in annex III to this report.)

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#### Notes

1/ See the report of the Mexico City Conference, United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1 (E/CONF.66/34).

2/ See the report of the Copenhagen Conference, United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.IV.3 and Corr. (A/CONF.94/35), in particular resolution 33 (the draft of which had been introduced by the delegation of Kenya on behalf of a number of countries, see ibid., para. 420).

3/ A/CONF.116/PC/9 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

4/ A/CONF.116/PC/19 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Corr.1.

5/ A/CONF.116/PC/25.

6/ See the report on the resumed third session (A/CONF.116/25/Add.1-3) and annex.

7/ See document A/CONF.116/12.

8/ For the texts of the recommendations and of the reports (or extracts thereof) of the regional intergovernmental meetings, see the relevant report of the Secretary-General (A/CONF.116/9).

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## Chapter III

### ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

#### A. Date and place of the Conference

21. The World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, was held at Nairobi from 15 to 26 July 1985, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 39/129 of 14 December 1984. During that period the Conference held 20 plenary meetings.

#### B. Pre-Conference consultations

22. Pre-Conference consultations open to all States invited to participate in the Conference were held at Nairobi on 13 and 14 July 1985 to consider a number of procedural and organizational matters. These and other informal consultations were conducted under the chairmanship of Mrs. Rosario Manalo (Philippines), who had been Presiding Officer of the Commission acting as the Preparatory Body for the Conference. The report on the consultations (A/CONF.116/L.1 and Add.1) was submitted to the Conference and its recommendations were accepted as the basis for the organization of the Conference's work, including the recommendation concerning the structure of the Conference's report.

#### C. Attendance

23. The following States were represented at the Conference:

Afghanistan	Chile
Albania	China
Algeria	Colombia
Angola	Comoros
Antigua and Barbuda	Congo
Argentina	Costa Rica
Australia	Cuba
Austria	Cyprus
Bahrain	Czechoslovakia
Bangladesh	Democratic Kampuchea
Barbados	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Belgium	Democratic Yemen
Belize	Denmark
Benin	Djibouti
Bhutan	Dominica
Botswana	Dominican Republic
Brazil	Ecuador
Bulgaria	Egypt
Burkina Faso	El Salvador
Burundi	Equatorial Guinea
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	Ethiopia
Cameroon	Fiji
Canada	Finland
Cape Verde	France
Central African Republic	Gabon
Chad	Gambia

German Democratic Republic  
Germany, Federal Republic of  
Ghana  
Greece  
Grenada  
Guatemala  
Guinea  
Guinea-Bissau  
Guyana  
Haiti  
Holy See  
Honduras  
Hungary  
Iceland  
India  
Indonesia  
Iran, Islamic Republic of  
Iraq  
Ireland  
Israel  
Italy  
Ivory Coast  
Jamaica  
Japan  
Jordan  
Kenya  
Kiribati  
Kuwait  
Lao People's Democratic Republic  
Lesotho  
Liberia  
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya  
Luxembourg  
Madagascar  
Malawi  
Malaysia  
Maldives  
Mali  
Malta  
Mauritania  
Mauritius  
Mexico  
Mongolia  
Morocco  
Mozambique  
Nepal  
Netherlands  
New Zealand  
Nicaragua  
Niger  
Nigeria  
Norway  
Oman  
Pakistan

Panama  
Papua New Guinea  
Paraguay  
Peru  
Philippines  
Poland  
Portugal  
Republic of Korea  
Romania  
Rwanda  
Saint Christopher and Nevis  
Saint Lucia  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
Samoa  
San Marino  
Sao Tome and Principe  
Saudi Arabia  
Senegal  
Seychelles  
Sierra Leone  
Solomon Islands  
Somalia  
Spain  
Sri Lanka  
Sudan  
Suriname  
Swaziland  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Syrian Arab Republic  
Thailand  
Togo  
Trinidad and Tobago  
Tunisia  
Turkey  
Uganda  
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist  
Republic  
Union of Soviet Socialist  
Republics  
United Arab Emirates  
United Kingdom of Great Britain  
and Northern Ireland  
United Republic of Tanzania  
United States of America  
Uruguay  
Vanuatu  
Venezuela  
Viet Nam  
Yemen  
Yugoslavia  
Zaire  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe

24. The United Nations Council for Namibia and the Special Committee against Apartheid were represented at the Conference.

25. The Palestine Liberation Organization and the South West Africa People's Organization attended the Conference in the capacity of observers.

26. The following national liberation movements were represented by observers:

African National Congress (South Africa)  
Pan Africanist Congress of Azania

27. Members of the secretariat of the following United Nations offices were present throughout or during part of the Conference:

Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation  
Department of International Economic and Social Affairs  
Department of Technical Co-operation for Development  
Department of Political and Security Affairs  
Department of Public Information

28. The secretariats of the following regional commissions were represented at the Conference:

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean  
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific  
Economic Commission for Africa  
Economic Commission for Western Asia

29. The following United Nations bodies and programmes were also represented:

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women  
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)  
United Nations Children's Fund  
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development  
United Nations Development Programme  
United Nations Environment Programme  
United Nations Fund for Population Activities  
United Nations Development Fund for Women  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
United Nations Industrial Development Organization  
United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women  
United Nations Institute for Training and Research  
United Nations Office for Emergency Operations in Africa  
United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office  
United Nations University  
World Food Programme  
Federation of International Civil Servants Associations  
International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT

Representatives of the following specialized agencies and related organizations participated in the work of the Conference:

International Labour Organisation  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
International Civil Aviation Organization  
World Meteorological Organization  
World Health Organization  
World Bank  
International Fund for Agricultural Development

31. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers:

Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development  
Arab Gulf Programme for the United Nations Development Organizations  
Arab Labour Organization  
Caribbean Community Secretariat  
Commonwealth Secretariat  
Council for Mutual Economic Assistance  
Council of Europe  
European Community  
Inter-American Development Bank  
Intergovernmental Committee for Migration  
International Center for Public Enterprises in Developing Countries  
League of Arab States  
Nordic Council  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development  
Organization of African Unity  
Organization of American States (Inter-American Commission of Women)  
Organization of the Islamic Conference

32. A large number of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, or on the Roster, attended the Conference. The list of participants is given in document A/CONF.116/INF.1.

#### D. Opening of the Conference and election of its President

33. The Conference was called to order by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In the course of his address he stated that the purpose of the Conference was to draw up a balance sheet of results obtained and of the many problems remaining to be solved before women could stand everywhere beside men with rights and opportunities equal not only in law but also in fact. He pointed out that the United Nations had consistently played an important role in supporting efforts to improve the lives and status of women around the world by providing a forum for discussions and by developing the necessary international instruments and strategies. In this important sphere, as in others, the endeavours of the United Nations had been shaped by, and constituted a response to, the process of rapid change which had marked the 40 years since the establishment of the Organization.

34. He said that the International Women's Year 1975 had been an important event in that it directed the world community's attention not only to the needs but also to the strength of women. Moreover, women themselves increasingly expressed the view that they shared many problems and aspirations which transcended national boundaries as well as cultural and political backgrounds. Emphasizing the interrelatedness of the themes of the Decade - equality, development and peace, he noted the relatively greater progress made towards equality and the increasing recognition of the relationship between development and the advancement of women. The issues of women's advancement could not be separated from those of peace and

It was heartening to note that women were participating increasingly in the struggle for peace and disarmament. No doubt, the deliberations of the Conference would reflect political, economic and social realities, though it could hardly be expected to offer solutions to problems that had for long been and were still being discussed in other United Nations forums. In its discussions the Conference should not lose sight of the need to preserve and build upon the gains achieved during the Decade, on the basis of the broad and genuine support of the entire international community.

15. Reviewing the achievements of the Decade, he said that to expect that the goals of women's equality with men and full participation in the life of society would be attained in so short a span of time was to belittle the magnitude of the task. However, compared with 1975, there was in 1985 a much greater awareness of women's problems, greater advocacy of their rights and greater understanding of their needs. Most importantly, this increased awareness was widely shared by women themselves. Governments had enacted legislation outlawing discrimination based on sex, and national mechanisms to ensure respect of women's rights had been set up. Women were beginning to make their presence felt in the public life of their countries. The growing appreciation of the diverse roles which women could play in society had been responsible for many of the positive achievements of the Decade, particularly in the areas of health, education and employment. The emphasis on primary health care moved the focus to women, the educational gap between girls and boys had narrowed, especially in developing countries, and there had been an increasing erosion of the fallacious "role model" that depicted women as essentially unproductive in the economic sense.

16. The Secretary-General added that the United Nations Decade for Women had coincided with a period in which the world economy had run an uneasy course. In this context, women had suffered particularly from cutbacks in public investments in social programmes due to economic difficulties and the necessary process of adjustment. Even in these difficult economic times, however, the Decade had registered significant progress. For instance, there had been an increase in the number of countries - from 28 in 1978 to 90 in 1983 - with equal pay legislation on their statute books. Qualitative and quantitative changes had taken place in women's participation in the labour force. The woman of the twenty-first century would enjoy better education and possess higher skills than the women of 1975, and would be better informed about her rights and obligations in society. The greater awareness of women's issues was attributable in large measure to the valuable efforts of the non-governmental community with which the United Nations system continued to collaborate closely.

17. Concluding, the Secretary-General said that the positive trends of the Decade were encouraging. At the same time he noted that the challenge remained how to maintain the momentum beyond the Decade and to intensify international co-operation in this vital area. A sense of shared purpose and direction, a renewed commitment to the Plan of Action of Mexico City, the Programme of Action adopted at Copenhagen, the goals and objectives of the Decade and to the Charter of the United Nations ought to be a beacon to guide the world community through the days and years ahead. The efforts to ensure equality of women's rights with those of men must not flag. He was confident that the international community, working in concert, would respond to the challenges of the promotion of peace, fostering of economic and social development and the universal observance of human rights. He stressed that without the full partnership of women and men, goals would remain elusive and, in this light, viewed the close of the United Nations Decade for Women as really only a beginning.

38. In an inaugural address, His Excellency the Honourable Daniel T. arap Moi, President of the Republic of Kenya, welcomed the delegations and thanked the Secretary-General and the Secretariat of the United Nations for the support they had extended to the host Government in connection with preparations for the Conference.

39. He referred to the formidable task confronting the delegations and to the numerous matters on the agenda which bore vitally on the destiny of mankind. Throughout history, and in all parts of the world, the human community had been concerned with the issues of equality, development and peace, and hence it was fitting and indeed inevitable that these matters should form part of the agenda of a conference convened to discuss the status and well-being of more than half of the world's population.

40. The world community's preoccupation with the integration of women in the mainstream of human progress was of relatively recent date. Despite the progress made in almost every field of human striving, efforts to alleviate the plight of women had achieved less than the world community had a capacity to accomplish. However, one point of agreement was that a start had been made and that humanity could not afford to slow down the momentum in a field so crucial to the well-being of mankind.

41. Noting that the Conference was taking place on the eve of celebrations to mark the fortieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations, he stressed that this was a special and historic occasion for reviewing and appraising the achievements of 10 years of international resolve and commitment to improve the status of women and to formulate viable strategies for the promotion of the advancement of women in the years ahead.

42. In this context, he referred to the action taken by the General Assembly since 1975 to improve the status of women, and considered that the world community had come a long way since the Mexico City Conference. By the time international action was taken, Kenya, among others, had enacted legislative and constitutional provisions guaranteeing to all citizens inalienable rights irrespective of sex, creed, race or ethnic origins. Kenya had in addition ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and Kenya was both a contributor to and beneficiary of the United Nations Development Fund for Women. At the national level, women in Kenya were involved in the identification, formulation and implementation of development activities, starting from the village level, and women had begun to enter the legal, medical, engineering and veterinary professions which had previously been male-dominated.

43. In conclusion, the President of Kenya reaffirmed his country's total commitment and determination to continue assisting Kenyan women to attain even greater successes in the coming years, and he expressed the hopes of Kenya that the deliberations of the Conference would be inspired and tempered by the desire to succeed. In this context, he stressed that, while differences of opinion were bound to arise over certain issues at the Conference as at any other, nonetheless it was vital that the objectives and aspirations of the Conference should not be submerged by rhetoric which might attract immediate and wide attention, but from which the Conference and, above all, the women of the world would gain little. The success of this Conference would also depend crucially on the will of all Governments to implement its recommendations, for without this will resolutions would remain mere paper monuments. Yet, while it was the duty of Governments to take action, the onus remained on women to unite and take full advantage of the opportunities so created.

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44. He stressed that women formed the most important element and performed literally vital functions in all societies. After a Decade of varying attempts to advance the cause of women, he said, the years ahead should witness resolute action to eradicate obstacles to the advancement of women. The delegations owed it to the women of the world to produce a final document that would prove that the journey to Nairobi in 1985 had not been in vain.

45. The President of the Republic of Kenya formally declared the Conference open.

46. At its 1st meeting on 15 July 1985 the Conference elected by acclamation Miss Margaret Kenyatta, the head of the delegation of Kenya, as the President of the Conference. In her acceptance speech, she expressed her own and her country's gratitude to the delegates for electing her to this high office. Indeed, she said, all Africa was honoured by the decision of the world community to accept the offer of the Government of Kenya to host the Conference, especially during the year marking the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations.

47. Reviewing the major achievements for the advancement of women since the establishment of the United Nations in 1945, she cited the Preamble of the United Nations Charter which reaffirmed faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women, and of nations large and small. She also particularly mentioned the pioneering work of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women which had made many significant recommendations for promoting women's social, economic and political rights, and had prepared several important international conventions on such subjects as the political rights of women, the nationality of women, age and consent to marriage etc. The adoption by the General Assembly of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was a significant contribution to the advancement of women. Other achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women included the Mexico City and Copenhagen Conferences and the World Plan of Action and the Programme of Action adopted, respectively, in Mexico City in 1975 and in Copenhagen in 1980. She stressed that these were mutually complementary instruments, not two separate ones. Their implementation involved not only Governments, but also agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

48. She expressed the hope that all delegations would show good will in order to enable the Conference to make a serious contribution to the advancement of women. For her part, she added that she would do her best to merit the confidence which the Conference had placed in her.

#### E. Messages from Heads of State or Government

The Conference received messages wishing it success addressed to it by the Heads of State or Government of Algeria, Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Comoros, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Dominica, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mongolia, Pakistan, Poland, Republic of Korea, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia and Zambia.

F. Other messages

50. A message was received from Her Majesty the Queen of Jordan.

51. A message was received from the Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

G. Adoption of the rules of procedure (agenda item 3)

52. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 15 July 1985, the Conference adopted the provisional rules of procedure as contained in document A/CONF.116/2,\* as revised in the light of the acceptance by the Conference of the Economic and Social Council's recommendations regarding rules 6 and 15 (see document A/CONF.116/17).\*\*

53. Following discussions during the pre-Conference consultations on matters of procedure, the President, immediately after the adoption of the rules of procedure, made the following statement:

"In my capacity as President of the Conference, and with the concurrence of all groups concerned, I wish to make the following statement.

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\* The square brackets in chapter VIII (Decision-making) were removed.

\*\* The text of the two rules reads:

"Elections

"Rule 6

"The Conference shall elect the following officers: a President, one Vice-President for Co-ordination, twenty-nine other Vice-Presidents, a Rapporteur-General and a Presiding Officer for each of the Main Committees established in accordance with rule 45.

"Decisions concerning organization

"Rule 15

"1. The Conference shall, to the extent possible, at its first meeting:

(a) Elect its officers and constitute its subsidiary bodies;

(b) Adopt its rules of procedure;

(c) Adopt its agenda, the draft of which shall, until such adoption, be the provisional agenda of the Conference;

(d) Decide on the organization of its work.

"2. Recommendations resulting from pre-conference consultations shall, in principle, be acted on without further discussion."

"Without prejudice to the rules of procedure of the Conference which have been adopted, in particular rule 34, and without setting a precedent, a general understanding has emerged as a result of consultations whereby all documents of the Conference, in particular the Forward-looking Strategies document under item 8 of the Conference agenda, should be adopted by consensus."

H. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 4)

54. At the 2nd plenary meeting, on 15 July 1985, the Conference adopted as its agenda the provisional agenda (A/CONF.116/1) recommended by the Preparatory Body, which was as follows:

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of the President.
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
4. Adoption of the agenda.
5. Election of officers other than the President.
6. Other organizational matters:
  - (a) Allocation of items to the Main Committees and organization of work;
  - (b) Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
    - (i) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
    - (ii) Report of the Credentials Committee.
7. Critical review and appraisal of progress achieved and obstacles encountered in attaining the goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, and the sub-theme: Employment, Health and Education, bearing in mind the guidelines laid down at the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City, and the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held at Copenhagen:
  - (a) Progress achieved and obstacles encountered at national, regional and international levels to attain the goal and objective of equality;
  - (b) Progress achieved and obstacles encountered at national, regional and international levels to attain the goal and objective of development;
  - (c) Progress achieved and obstacles encountered at national, regional and international levels to attain the goal and objective of peace.

8. Forward-looking Strategies of implementation for the advancement of women for the period up to the year 2000, and concrete measures to overcome obstacles to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, and the sub-theme: Employment, Health and Education, bearing in mind the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and the establishment of a new international economic order:

- (a) Strategies and measures at the national, regional and international levels to achieve the goal of equality;
- (b) Strategies and measures at the national, regional and international levels to achieve the goal of development;
- (c) Strategies and measures at the national, regional and international level to achieve the goal of peace.

9. Adoption of the report of the Conference.

I. Election of officers other than the President (agenda item 5)

55. At its 2nd plenary meeting on 15 July 1985 the Conference elected Mr. Tom Vraalsen (Norway) Vice-President for Co-ordination and the following 29 States as Vice-Presidents: Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Burundi, Chad, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Liberia, Mali, Nicaragua, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Zambia.

56. Mrs. Elena Lagadinova (Bulgaria) was elected Rapporteur-General.

57. The Conference elected Mrs. Cecilia Lopez (Colombia) Presiding Officer of the First Committee and Mrs. Rosario Manalo (Philippines) Presiding Officer of the Second Committee.

58. The First and Second Committees elected their Deputy Presiding Officers and Rapporteurs:

First Committee

Deputy Presiding Officers: Ms. Laetitia van den Assum (Netherlands)  
Ms. Olimpia Solomonescu (Romania)  
Ms. Kulsum Saifallah (Pakistan)

Rapporteur: Ms. Diaroumeye Gany (Niger)

Second Committee

Deputy Presiding Officers: Ms. Billie Miller (Barbados)  
Ms. Konjit Sine Giogis (Ethiopia)  
Ms. Eva Szilagyi (Hungary)

Rapporteur: Ms. Helen Ware (Australia)

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J. Other organizational matters (agenda item 6)

1. Allocation of agenda items

59. At its 3rd plenary meeting on 16 July 1985 the Conference decided that items 1 to 7 and 9 would be considered in plenary meetings and that item 8 would be considered by the Main Committees. (For the distribution of the work as between the two Committees in relation to item 8, in particular consideration of the document concerning Forward-looking Strategies (A/CONF.116/12), see document A/CONF.116/L.2.)

2. Credentials of representatives to the Conference

60. In conformity with rule 4 of the rules of procedure the Conference at its 2nd plenary meeting on 15 July 1985 established a Credentials Committee composed of the following States: Bhutan, China, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Italy, Ivory Coast, Paraguay, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America.

K. Implications of Conference decisions for the programme budget of the United Nations

61. At the 19th plenary meeting, on 26 July 1985, before the consideration of the recommendations of the Main Committees, the Secretary of the Conference stated that any provisions of decisions taken or resolutions adopted by the Conference that had implications for the programme budget of the United Nations would be brought to the attention of the General Assembly by the Secretariat at the time when the Assembly considered the report of the Conference.

## Chapter IV

### SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL DEBATE

62. The general debate, which took place in the course of 14 plenary meetings from 16 to 24 July 1985, covered the range of topics to be considered by the Conference, including not only item 7 but also item 8 of the agenda, which was more specifically the concern of the Main Committees. All speakers expressed appreciation of the efforts made by the host State and by the secretariat in preparing for the Conference.

63. The representatives of States and the observers who addressed the Conference, as well as the representatives of specialized agencies and United Nations bodies, programmes and offices who made statements, commented on the various issues to be dealt with by the Conference. Some intergovernmental organizations also made statements in the plenary. Statements were made on behalf of a number of non-governmental organizations.

64. Opening the general debate at the third plenary meeting on 16 July 1985, Mrs. L. Shahani, Secretary-General of the Conference, stated that the United Nations Decade for Women had brought additional benefits and rights to women, but the possibilities to realize these benefits and rights under favourable conditions had significantly decreased in consequence of the recent difficult economic situation. At the same time it was becoming increasingly clear that political and economic problems could not be solved without the full participation of women in shaping the future of society and contributing to international peace and security. The values, aspirations and ideals of women could reorient a troubled and violent world. Women represented the new hope as the world prepared for the coming century.

65. She said that the value of the Decade as a symbol and mechanism ought not to be underestimated, for it had moved Governments and non-governmental organizations all over the world to take action benefiting women. Although in many instances performance had fallen short of promise, the important point was that an irreversible process, far-reaching in its implications, had been set in motion by the Decade.

66. During the Decade significant lessons had been learnt about the actual status and role of women in their societies. There was also a better understanding of the processes which gave rise to problems and conflicts common to women in different cultures. There was greater awareness of the ways in which global economic and political issues directly affected the lives of women. The organized women's movement initiated in the nineteenth century had become a global force. The mechanism of the Decade had caused the invisible majority of humankind - the women - to become more visible on the global scene.

67. Noting the substantial progress made towards legal equality and the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by over 70 States, she drew attention to the fact that actual changes had not kept pace with legislative provisions. Since there was no guarantee that economic growth would automatically enhance the dignity of women, she stressed the need to re-examine the meaning of "integration of women in development" to ensure that development would not perpetuate the position of women as a disadvantaged group or increase their "double burden" without adequate remuneration. With regard

to peace, the Decade had succeeded in creating public awareness of the need for women to take an active role in promoting peace and disarmament, particularly through participation in peace movements. It seemed necessary at the end of the Decade to expand and deepen public understanding in order that peace would also be understood as the absence of conditions that produce violence at the family, local, national and international levels.

68. She reviewed the progress made with respect to sub-themes of the Decade, employment, education and health. She drew attention to new and continuing challenges in each of these areas.

69. She referred to the obstacles encountered during the Decade which hampered the advancement of women. At the international level, she identified these obstacles as including threats to global peace and security, the escalation of the arms race, foreign aggression and domination, racial discrimination, and exploitative economic relations among nations. At the national level, the obstacles were attitudes which perceived women as inferior to men, and the insufficient understanding and recognition of maternity as a distinct and essential social function which could only be performed by women and therefore deserved full recognition and required specific support.

70. Turning next to Forward-looking Strategies, she said that the close interrelationship of the three goals of the Decade, equality, development and peace, was more evident in 1985 than it had been in 1975 or 1980. It was one of the main messages of the Decade that women's participation in, and their contribution to, society must be envisaged as a composite and integral whole. Although the Forward-looking Strategies dealt with new areas, it also addressed itself to issues similar to those treated in the Plan of Action of Mexico City, 1975, and the Programme of Action adopted in Copenhagen in 1980, showing that the surface had only been scratched and much remained to be done.

71. She said that the impoverishment of women was on the increase, a phenomenon known as the feminization of poverty. A new approach to development was materializing that sought to reformulate and broaden the goals of development in terms of equity, redistributive justice, human dignity and national sovereignty. However, it required that women themselves define their own needs, values, strategies and goals and meant the exercise by women of power within and outside the home. The road from the feminization of poverty to the exercise of power by women was a long and painful one, but the march of women, globally and hand-in-hand, had already begun.

72. In concluding, she said that the Conference represented hope and challenge for women the world over, but this hope ought to be justified through a manifestation of the political will of Governments to provide the required policies, resources and programmes that would benefit women, particularly at the grass-roots level.

73. The representatives of practically all States participating in the Conference spoke in the general debate considered that the Conference was a welcome opportunity for casting a critical look at what had been achieved since 1975 to enhance the status of women and for looking forward to the period up to the year 2000 in which, they hoped, the many still unfulfilled aspirations of women could be realized. In that sense, they said, the Conference should be regarded not merely as the end of an epoch but also as heralding a better future for women.

74. Many delegations expressed the view that the holding of the Conference in 1985 was significant, for not only did it mark the close of the United Nations Decade for Women, but it was also the fortieth anniversary year of the establishment of the United Nations. Some recalled the victory over fascism in the Second World War that had prompted the founders of the Organization to set up a framework within which States could work together in order to achieve the purposes and give effect to the principles of the Charter, and emphasized the contribution of women to the victory. They considered that those purposes and principles, spelt out in broad terms in the Charter, were still valid and that the objectives of the Decade coincided with them.

75. Delegations expressed satisfaction with the fact that the Conference was being held in the continent of Africa, in Nairobi, and many paid a tribute to those women of Africa who, along with their peoples, had won national liberation and those still struggling for liberation and were now contributing appreciably to the quest for their countries' independent development.

76. Some representatives stated that 1985 was also the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which had played an important role in improving the situation of women.

77. Many representatives recognized the catalytic role of the initiatives taken by the United Nations, through its proclamation of the International Women's Year and subsequently the United Nations Decade for Women, in raising the level of consciousness of the world community concerning the inequalities existing between men and women, and the need for women's full participation and integration within all sectors of national life in order to accelerate development.

78. It was widely recognized and reaffirmed that the Declaration and the World Plan of Action adopted at the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City in 1975, and the Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, held at Copenhagen in 1980, together provided a broad policy and planning framework, as well as specific guidelines and priorities, for action to be taken at the national, regional and international levels. Many representatives cited major achievements during the Decade at those levels. A number of them expressed the opinion that, together with the decisions of the Conference, the historic Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the United Nations Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace and Co-operation, should form the basis for activities furthering the advancement of women in decades to come, in particular for achieving equality for women and respect for their rights.

79. Several representatives were of the view that other international instruments and strategies should be taken into account in the formulation of Forward-looking Strategies, including the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. They also referred to the declarations of the Sixth and the Seventh Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries.



Review and appraisal of progress achieved and obstacles encountered during the Decade

80. All delegations stated that the major task of the Conference was to review the activities of the past 10 years in implementing the World Plan of Action and the Programme for the Second Half of the Decade at the national, regional and international levels. In reviewing the achievements of the Decade in advancing the status of women, most representatives acknowledged significant progress towards the attainment of the objectives of the Decade. Many representatives stressed the important role played by women in defence of peace, in national liberation struggles, in national construction, defence and production, as well as in the cultural and social fields.

81. Many representatives recognized that a 10-year period was a short span of time in history and that it would hardly have been possible in that time to effect the profound transformation required to achieve all the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women, despite notable progress made in many areas. Because of this limited time, and owing to continued and accentuated economic and political difficulties, particularly during the second half of the Decade, the potential of women was in many respects still under-utilized. They considered that the human resource represented by the female majority of the population should be mobilized and enlisted more widely in the cause of the advancement not only of women but also of their countries' national economic and social situation. There were no grounds for complacency, they said, for at a time when whole regions of Africa were suffering the ravages of drought and famine and when many countries were beset by economic recession, it was a grievous waste of resources to ignore the potential contribution women could make to a betterment of national life.

82. Many delegations stressed that the three themes of the Decade and of the Conference were closely interrelated. There could not be real and sustained economic and social development, they said, except in an environment of peace, nor could the equality of the sexes become a reality in the absence of such development. They expressed the hope that the Conference's recommendations would be such as to encourage Governments to strengthen their resolve to work for a better future for women, who were the principal concern of the Conference, and indeed for all humanity. They appreciated that opinions might differ as to the policies most likely to lead to the fulfilment of the hopes voiced by women and men everywhere for a secure existence under conditions of justice and equality. But they also felt that in the course of the Decade Governments and people had gained a greater awareness of the situations that needed correcting and that, partly as a result of the activities deployed under the auspices of the United Nations and its associated agencies and subsidiary bodies, attitudes had changed, traditional views being gradually superseded by progressive ones with respect to the status of women. They considered that a spirit of co-operation among the participants in the Conference should make it possible to work out recommendations that might serve as guidelines for future action at the national, regional and international level for achieving, by the year 2000, the objectives desired by the Conference.

83. Many countries pointed out that the progress towards the advancement of women during the Decade had been variable; different countries had achieved progress in different respects, depending upon the conditions and needs of society. For instance, representatives of countries with centrally planned economies reported that these countries had achieved full legal and de facto equality of women and intensified their efforts to enhance the participation of women in policy and decision-making bodies at all levels of society and in all fields of science and

technology. The representatives of countries with developed market economies reported that in these countries equality of the sexes had been substantially achieved in legislation, and in employment, education and health, and stressed intensified efforts for the participation of women in society in accordance with women's own needs, priorities and aspirations. Representatives of developing countries, on the other hand, noting some progress especially in legislation, literacy, education and employment, reported the growing importance of the role played by self-reliant, grass-roots organizations of women. They also reported efforts for more effective integration of women in agricultural, industrial and services programmes and projects.

84. Many representatives noted that during the Decade increasing numbers of women had assumed the role of sole or principal breadwinners and that a visible growth in the number of female-headed households had occurred. Many developing countries noted, however, the difficulties confronted by these women in gaining access to resources and infrastructure, such as housing. The representatives of countries with centrally planned economies mentioned significant progress in their countries towards enabling women to combine effectively their roles as mothers with their roles as producers and wage-earners. Representatives of countries with developed market economies also reported important progress in their countries as regards the social services that enabled women to carry on a gainful occupation and at the same time to fulfil their family responsibilities; in addition, they reported a growing trend towards the sharing of child care responsibilities between women and men.

85. It was noted that, whereas most significant progress had been made towards the legal equality of the sexes, the fact that such equality was not attained in reality in all fields meant variable and, in some countries, disappointing levels of integration of women in different sectors and areas of social, economic and political development, and in the peace process. Because women's access to productive resources, to health, education and employment was not fully achieved, and because women's integration in non-traditional sectors and areas had been a relatively slow and recent process, much remained to be done beyond the Decade. This state of affairs necessitated particular attention to appropriate strategies and mechanisms that would redress the situation.

86. Some representatives particularly mentioned their countries' support for the United Nations system during the Decade (e.g., Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Labour Organisation). Many representatives, mentioning their appreciation to the secretariat for the Conference, the Branch for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, called for the further strengthening of the Branch as a focal point within the United Nations. Some representatives drew attention to a cross-organizational review of the activities of the United Nations system for the advancement of women by the Economic and Social Council, and indicated that Member States were eager that the United Nations system should achieve effective results. Other representatives stated that adequate machinery must be devised to ensure that the United Nations system continues and strengthens its involvement with women's issues after the end of the Decade. Yet other representatives emphasized the need to make maximum and effective use of existing facilities within the United Nations system.

87. A large number of representatives stated that their countries had established or strengthened the governmental machinery for promoting the advancement of women. These institutions were reported to range from full-fledged ministries, to

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departments, commissions, committees and bureaux. Measures were also being taken to strengthen those which had been established before the Decade and additional efforts were reported to introduce institutional measures that would facilitate the integration of women in all mainstream sectoral activities.

88. Since the situation of women was considered to be much alike within particular regions many delegates praised the numerous regional activities undertaken for promoting the advancement of the status of women. These included the women's programmes of the regional commissions of the United Nations, and the other activities carried out at the regional level by such organizations as the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, the Nordic countries, the Group of Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries, and the Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States. In this connection, many countries reported that conferences, regional and international meetings and collaborative research had been organized in preparation for the Conference.

89. The great majority of representatives referred to obstacles to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women encountered at the international, regional and national levels.

90. It was widely recognized that international obstacles included: world political tension and instability, the arms race especially in its nuclear aspects and the danger of its expansion to outer space, and military interventions and conflicts and emergency situations, suppression of national liberation movements, the global economic recession, an unjust and unbalanced international economic order, growing external debts and shrinking international trade, all of which had hampered the advancement of women during the Decade. Several representatives particularly cited global obstacles caused by imperialist aggression and intervention, colonialism and neo-colonialism, the denial of the right to self-determination of peoples, racism and fascism, foreign and illegal occupation. Some representatives related obstacles encountered during the Decade to the non-observance of human and humanitarian rights stressing that armed conflicts could hardly be expected to be resolved peacefully when at the same time there did not exist a sufficient will to grant to the most helpless victims of those conflicts - that is, women and children - the basic protection to which they were entitled according to humanitarian international law and as refugees.

#### Equality

Most countries cited extensive legislative progress made within the Decade. In a majority of countries, the required legal framework for ensuring the equality of women and men was reported to be in place, and relatively few countries mentioned the need for enacting or amending broad equality legislation. Constitutional changes had been made, where necessary, to guarantee women full civil and political rights. In addition, laws had been enacted in a range of countries concerning such areas as labour relations, in particular equal employment practices, equal pay, social security and protection of women, parental leave, part-time work, day care centres for the children of working parents, prepared or self-prepared reasonably priced meals and flexible hours of work for women with a view to facilitating the combination of paid work and family responsibilities. However, these legislative provisions had not always been fully implemented.

In many countries equality of the sexes was reported to be not only a de jure achievement, but a fact in most spheres of life, including political life, policy

and decision-making, science and technology, employment, education and health. Many countries reported the substantial progress attained during the Decade but noted the need for further progress towards the realization of such equality in such areas as political participation and integration of women in non-traditional sectors and activities. Many developing countries, on the other hand, reported that de facto equality was lagging behind the legislative progress of the Decade, particularly with respect to women's access to resources. They suggested that basic structural changes of society would be required in order to attain de facto equality. Traditional attitudes and gender-stereotyped images, remaining sociological, cultural and economic barriers, as well as economic inequalities between nations, and excessive expenditures on armaments were mentioned as major causes of the perpetuation of a system of inequalities based on gender.

93. Obstacles to the advancement of women at the national level were identified by many representatives, who mentioned as examples the persistence of traditional attitudes of male superiority based on deep-seated socio-cultural norms and the sexual stereotyping still prevalent in many societies.

94. Several delegations reported on measures taken in their countries to ensure that married women enjoyed equality of rights with their husbands in the management of the family's financial affairs. They explained that, whereas in the past a married woman in those countries had had to obtain her husband's consent or concurrence for the purpose of engaging in business, obtaining credit and concluding certain contracts, she would henceforth possess full autonomous contractual capacity on a par with her husband.

95. The representatives of several Moslem countries stated that it was regrettable that the teachings of Islam concerning the rights and status of the woman in the family and in society were widely misunderstood. They emphasized that the fundamental law and scripture of Islam had proclaimed the equality of men and women with regard to rights and duties many centuries before equal rights legislation had been enacted in other regions. They pointed out that in their countries more and more women were entering professions and skilled occupations and many had attained high elective and appointive office both at the national and at the local level.

96. Among the many positive achievements of the Decade, the adoption by the General Assembly of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was mentioned. At the opening of the Conference, the Convention had been ratified or acceded to by 76 States. Several other countries reported their intention to sign and ratify the Convention within a short time. Many speakers urged that countries which had not already done so should ratify or accede to the Convention soon. Some representatives noted the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and expressed satisfaction with the fact that the Committee had approved the national reports of their countries.

97. Many countries referred to the valuable contribution of non-governmental organizations in promoting the advancement of women, stressing the contributions of women's organizations in community activities such as maternal and child care, vocational training for the disabled and the provision of social services for the aged. Many also emphasized the need for strengthened co-operation of governmental and non-governmental organizations to help integrate women in all sectors of society. Some speakers mentioned that, with national machinery in place at the end of the Decade in a majority of countries, such co-operation would be more effective.

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98. Many representatives reported on the greater political participation of women at local and national levels as well as in decision and policy-making levels in the legislative process and other sectoral activities. In some countries women were reported to have attained substantial political participation, accounting for almost one third of the members of the legislature. In other countries, such participation was reported to be increasing but still low. The removal of restrictions on the entry of women into high-level services of national administrations was also reported.

#### Development

99. Many delegations considered that one of the main achievements of the Decade was the recognition of the essential role of women in development. They emphasized the importance their Governments attached to the integration of women in all development sectors and activities, both as beneficiaries and contributors and in accordance with women's needs and aspirations. They noted the significant progress made in the recognition both of women's actual contribution to development and of their potential for contributing to the realization of national development goals and objectives. With legislation and national machinery in place, these Governments intended to strengthen efforts to integrate women in national policies, plans, programmes and projects.

100. Several representatives stated that women's problems could be solved only on the basis of overall socio-economic development of the country concerned. Programmes of women's development should be an integral part of development plans. Some representatives stated also that de facto equality and development of women should be based on steady growth of productive forces, the absence of unemployment, free education, vocational training at all levels, and free health care and social security.

101. Special reference was made to women's role in food production and food security in developing countries. Other speakers referred to women's growing income-generating activities in both the public and private sectors, particularly in trade, services and industry, and to the efforts made by their States to support these activities with the provision of specialized adequate training and expansion of credit opportunities for women entrepreneurs and the research and development of appropriate technologies.

102. The delegations of several major donor countries stated that one of the major achievements of the Decade was the increase in multilateral and bilateral financial and technical support to programmes and projects for the advancement of women in developing countries. In particular, representatives placed emphasis on their countries' efforts to contribute towards a solution of the current social and economic crisis, particularly the food crisis in Africa by which women were especially affected.

A number of representatives mentioned as matters needing attention in a number of countries the disparity of earnings as between men and women, job segregation, dominance of women in the trade and services sectors and in other under-remunerated occupations, and the double burden borne by women workers who had family responsibilities.

Many delegations referred to the challenges and prospects opened up by rapid developments in the field of science and technology. Others stated, however, that these developments had not always benefited women and in some cases had even

worsened their situation by curtailing women's traditional economic activities and sources of income. Under-utilization of a country's human resources continued to be a serious obstacle to development. Many representatives stated that vocational training programmes should be introduced for women to enable them to become more qualified for more effective participation in the different sectors of the economy, other than the traditional types of work, and in the use of new and appropriate technology. In addition, it was stressed that formal employment opportunities for women were inadequate. Moreover, women's choice of occupational and educational fields was still influenced in many countries by traditions and customs.

105. Many delegations of developing countries referred to the effects of the recent world-wide economic recession on women in these countries. In addition to having to overcome protectionist barriers that restricted their exports to foreign markets, these countries had to bear an almost intolerable burden of external debt, the interest rates of which had increased, and were suffering from severe domestic inflation. As a consequence, Governments had had to introduce stringent austerity measures, including wage controls, which meant that households were caught between rising prices for consumer goods and declining earnings in real terms. The brunt of this situation was borne by women who had to stretch the family budget to the utmost. Many speakers attributed the imbalance of the world economy to the existing economic order and called for the early establishment of a new international economic order.

106. Some delegations suggested that the Conference's final proceedings should deal expressly with the way in which the international economic and social crisis, the effects of which hurt chiefly the developing countries, was affecting the situation of women. They suggested that the problems of the foreign debt, the imbalance of international trade and the decline in development finance should be stressed as obstacles that were hampering more seriously than in the past the achievement by women of the objectives of equality, development and peace and of the sub-themes: employment, education and health.

107. Many representatives stated that the increased participation of women in decision-making had contributed significantly to the achievements of the goals of the Decade: Equality, Development and Peace and of its sub-themes: employment, health and education. Greater participation by women in decision-making was promoted by the incorporation of specific women's components in national development plans, including the formulation of specific programmes of action for women, and by the establishment of women's national machineries.

108. A number of delegations said that the lack of an adequate data base and indicators for the measurement of women's economic contribution to the gross national product perpetuated their lack of "visibility" and exclusion from the management of national resources and technology.

#### Peace

109. Many delegations reaffirmed the close interrelationship of peace with the other two objectives of the Decade. Many delegations stated that peace was an essential prerequisite for true equality and sustained development. Several noted that peace had relevance to the sub-themes of the Decade - education, employment and health.

110. A large number of delegates stated that women all over the world accepted peace as an objective necessity and increasingly played a key role in the search

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for peace, security and social justice as individuals and as members of governmental and non-governmental organizations. Some delegations emphasized the role of women in preparing societies for life in peace. Women's involvement in peace efforts ranged from participation in peace movements to disarmament campaigns, opposition to military conflict as well as to debates on security and co-operation. Noting that war and the threat of war constituted a particularly serious danger for the daily life of women and children, many delegations emphasized the importance of further enhancing the integration of women in peace efforts at both national and international levels. Some delegations, in particular, stressed the unprecedented dangers of the arms race in outer space and the threat of nuclear war, and called for the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace and Co-operation. These delegations pointed out that the more women took an active stand for peace, the better chance there would be to attain lasting peace. In addition, many delegations stressed that the curbing of the arms race and disarmament could help release much needed resources for productive development efforts which would also benefit women. Other delegations emphasized the need to develop a climate of mutual trust which would allow balanced and verifiable measures of disarmament to be taken.

11. A few delegations stressed in that connection that respect for those human rights and fundamental freedoms which were listed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was not only essential for any improvement in the legal, economic and social status of women, but also a most important factor in any democratic decision-making process, thereby constituting the most important requisite for a just and lasting peace.

12. In the opinion of certain delegations, one of the main obstacles to achieving peace was the course of imperialist forces leading to heightened international tensions resulting from the increase of hotbeds of tension in various parts of the world, which pushed humanity towards a dangerous limit. According to these delegations, the arms race - including the threat of a nuclear war - had reached an unprecedented scope on earth and risked spreading to outer space. They also felt that the implementation of the "Star Wars" programme would boost the threat of a truly global and all-destroying military conflict and would result in a new and still more dangerous round of the arms race.

13. Many delegations stated that women had always suffered particularly from troubles inflicted by war and preparations for war. In their view, women had to bear the heavy burden of the runaway arms race, which devoured colossal resources that could be used in the interest of humanity's peaceful development. They felt that these resources could be the economic basis for solving many problems essential to the position of women and their families, including such problems as the elimination of poverty and hunger, and combating disease and illiteracy.

Other delegations, however, stated that, although an increasing number of women in all countries kept the ideals of peace and disarmament alive, as mothers, educators and as members of peace movements, women had been largely unable in some countries to make any significant direct input into the peace process, being excluded from the decision-making processes at both the national and international levels.

The continued racist policy of apartheid in South Africa and in occupied Namibia was identified as a major obstacle to peace and the advancement of the role of women in that country. In this connection, several representatives

expressed support for the struggle of the African liberation movements (ANC, PAC and SWAPO) which, as vanguards of the South African and Namibian peoples, were resolutely fighting against racial oppression and for national liberation. They called for an end to the illegal occupation of Namibia, for the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions, particularly Security Council resolution 435 (1978), and for an end to apartheid, and called on the international community to apply sanctions against South Africa.

116. Several delegations referred to the sufferings and maltreatment of the Palestinian women in the occupied Arab territories, of the Syrian women in the occupied Syrian Golan and of the Lebanese women in southern Lebanon. It was pointed out that women could not develop or participate effectively in society under foreign occupation and subjugation, specially while witnessing every day the arrest, the disappearance and dispersal of husbands, brothers and sons. Many representatives expressed support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people for their inalienable right to self-determination and to return to their homes and property without external interference, and to the establishment of their independent State in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter and all relevant United Nations resolutions.

117. Some delegations pointed out that the Iran-Iraq war also hindered the progress and development of women in the area. They expressed concern about the hardships suffered by the women affected by the conflict. Some called for an end to the conflict and for the implementation of the resolutions of the Security Council concerning the conflict.

118. Several representatives drew attention to the situation of women in Central America, especially where there was what they termed imperialist intervention in the internal affairs of countries in this subregion, and to the hardships imposed on women by the undeclared war in Nicaragua. The efforts of the Contadora Group to promote peace and development in the subregion of Central America were commended by a number of speakers.

119. Several representatives drew attention to the sufferings of women in some parts of Asia due to aggression and foreign occupation, and to the vast problem of refugees created thereby. In their opinion, this constituted a serious obstacle to the advancement of the women in the region and to peace and security in the area. The same representatives said that a political solution on the basis of withdrawal of foreign troops was necessary for the problems concerned.

#### Sub-themes of the Decade

##### Education

120. With respect to the sub-themes of the Decade, employment, health and education, many representatives reported important advances achieved in each of these areas in their countries. These included equal access to education at all levels, equal employment opportunities, and specific health provisions for mothers, children and families as a priority. In this connection, developed countries reported significant progress towards equal educational opportunities for women and men, and in particular in the scientific and technological fields. In developing countries, substantial progress was also reported, particularly at the elementary level and in literacy education. It was pointed out, however, that while the illiteracy rate varied greatly from country to country and improvements were noted, it was still a fact that in the world and particularly in developing countries, the

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female illiteracy rate was far higher than that of males. Many representatives referred to the illiteracy rate among women in developing countries, and others referred to inadequate functional literacy in certain developed countries.

121. Slow but positive movement was reported at other levels of education, with women increasingly participating in non-traditional vocational training and in adult education. Delegates reported on their countries' efforts to increase female enrolment ratios, to reduce drop-out rates among girls and to diversify curricula for women, and to provide opportunities and training for mature women.

#### Employment

122. It was stressed by numerous speakers that, despite legislative and other measures intended to ensure equality of the sexes in all respects, it was still true in many countries that as regards wages, appointment to posts of responsibility and education, women were still at a disadvantage compared to men. They pointed out that so long as the attendance of girls and young women at educational establishments and their subject orientation differed from those of boys and young men, the employment opportunities for the female labour force would remain less favourable than those for men; in addition, women's chances of rising to managerial or senior posts would continue to be limited and women's earnings would be lower than those of their male colleagues, even if they were doing comparable work.

123. Attention was drawn by many speakers to the increases which had occurred in recent years in the share of the labour force accounted for by women, not merely in traditionally feminine occupations but in a wide range of economic activities. Exceptions noted were certain arduous occupations or night work, sometimes prohibited for women or incompatible with the conventions of ILO. Several representatives stated that in their countries full employment had been achieved and equal opportunity policies had created situations in which women were found at all levels, including managerial and administrative posts, and in fields formerly considered non-traditional for women. Wage differences between men and women were noted by many countries, though the differences appeared to be shrinking. Other speakers stated that the principle of equal pay for equal work was now fully in force in their countries.

124. A number of speakers indicated that the greater participation of women in economic activities was attributable to the expansion of so-called service industries, mainly but not exclusively in the developed countries. The demand for women workers was seen both as an opportunity and a challenge: an opportunity for women workers to strengthen their position in the family and in society, and a challenge to educational and training institutions to ensure the supply of skilled female labour.

125. As evidence of the progressive emancipation of women as members of the labour force, several speakers cited the increasing numbers of women enrolling as members of trade unions and taking an active part in union affairs.

126. A number of representatives pointed out that, while it was true that women were entering the labour force in increasing numbers, it was equally true that women accounted for a larger share than men among the unemployed. The reason was that although women were increasingly entering new fields of employment often based on new technology, they still tended in their countries to be employed in traditionally feminine trades that were particularly vulnerable to the vagaries of

the economic environment. They added that in many sectors of industry, including in particular the service industries, women were recruited as temporary or part-time workers and enjoyed little or no security of tenure.

127. A number of representatives stated that in their countries motherhood was recognized as an important social function. The State and society regarded the care of mothers, children and families as one of their priority tasks. Special facilities and benefits were made available in many countries for working mothers, as was explained by the representatives of these countries. The benefits included pregnancy leave, leave of absence from work - in some cases for both father and mother - after a child was born, cash allowances for mothers of infants and other forms of assistance. The facilities included child care centres, crèches, nursery schools (often located in the immediate vicinity of the place of work), and rest rooms for nursing mothers. Several representatives referred to the generous periods of maternity leave granted in their countries to working mothers and to their right, guaranteed by law, to reinstatement in their jobs after the expiry of this leave.

128. Several delegations reported on legislative and administrative measures adopted in their countries in order to reform the system of taxation in such a way that women would, in effect, receive tax treatment on an equal footing with men in situations where this had not been the case in the past. The object of such measures was to ensure that women's tax position would not be prejudiced by marriage and to provide an incentive to women with family responsibilities to carry on a gainful occupation if they so wished. In many cases, they said the fiscal provisions were supplemented by allowances or benefits that were designed to enable working women with family responsibilities to defray their additional expenses.

#### Health

129. Significant progress was reported by many delegations in the improvement of the health status of women and in the provision of health care, services and facilities. In particular, the increased life expectancy of women in many countries and reduction in infant, child and maternal mortality were mentioned as important achievements of the Decade.

130. It was pointed out by many delegates that an essential pre-condition for the advancement of women was their capability to control their reproductive function. The expansion of family planning facilities and the acceptance of family planning practices, enabling women to control their fertility and to space children in accordance with their personal and family circumstances, were considered by many delegates as some of the main achievements of the Decade. However, other speakers reported that the control of fertility was made difficult by the revival of cultural values, norms and attitudes which regarded the number of children as proof of the man's virility and as a source of financial support in later years for their parents.

131. Many speakers noted that the world-wide emphasis on primary health care had placed new emphasis on the health of women, who as the most crucial providers of health care to children and families, must themselves be healthy to fulfil that role adequately. Women's roles as community health workers and traditional birth attendants were particularly noted, as was women's increasing participation in other health professions.

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132. Health conditions were reported to be still inadequate in many parts of the world, especially for women in rural areas. Women were more likely to be malnourished than men and had generally less access to medical facilities. In addition, birth rates were particularly high among illiterate and unemployed women, which indicated a clear interrelationship between improvements in education, health and employment and the role and status of women.

#### Other areas

133. With regard to information and knowledge about women's role in and contribution to society, significant progress was reported by many delegates. Through the gathering of gender-specific information, country surveys, and with the help of research institutions and by other means, greater knowledge had been accumulated during the Decade about women's role in society, their contribution to all economic activities and, in particular, to agricultural production, to industry and services in the formal and informal sectors, to the household and thus to society as a whole. While much still remained to be done, national and international statistical agencies had gone a long way towards measuring women's work in the sectors where estimates had often been deficient, particularly the informal sector and agriculture. In addition, the body of knowledge of women's economic roles and of the cultural attitudes that affected gender roles in society and in the family had grown rapidly during the Decade, thanks to the efforts of national research institutes and international organizations.

134. Many representatives stated that the Decade had contributed to raising public awareness of the difficulties encountered by women on their path to integration in development, and they emphasized their essential contribution to national economic development. The Decade had also contributed to a greater sense of awareness and self-confidence among women as individuals and as a group. It had, in essence, served the important task of preparing the ground work for the implementation of national programmes for the advancement of women. A number of speakers mentioned a definite change of attitude on the part of men towards the role of women in the home and at work. More and more men, particularly in developed countries, were assuming a share of household tasks and of the care of children. To some extent, these speakers said, this new attitude was attributed to the spread of knowledge about women's essential role in society, in the economy and in the family, which was itself a consequence of the publicity given during the Decade to the role of women in society.

135. At the regional level, environmental disasters and, in particular drought and the consequent famine in the African region were mentioned as obstacles which seriously hindered the achievement of the Decade's goals and objectives.

136. Many countries also noted the difficulties introduced by continued high levels of population growth as an obstacle to the advancement of the status of women. The consequent economic and social pressures on urban areas as a result of population growth and urbanization was also mentioned by many countries. Many representatives stressed the importance of implementing the Mexico City World Population Plan of Action 1984.

137. Many representatives drew attention to the problems of violence against women, sexual harassment, prostitution, violence in the family, abused and battered women. It was noted that violence in the home, whether based on traditional customs or spousal abuse, was all too prevalent in many countries. Family privacy,

guilt feelings or embarrassment had often covered up this widespread phenomenon. Some representatives pointed out that domestic violence had to be recognized as a criminal act against women and treated with appropriate legal measures, which could be complemented by effective social and support services to the victims.

138. Many representatives identified refugee women and children as subjects of particular concern. They pointed out that not only their numbers were growing steadily, but equally importantly, they suffered daily from deprivation, disorientation and anomie. Among the root causes listed by several government representatives of this acute problem were famine, drought and other environmental problems, extreme poverty and, especially, armed conflicts, foreign aggression and occupation and loss of human freedoms. Refugee women and children were most vulnerable. They suffered more than men from the consequences of lawlessness and dissolution of the social fabric. Life in refugee camps also often placed the responsibility for the care and education of children entirely on their mothers.

139. Several delegations addressed the problems experienced by migrant women and, in particular, those of the migrant women workers. Other delegations reported that new legislation had been enacted in their countries during the Decade to improve the living and working conditions of migrant women. They reported in addition that migrant women and, in particular, migrant women workers had been able to gain greater equality within the host societies during the Decade.

140. Some representatives referred to the situation of indigenous minorities in view of their low levels of living. The women of indigenous minorities had an important role in traditional societies as custodians of their culture, language, laws and lands. They were also often the mainstay of community-level organizations and in this way, women members of indigenous minorities increased thereby their participation in decision-making in society as a whole. Some representatives reported on the establishment of task forces to investigate the needs of indigenous women and advise on appropriate policies and programmes.

141. Many participants urged that special attention should be given to measures and projects for alleviating the hardships of rural women in developing countries. These women, particularly in least developed countries of Africa and Asia, laboured from before dawn till after dusk in working the land, fetching water, often from distant sites, gathering and carrying wood, preparing the meals for their families, taking produce to market - a seemingly endless round of toil. The speakers considered that the national authorities and donors of aid should make concerted efforts - in so far as they were not already doing so - to devise rural development projects that would take the situation of these women into account. Several representatives cited examples of schemes designed to achieve this purpose, and the representatives of some donor countries described results achieved by their aid agencies in this respect, to which voluntary agencies had in some cases made valuable contributions.

142. Several delegates were of the opinion that elderly women were in need of particular support and assistance, especially in view of the rapid increase in life expectancy for both men and women in developed and developing countries and of the higher survival rates of women in higher age brackets. The women whose husbands had died or retired often faced serious economic difficulties and had to be aided financially. However, even when they were economically self-sufficient, elderly women often confronted the danger of isolation and loneliness.

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Statements by representatives of organizations in the United Nations system

143. The Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development stated that the Department, as the main operational arm of the United Nations Secretariat, provided enormous potential for involving women in development activities, in such fields as natural resources, energy, integrated rural development, development planning, public administration and finance, statistics, population and social development. The Department generally did not encourage special women's projects per se; instead, components related to women were added to its projects. Its approach had been "Keep it simple", with heavy emphasis on the training of women. This approach had proved to be fruitful. Many examples were cited. More impressively, three of the eight projects which had received special mention at the Conference were being executed or assisted by the Department. As regards the future, she said that the Department would continue its integrated approach and work closely with other international agencies as well as non-governmental organizations. However, she cautioned that, unless the numbers of qualified women holding higher positions in Governments and international organizations increased greatly, there could be no real progress. She mentioned that the Department had increased its percentage of women professionals from 18 per cent in 1979 to 28 per cent in 1983 and still maintained the proportion at 25 per cent in 1985, exceeding the general average for United Nations Headquarters. However, despite many efforts the Department still could not increase the proportion of women among its field experts from a static 4 or 5 per cent. She appealed therefore for more applications by qualified female candidates to serve as the Department's field project experts. She also pleaded for the support of Governments in ensuring women's full participation in projects.

144. The Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific stated that the issues affecting women throughout the world - equality, development and peace - had been discussed in depth at the Regional Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting held in Tokyo in March 1984. This regional input to the Conference was marked by a consensus among Governments in the region that over the past decade the progress made by women in the economic, social and political fields had been uneven, both within and among countries of the ESCAP region. The setbacks, attributable to adverse global and regional economic conditions, had affected the poorest women most. The Tokyo meeting had therefore urged that efforts made during the past decade should be continued to the year 2000 and that highest priority should be given to the poorest. In addition, the meeting expressed the view that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was a crucial instrument and had urged all Governments in the region that had not already done so to ratify the Convention. Stronger and more co-ordinated efforts by Governments and women were needed for the purpose of bringing further structural changes that would ensure a better future for women and the world.

The representative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) stated that the adoption and application of concerted measures at the international level called for by UNCTAD to revitalize the world economy and to activate the development process in the third world would be bound to have a bearing on the lives of women, who constitute half the world's population. In addition to its overall work, UNCTAD undertook specific work related to women: a Joint Programme UNCTAD/INSTRAW on the impact of technological development on the advancement of women had produced two studies: "Women, Technology and Sexual Relations" and "Technology and Women's Status", which had been submitted to the Nairobi Conference. Other sectoral studies were being prepared on (a) the role of

women in the field of primary commodities, (b) structural change and adjustment in manufactures trade and female employment, and (c) the role of women in the economy of the least developed countries. In the context of activities contributing to the participation and advancement of women in all sectors of economic activities, UNCTAD had as yet made only a modest contribution, but it was committed to giving women's issues their rightful place in its programme, and was ready to co-operate with other bodies in order to enhance and improve the role played by women in trade sectors.

146. The representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) stressed that, although statistical data were inadequate, it was clear that the contribution of women to the industrialization of their countries was vital to the overall economic and social development of the third world. Women were increasingly participating in and contributing towards industrial development, both in the small-scale and informal sector and in the modern industrial sector. On the one hand, scientific and technological advances in industrial production had increasingly led to the elimination of strenuous physical labour and widened the occupational opportunities for women; on the other hand, these advances were expected to make major changes in the future requirements of industry. Hence higher education and training opportunities for women in industrial production skills were of crucial importance for the purpose of offering to women greater access to skilled and professional positions and of ensuring their involvement in decisions concerning industrial planning as well as in decisions relating to science and technology.

147. The Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) said that women and children constituted the majority of the approximately one billion persons who were lacking adequate shelter and living in extremely unhealthy and unsanitary conditions in neglected rural areas and urban slums. Taken together the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (1987) and the Forward-looking Strategies both called for equal rights and opportunities with respect to access to credit and loans, to fundamental training and education, to ownership of land and security of tenure, as well as for full participation of the poor in shelter improvement programmes which would lead to increased employment opportunities for women and would contribute to national economic development. He appealed to the women of the world to mobilize, to support and to act in concert in order to achieve better shelter and facilities for the poor.

148. The Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) affirmed the Fund's commitment to strengthen and support actions that would yield direct social, health and economic benefits for women, recognizing that the improvement of women's condition was a prerequisite of children's well-being. Among the measures specified by the Executive Board of UNICEF were the support of economically viable income-generating projects; the intensification of the promotion of female education; and the programmes dealing with food scarcity at the household level. One recent development favourable to women had been the new potential for a revolution in child survival and growth through four low-cost primary health care opportunities: growth surveillance; oral rehydration; breast-feeding and appropriate local weaning foods; and universal immunization by 1990 against the six major childhood diseases. These child survival measures were being linked with programmes to enhance the situation of women in three ways: (a) strengthening the socio-economic capacity of women to better feed and care for their children; (b) promoting training of women in a variety of skills to become agents of change and active generators within their communities; and (c) supporting women's organizations at the grass-roots level. He said that the Conference was challenged

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to take one specific dramatic action to promote children's and women's well-being by asking that women should spearhead the movement to achieve the universal immunization of children and pregnant women by 1990, on a largely self-sustaining basis and in a way that would strengthen other child survival measures and primary health care in general. The challenge of the next few years should be the development of a new ethic that would demand action to correct adverse conditions affecting millions of women and children. Such action would in large part be accomplished by empowering women to improve dramatically their own condition, as well as that of their families and children.

149. The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), speaking also in his capacity as Director of the United Nations Office for Emergency Operations in Africa (UNOEOA), stated that the study entitled "Inter-organizational assessment of women's participation in development", which had been submitted to the Conference and had been co-ordinated by UNDP, was designed to identify programming modalities and methods that would be more effective in overcoming remaining obstacles to women's full participation in technical co-operation activities supported by the United Nations development system. The study, involving 14 different organizations and based on the active co-operation of four Governments, those of Rwanda, Democratic Yemen, Indonesia and Haiti, had already been accepted as a basis for continued inter-agency collaboration in a number of follow-up activities. He added that in his work as Director of the UNOEOA he was constantly reminded of the debt owed to the crucial life-sustaining activities of the African women, who historically had been and remained the continent's chief food producers. He was convinced that African women would play a major role in carrying Africa from crisis to rehabilitation, to economic recovery and onward to further economic and social progress through self-reliant development. Any other process would not only be morally indefensible but economically unsound. In concluding, he said that he was honoured that the General Assembly had decided to place the United Nations Development Fund for Women in autonomous association with UNDP, an arrangement that promised to strengthen further the existing operational and substantive ties. He noted that two recent initiatives of the Fund - the African Investment Plan and the Food Cycle Technologies Project - were of immediate interest to the emergency operations in Africa.

150. The representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) stated that the Office provided international protection and material assistance to all refugees, including of course refugee women who often suffered great hardship. The report on "The activities and programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on behalf of refugee women" (A/CONF.116/11) emphasized the international protection of refugee women as well as programmes of material assistance for them in the fields of health, education and employment, supported by counselling and social services. Protection was needed not only for refugee women whose physical safety was at risk, both during the flight and within the refugee camp. Unrestricted access by UNHCR to camps and border areas could deter such violations. UNHCR had established an Anti-Piracy Programme to reduce the number of attacks on the high seas, notably attacks on refugee boats. The health programmes of UNHCR included the provision of supplementary feeding, public health education, the training of refugee health workers, and mental health care. At the end of 1984, UNHCR had 103 education projects in 45 countries, providing both academic schooling and vocational training. During the decade, the Office had provided post-primary educational assistance to refugee women and girls, including Namibian refugee students. Refugee women in particular suffered from a lack of employment opportunities. UNHCR had therefore emphasized income-generating and self-sufficiency activities to enable them to reduce their

dependence on assistance and to resume a dignified and productive life. Exile might imply new and often difficult roles and responsibilities for the refugee woman, but it might also represent access to a new way of life. While respecting the socio-cultural background of the refugee woman, UNHCR tried to provide her with the means to confront her new life situation in a constructive and positive way.

151. The Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), referring to the achievements of the International Conference on Population held in Mexico City in 1984 and their relationship to the concerns of the Nairobi Conference, observed that women's concerns formed an important part of the Declaration of Mexico City and the recommendations of the 1984 Conference. That Conference had confirmed, first, that the improvement of the roles and status of women was an important goal in itself. Secondly, because women's status was clearly related to demographic variables such as fertility and maternal mortality, improving the status of women should be a component of all population policies. Thirdly, effective population policies helped to relieve women of their traditional burdens and offered them the means to contribute fully to and benefit from economic and social development. And fourthly, the achievement of the objectives of population programmes, particularly those related to family planning, depended to a great extent on the active participation of women in all aspects of those programmes. Accordingly, UNFPA would continue to ensure that women's concerns were taken into account in all aspects of population policies and programmes and that women were given the opportunity and the means to participate in and to benefit from all relevant activities supported by UNFPA.

152. The representative of the World Food Programme (WFP) stated that WFP, the food aid arm of the United Nations system, had been reaching large numbers of low-income rural women through projects for agriculture and rural development, for human resources development, and for emergency relief. At least one half of the \$925 million that WFP had committed to development projects in 1984 directly involved and benefited the poorest strata of rural women. At least two thirds of the recipients of WFP assistance in emergency operations - of which \$234 million had been committed in 1984 - were women and children. As a resource for development assistance, food had a unique role in improving the economic, nutritional and health levels of low-income women. Among the poor, women were the main food providers and assumed responsibility for food distribution within their households. Thus, WFP's food aid basket, unlike other forms of household income, tended to remain under women's direct control, and could provide women with more income. WFP's food aid also released women's time from arduous subsistence chores since a substantial number of WFP-assisted projects developed village fuelwood lots, food storage facilities, potable water supplies and irrigation networks as well as other rural infrastructural supports to promote food security. Food aid also acted as an incentive for development through projects for better nutrition. In supplementary feeding projects for the "at risk" groups of women, the distribution of WFP food aid commodities through village-level Mother and Child Health (MCH) centres helped rural women to gain access to basic health care, income-generating skills, and education for themselves and their children. WFP's food aid, provided free of charge to Governments, could substitute for certain government expenditures (e.g., the wage bill in food-for-work projects or the food bill in school feeding programmes). Part of these budgetary savings, especially a period of fiscal austerity could be programmed to support women's access to productive resources. These were only some of the ways in which food aid helped women. Others included monetization, for example through co-operatives or in-kind development schemes. There was, in sum, a "tight fit" between the nature of project food aid and the immediate needs of women in poverty, for food aid

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contributed to sustainable development, particularly the promotion of food security, the expansion of female employment, and the improvement of women's productive capacity and access to resources.

153. The representative of the International Labour Office stated that the ILO had promoted the goals of the Decade through its standard-setting and technical co-operation activities, with a view to improving conditions of work, reducing inequalities, fostering socio-economic development, and promoting peace through social justice. The well-being of women workers was one of the traditional concerns of the ILO. Certain conventions for the protection of working women's health dated back to 1919, and Convention No. 100 concerning equal pay for work of equal value had been adopted by the International Labour Conference as early as 1951. Yet, never in the history of the ILO had women represented such a formidable challenge to the world of labour as now. The quantitative and qualitative changes in women's labour force participation called for major adjustments. Within the formal labour force the number of women had increased dramatically to reach 35 per cent of the total. At present, there were close to 700 million "economically active" women and the number was expected to increase to nearly 900 million by the year 2000. Although most working women were still confined to low-skill, low-pay, low-status jobs, the persistent move of women into all spheres of economic production and into all jobs at all levels was irreversible. This development was not simply a reflection of the growth of the gross national product but was an interrelated process of economic growth, self-reliance and social justice. The example of working women indicated that without self-reliance and social justice economic growth was retarded and development remained lopsided. The massive entry of women into the labour force as a consequence of new needs and new aspirations had made it clear that, in most cases, women's income was essential for family well-being. It was estimated that one third of the world's families depended on the sole income of women. The present high unemployment and underemployment rates of women were unacceptable. Concerted national and international action was required, including constitutional guarantees and the translation of relevant legislation into practice, in order to achieve full productive and freely-chosen employment for all. Real equality of opportunity in employment would not be brought about as long as the labour market remained largely segregated one. Firm measures were called for to desegregate vocational training with a view to providing all women and men with marketable skills and access to all occupations. Making equal provisions for men and women would not necessarily lead to real equality of opportunity. Special measures were therefore needed at the national and international levels that would enable women to profit equally from training and employment opportunities, particularly disabled, refugee, migrant, older and young working women and those suffering under apartheid. At its twenty-first session the International Labour Conference had unanimously adopted a resolution on equal opportunities and equal treatment for men and women in employment. The ILO firmly believed that policies to improve the status of women workers throughout the world were in essence no more and no less than efforts to make a vital contribution to a better and brighter future for the whole of humanity.

154. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) stated that support for and consultation with women farmers had not been commensurate with their considerable efforts and responsibilities in agriculture. Increased access to land, credit, markets, technology and extension services would be particularly important, and men as well as women should be trained to work with groups of rural women, as a matter of priority, in cases where women constituted the majority of small farmers. The introduction of new crops or the reallocation of land as between food and cash crops should not diminish women's

access to land or income for food consumption. Credit should be based on performance in cases where women lacked title deeds to the land they cultivated. FAO's policies, programmes and projects were increasingly following these strategies as part of an effort to improve national and household food security. A film "The Forgotten Farmers: Women and Food Security" would be made available to member countries in order to stimulate discussion and action at the national level.

155. The representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) stated that in the organization's experience the United Nations Decade for Women represented just a beginning of a decisive transformation of the relationships between women and men. The forces creating and upholding discrimination against women were complex, and UNESCO has expanded its activities in the area of research and studies relating to women in recent years. The literacy gap between the sexes had not been closed, and efforts were needed to ensure for women at least a basic education. Increased attention had been given in UNESCO's programmes to measures for counteracting the sex stereotypes transmitted through schools and the media. Girls and women should be encouraged to participate in scientific and technological pursuits and in decision-making in social, cultural, economic and political life.

156. In his address to the Conference, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) distinguished between two possible scenarios for the future of health and society. The male one was the hyper-expansionist ("HE") scenario, standing for unconstrained technological development. Development in terms of the "HE" scenario had by no means been always beneficial for women, least of all in developing countries. The female scenario was the sane, humane, ecological ("SHE") one, standing for the caring, nurturing role in societies. He noted that the objective of "Health for all by the year 2000" belonged squarely to the "SHE" scenario. He cautioned, however, that women must be considered for their own worth, as equal members of society, rather than only as mothers, potential mothers or careers. He pointed out that, after all, the numbers of families headed by women were on the steady increase, but that these women had no real economic options for self-support and development. He stressed that women should be regarded not merely in the light of their contributions to family life, but should be considered in terms of their rights to share responsibilities for others with the men in their lives and with the men in their societies.

157. The representative of the World Bank stated that, being a development institution, the Bank had come to recognize that women's participation was essential to the success of many development programmes and projects, and that appropriate measures and instruments needed to be devised in order to integrate women in the earliest stages of planning. Better information was needed in order to gain a deeper understanding of the importance of women in national development; and more specific items concerning women were being included in the Bank's data bases. The Bank had learned a great deal from experience and from reviews of completed projects. For instance, in view of women's increasingly important but inadequately recognized role in agriculture, the Bank was enhancing the access of women farmers to agricultural extension services, and inputs with a view to improving their productivity, and the strategy for sub-Saharan Africa should make more explicit the support for this role. Because its research confirmed how important was women's education to the welfare of society and future generations, the Bank was endeavouring to increase the access for females to education and training and to reduce high illiteracy rates. Data on population and development gathered for the World Development Report 1984 showed that the situation of women was a critical variable in population growth. The Bank would fund additional

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research into population questions and increase lending for purposes connected with the health of the population. It was for Governments to take the decisions concerning the legislation, policies and programmes for improving opportunities for women. In its role as catalyst in the dialogue on economic policy and in the co-ordination of capital and technical assistance, the Bank was helping to create a more favourable climate for improving the options open to women. It advocated greater participation of women and their organizations in dialogues with development agencies concerning policies that would maximize the contribution of women to development and their share of the benefits.

158. The representative of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) stated that the Fund had been established in 1977 to deal exclusively with the problems of poor small farmers and the landless. It believed that there was a huge untapped potential for greater small-farm agricultural production among female as well as male farmers. Having invested some \$2 billion in 160 projects in 1984, the Fund had shown that there were effective ways of organizing development programmes around the needs of the rural poor. The battle against poverty and hunger could not be won unless women were active participants. IFAD had sought the integration and full participation of women in development programmes, particularly through the creation of, and support for, grass-roots organizations. On the basis of the experience gained, the Fund would submit specific policy recommendations to its executive board later in 1985 on the role of women in sustainable agriculture.

159. The Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) stated that the Institute constituted an important result of the Decade. Research, training, and information activities would have an important role in the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies, as adopted by the Conference. The Institute's aim was to see that women were considered active contributors rather than passive elements in development in the context of social welfare problems. The Institute explored the planning and programming strategies and institutional frameworks needed for the integration of women's issues in national programmes and in economic and technical co-operation activities. It also tried to promote the development of more precise indicators, statistics and data on women to shed light on their role in informal or hidden sectors of national economies; to develop appropriate grass-roots methods for training women; to explore the impact of new technologies on women; and to advise decision-makers on those issues. She mentioned that INSTRAW had been playing and would continue to play the role of a catalyst for developmental change, basing its operations on a network of co-operative management with organizations from the United Nations system, as well as academic, non-governmental and women's organizations at the international, regional and national levels.

The representative of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT summarized activities of the Centre that had a bearing on the advancement of women and their integration in development. In the Centre's experience, women could play a very important role in the trade-promotion efforts of developing countries. Activities such as trade information and documentation and export market research were carried out by staff that included a number of women. In Africa, the Centre had been pursuing its activities in favour of African women in development, taking into account Chapter XII, on women and development, of the Lagos Plan of Action, and one of the priority areas recognized by the Centre's Advisory Group was development of skills among women entrepreneurs and their integration into economic activity. In 1984 a workshop on "Export Marketing for Women Entrepreneurs and Senior Women Managers of Business Enterprises in Eastern and Southern African Countries" had been held jointly with the Eastern and Southern African Management

Institute, and in 1985 a similar workshop for francophone West African countries would be held in co-operation with the West African Economic Community. The objective of these regional and future national workshops was to enhance the role of women in the export sector of African countries. The workshops fostered understanding of the techniques of the export business; they covered aspects of intra-African trade and the complex operations of exporting to traditional and new markets. In Asia and the Pacific, various activities of concern to women and contributing to their economic and social advancement were included in national and regional projects of the Centre. In some of the Centre's projects in Latin America and the Caribbean women participated, particularly in the areas of trade information and training.

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## Chapter V

### REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE CONFERENCE AND ACTION TAKEN ON THESE REPORTS BY THE CONFERENCE

#### A. Report of the First Committee

161. The Conference, at its 3rd plenary meeting, on 16 July 1985, allocated to the First Committee the following chapters of the document relating to agenda item 8 entitled "Forward-looking Strategies of implementation for the advancement of women for the period up to the year 2000, and concrete measures to overcome obstacles to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women for the period 1986 to the year 2000: Equality, Development and Peace; and the sub-theme: Employment, Health and Education, bearing in mind the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and the establishment of a new international economic order" (A/CONF.116/12), to be dealt with in the manner set out below:

The First Committee would consider, in that order:

Chapter I: Equality (paras. 44 to 93)

Chapter II: Development (paras. 94 to 228)

Chapter III: Peace (paras. 229 to 273)

Under chapter III, the Committee was to consider also sections C, M, P and Q of chapter IV, relating to "Areas of special concern". Section C referred to "Women in areas affected by armed conflicts, foreign intervention and threats to peace", section M referred to "Refugee and displaced women and children", section P referred to "Women and children under apartheid" and section Q referred to "Palestinian women and children".

162. The Committee considered these chapters at meetings held from 15 to 25 July 1985.

163. The Committee's Presiding Officer was Mrs. Cecilia Lopez (Colombia), who was elected by acclamation at the 2nd plenary meeting of the Conference, on 15 July 1985.

164. At its 1st meeting, on 16 July 1985, the Committee elected the following officers:

Deputy Presiding Officers: Ms. Laetitia van den Assum (Netherlands)  
Ms. Olimpia Solomonescu (Romania)  
Ms. Kulsun Saifullah (Pakistan)

Rapporteur: Ms. Diaroumeye Gany (Niger)

165. At its 3rd meeting, on 17 July, the Committee decided to establish a Negotiating Group, consisting of the Chairman of the Group of 77 and of the coordinators of the regional groups and representatives designated by them, on the understanding that the Group would be open-ended. The Negotiating Group was to

deal with and settle the text of the sections of the document concerning the Forward-looking Strategies referred to the Committee.

166. In addition, the Committee considered a number of draft resolutions submitted to it.

167. At its 12th meeting, on 23 July, the Committee decided to establish a Working Group to review and combine, whenever feasible, draft resolutions; the members of the Group, which was open-ended, were the sponsors of the draft resolutions and the regional co-ordinators, under the chairmanship of the representative of Romania.

168. The text of the draft resolutions submitted to the Committee, in some cases as revised or amended, is reproduced in annex I to this report, pursuant to a decision taken by the Conference at its 20th (closing) plenary meeting.

169. The First Committee recommended to the Conference for adoption the text of the paragraphs to be incorporated in the chapters and sections of the Forward-looking Strategies which had been referred to the Committee. For an account of the action taken by the Conference with respect to these recommendations see below.

#### B. Report of the Second Committee

170. The Conference, at its 3rd plenary meeting, on 16 July 1985, allocated to the Second Committee specific sections of the document relating to agenda item 8, entitled "Forward-looking Strategies of implementation for the advancement of women for the period up to the year 2000, and concrete measures to overcome obstacles to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, and the sub-theme: Employment, Health and Education, bearing in mind the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and the establishment of a new international economic order".

171. In accordance with the decision of the Conference on the allocation of work between the two Committees, the Second Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretariat containing the draft text of the Forward-looking Strategies of implementation for the advancement of women and concrete measures to overcome obstacles to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women for the period 1986 to the year 2000: equality, development and peace (A/CONF.116/12, paras. 1-43, 274-283, 286-298, 301-305 and 308-372);

(b) Working paper submitted by Mrs. Rosario Manalo, Chairperson of the Preparatory Body for the Conference at its third and resumed third sessions, on the results of the informal consultations held in New York pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 1985/158 (A/CONF.116/CRP.1);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General transmitting the recommendations of the regional intergovernmental preparatory meetings (A/CONF.116/9 and Corr.1);

(d) Note by the Secretariat containing the report of the Secretary-General reviewing the issue of women and development in the medium-term plans of the organizations of the United Nations system (A/CONF.116/15).

172. The Presiding Officer of the Committee was Mrs. Rosario Manalo (Philippines), who was elected by acclamation at the 2nd plenary meeting of the Conference, on 15 July 1985.

173. At its 1st meeting, on 16 July 1985, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

Deputy Presiding Officers: Billie Miller (Barbados)  
Konjit Sine Giogis (Ethiopia)  
Eva Szilagyi (Hungary)

Rapporteur: Helen Ware (Australia)

174. The Committee considered agenda item 8 at its 1st to 18th meetings, from 16 to 25 July 1985.

175. It was agreed that the Committee should not hold a general discussion. The Committee considered the draft paragraphs of the Forward-looking Strategies allocated to it, as contained in documents A/CONF.116/12 and A/CONF.116/CRP.1, at its 1st to 11th and 18th meetings, on 16 to 20, 22 and 25 July 1985, taking into account the two other documents before it (A/CONF.116/9 and Corr.1 and A/CONF.116/15).

176. The Second Committee recommended to the Conference for adoption the text of the paragraphs to be incorporated in the chapters and sections of the Forward-looking Strategies which had been referred to the Committee. For an account of the action taken by the Conference with respect to these recommendations see below.

177. In addition to considering the paragraphs of the Forward-looking Strategies, the Second Committee considered a number of draft resolutions submitted to it. The text of the draft resolutions submitted to the Committee, in some cases as revised or amended, is reproduced in annex I to this report, pursuant to a decision taken by the Conference at its 20th meeting.

C. Action taken in plenary on the reports of the First and Second Committees

178. The Conference considered the reports of the First and Second Committees (A/CONF.116/L.6 and Add.1-6 and A/CONF.116/L.5 and Add.1-15) at the 18th, 19th and 20th plenary meetings, on 25 and 26 July 1985.

1. Action with respect to the text of the Forward-looking Strategies

179. The Conference decided to consider in their numerical order the paragraphs recommended by the Committees for inclusion in the Forward-looking Strategies. The Conference considered, in addition, a number of paragraphs which had been proposed in Committee and on which it had been impossible to reach agreement in the Committee concerned. These paragraphs were accordingly left to be decided by the Conference, as is explained below in the appropriate context.



Paragraphs 1-35\* (A/CONF.116/L.5/Add.1-8)

180. At the 18th plenary meeting, on 25 July 1985, the Conference adopted by consensus the text of paragraphs 1 to 35 recommended by the Second Committee. It was agreed that paragraph 18 as it appeared in document A/CONF.116/12 should be deleted (see A/CONF.116/L.5/Add.5), and that paragraph 26 should, as recommended by the Committee (see A/CONF.116/L.5/Add.8), be transferred to the beginning of section C of the Introduction to the Forward-looking Strategies.

181. The delegation of the Holy See reserved its position with respect to paragraph 30 because it had not joined in the consensus at the International Conference on Population (Mexico City, 1984) and did not agree with the substance of paragraph 30.

Paragraph 36 (A/CONF.116/L.5/Add.9)

182. The Conference considered paragraph 36 at its 19th plenary meeting on 26 July 1985. The Second Committee had been unable to agree on the text of the paragraph (which appeared in square brackets in the Committee's report; see A/CONF.116/L.5/Add.9) and accordingly referred it to the plenary Conference for consideration and decision.

183. After a debate in which the representatives of Egypt, Canada, the Byelorussian SSR, Mexico, Norway, Philippines, Mali, Austria, Zambia, Ireland and Algeria took part, it was agreed that the paragraph should be adopted and that the countries which wished to formulate reservations to the paragraph should be mentioned in a footnote.

Paragraphs 37-43 (A/CONF.116/L.5/Add.9)

184. The Conference adopted by consensus paragraphs 37 to 43 as recommended by the Second Committee.

Paragraph 44 (A/CONF.116/L.6/Add.1)

185. As recommended by the First Committee, the Conference adopted by consensus and without change the text of paragraph 44 as it appeared in document A/CONF.116/112.

Paragraph 45 (A/CONF.116/12)

186. The First Committee had been unable to reach agreement on this paragraph as it appeared in document A/CONF.116/12 and referred it to the plenary for decision. After a discussion in which the representatives of Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Trinidad and Tobago, Kenya, India and Italy took part, the Conference adopted the paragraph.

\* In this chapter the numbering of paragraphs of the Forward-looking Strategies follows that in the reports of the Committees. As the Conference decided to rearrange the order of certain paragraphs, the numbering is different in the final text of the Strategies set out in chapter I above.

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Paragraphs 46-48 (A/CONF.116/L.6/Add.1)

187. As recommended by the First Committee, the Conference adopted by consensus and without change the text of paragraphs 46 to 48 as it appeared in document A/CONF.116/112.

Paragraphs 49 and 50 (A/CONF.116/L.6/Add.1)

188. The Conference adopted by consensus the text of paragraphs 49 and 50 recommended by the First Committee in its report.

Paragraphs 51-72 (A/CONF.116/L.6/Add.1)

189. The Conference adopted by consensus the text of paragraphs 52 to 55, 57 to 59, 62 and 68 recommended by the First Committee in its report, and as recommended by the Committee adopted for paragraphs 51, 56, 60, 61, 63 to 67 and 69 to 72 the relevant text as it appeared in document A/CONF.116/12, without change.

190. The delegation of the United States of America formulated a reservation concerning the phrase "equal pay for work of equal value" in paragraph 70, on the grounds that it was inconsistent with the federally adopted principle of equal pay for equal work.

Paragraphs 73-94 (A/CONF.116/L.6/Add.1)

191. The Conference adopted by consensus the text of paragraphs 73, 75, 78, 80 to 84 and 86 to 91 recommended by the First Committee in its report, and as recommended by the Committee adopted for paragraphs 74, 76, 77, 79, 85 and 92 to 94 the relevant text as it appeared in document A/CONF.116/12 without change.

192. The delegation of the United States of America stated that the reservation it had expressed concerning the phrase "equal pay for work of equal value" in paragraph 70 applied likewise to the same phrase in paragraph 73.

193. The delegations of Morocco and the United Arab Emirates formulated reservations concerning paragraph 75.

Paragraph 94 bis (A/CONF.116/CRP.2)

194. The text of a paragraph 94 bis, to be inserted immediately after paragraph 94, had been submitted to the First Committee. The Committee had been unable to reach agreement on the text of this proposed additional paragraph and referred it to the plenary of the Conference for consideration and decision. The Conference considered the proposed paragraph at its 19th and 20th plenary meetings on 26 July 1985. The paragraph read as follows:

There are coercive measures of an economic, political and other nature that are promoted and adopted by certain developed States and are directed towards exerting pressure on developing countries, with the aim of preventing them from exercising their sovereign rights and of obtaining from them advantages of all kinds, and furthermore affect possibilities for dialogue and negotiation. Such measures, which include trade restrictions, blockades, embargos and other economic sanctions incompatible with the principles of the United Nations Charter and in violation of multilateral or bilateral commitments, have adverse effects on the economic, political and social

development of developing countries and therefore directly affect the integration of woman in development, since that is directly related to the objective of general social, economic and political development.

195. A discussion ensued in which the representatives of the following countries took part: Belgium, Italy, Egypt, Mexico, Luxembourg, Japan, Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, Yugoslavia, United States of America, Angola, Syrian Arab Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, Cuba, German Democratic Republic, USSR, Kuwait, Viet Nam, United Kingdom, Mali, Norway, Philippines, Kenya and Congo.

196. After this discussion, the text of the proposed new paragraph 94 bis was put to vote, by roll-call, and was adopted by 109 votes to none, with 28 abstentions. The result of the vote was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Samoa, Sao Tomé and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

#### Paragraph 95 (A/CNPF.116/12)

197. The First Committee had been unable to reach agreement on the draft text of this paragraph as it appeared in document A/CNPF.116/12 and referred it to the plenary of the Conference for consideration and decision. At the 20th plenary meeting the term "zionism" in the third sentence of the draft gave rise to a protracted discussion, in which the representatives of the following countries took part: Islamic Republic of Iran, Syrian Arab Republic, Belgium, Afghanistan, Jordan, Canada, Mexico, Kenya, France, United States of America, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Ivory Coast, Angola, Senegal, United Kingdom, Norway, Ireland, Tunisia, Iceland, Trinidad and Tobago, Switzerland, Federal Republic of Germany and Egypt.

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198. After a recess, the representative of Kenya proposed, in the light of consultations conducted during the recess with interested delegations, that the words "racism, zionism" in the third sentence of the draft text should be deleted and replaced by the phrase "and all other forms of racism and racial discrimination".

199. Statements were made by the representatives of the USSR, Egypt, Mexico, Colombia, Japan, Pakistan, India, Indonesia, Venezuela, Philippines, China, Zambia, Mali, Ghana, Honduras, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jamaica, Bangladesh, Malawi, Nicaragua, Oman, Kuwait and Iraq. The observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization also made a statement.

200. The amendment proposed by the representative of Kenya was agreed to and the Conference adopted paragraph 95 as amended without a vote.

201. After the adoption, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Burkina Faso, Syrian Arab Republic and Kenya. The delegation of Albania made a statement dissociating itself from the consensus reached on paragraph 95.

Paragraphs 96 and 97 (A/CONF.116/L.6/Add.2)

202. The Conference adopted by consensus the text of paragraphs 96 and 97 recommended by the First Committee in its report.

Paragraph 98 (A/CONF.116/12)

203. The First Committee had been unable to reach agreement on the draft text of this paragraph as it appeared in document A/CONF.116/12 and referred it to the plenary of the Conference for consideration and decision. The Conference considered the text at the 20th plenary meeting. The representatives of Egypt, United States of America, Canada, United Republic of Tanzania, Federal Republic of Germany, Mali and Cuba spoke in the discussion, after which the text of paragraph 98 was put to vote, by roll-call, and was adopted by 103 votes to 1, with 77 abstentions. The result of the vote was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Paragraph 99 (A/CONF.116/L.6/Add.2)

204. As recommended by the First Committee, the Conference adopted by consensus the text of paragraph 99 as it appeared in document A/CONF.116/12.

Paragraph 99 bis (A/CONF.116/CRP.2)

205. In the First Committee the draft text of an additional new paragraph 99 bis had been submitted, to be inserted immediately after paragraph 99. The Committee had been unable to reach agreement on the draft and referred it to the plenary of the Conference for consideration and decision. The draft text of paragraph 99 bis read as follows:

Protectionism against developing countries' exports in all its forms, the deterioration in the terms of trade, monetary instability, including high interest rates and the reduction in real terms of flows of official development assistance have aggravated the development problems of the developing countries, and consequently have complicated the difficulties hampering the integration of women in the development process.

One of the principal obstacles now confronting the developing countries is their gigantic public and private external debt, which constitutes a palpable expression of the economic crisis and has serious political, economic and social consequences for those countries. The amount of the external debt obliges the developing countries to devote enormous sums of their already scarce export income to the servicing of the debt, which affects their peoples' lives and possibilities of development, with particular effects on women. In many developing countries there is a growing conviction that the conditions for the payment and servicing of the external debt cause those countries enormous difficulties and that the adjustment policies traditionally imposed are inadequate and lead to a disproportionate social cost.

The negative effects of the present international economic situation on the least developed countries have been particularly grave and have caused serious difficulties in the process of integrating women in development.

The growth prospects of the low income countries have seriously deteriorated owing to the reduction in international economic co-operation, particularly the reduction in real terms of flows of official development assistance and the growing trade protectionism in the developed countries, which restricts the capacity of the low income countries to attain the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women.

This situation is even more grave in the developing countries that are afflicted by drought, famine and desertification.

206. The representative of Mexico proposed that the phrase "reduction in real terms of flows of official development assistance", which occurred twice in the draft text, should in both cases be amended to read "the inadequate flow of official development assistance". With this amendment the text of paragraph 99 bis was adopted without a vote.

207. Reservations concerning paragraph 99 bis were expressed by the delegations of France, Norway and the United States of America.

208. The Norwegian delegation reserved its position with respect to the formulation of the first line of paragraph 99 bis and with respect to the word "imposed" in the second subparagraph.

Paragraphs 100 to 159 (A/CONF.116/L.6/Add.2)

209. The Conference adopted by consensus the text of paragraphs 100, 104, 108, 120, 121, 122, 126, 128, 136, 137, 139 to 144, 146, 148, 150 to 157 and 159 recommended by the First Committee in its report, and as recommended by the Committee it adopted for paragraphs 101, 102, 105, 106, 107, 109 to 119, 123 to 125, 127, 129 to 135, 138, 145, 147, 149 and 158 the relevant text as it appeared in document A/CONF.116/12. It was agreed that paragraph 103 in that document would be deleted.

210. The delegation of Austria formulated a reservation concerning paragraph 136.

211. The delegation of the Holy See reserved its position with respect to paragraphs 156 to 159 because it did not agree with the substance of these paragraphs.

212. The delegation of the United Arab Emirates reserved its position with respect to paragraph 158.

Paragraphs 160-242 (A/CONF.116/L.6/Add.2, Add.3 and Add.5)

213. The Conference adopted by consensus the text of paragraphs 160 to 165, 170, 172, 175, 176, 182, 183, 186, 189a, 194, 197, 200, 203, 208, 225, 228, 229, 230 to 234, 238, 239 and 241 as recommended by the First Committee in its report. It was agreed that draft paragraph 235 would be deleted. In addition, as recommended by the Committee, the Conference adopted for paragraphs 166 to 169, 171, 173, 174, 177 to 181, 184, 185, 187 to 189, 190 to 193, 195, 196, 198, 199, 201, 202, 204 to 207, 209 to 224, 226, 227, 236, 237, 240 and 242 the relevant text as it appeared in document A/CONF.116/12.

Paragraph 243 (A/CONF.116/12)

214. The First Committee, having been unable to reach agreement on the text of paragraph 243 as it appeared in document A/CONF.116/12, referred it to the plenary of the Conference for consideration and decision. At its 20th plenary meeting the Conference adopted that text without a vote.

Paragraph 243a

215. The text of an additional paragraph 243a, to be inserted immediately after paragraph 242, had been submitted to the First Committee. The Committee had been unable to reach agreement on the text and referred it to the plenary of the Conference for consideration and decision. The Conference considered it at the 20th plenary meeting. The paragraph read as follows:

Foreign military intervention in South-West Asia has caused immense destruction and serious suffering, especially for women and children. The continuing conflict, and especially the use of inhuman and indiscriminate methods of warfare including against women and children to suppress the resistance of the people, constitutes serious violations of international humanitarian norms. This has led to the mass exodus of millions of people, the vast majority of them women and children, and created enormous social and economic problems for neighbouring countries. To achieve the objectives of the strategies of the year 2000, it is imperative to achieve an early political solution of the situation on the basis of the withdrawal of foreign troops and in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly.

216. After consultations, it was agreed that the paragraph should be revised to read:

In South-West Asia women and children have endured serious suffering due to the violation of the United Nations Charter leading, among other things, to the vast problem of refugees in neighbouring countries. It was urgent to achieve a political solution of the situation.

As so revised the paragraph was adopted without a vote.

Paragraphs 244 to 273 (A/CONF.116/L.6/Add.3)

217. The Conference adopted by consensus the text of paragraphs 245, 246, 250 to 253, 255, 256, 260, 262, 265 and 268 to 273 recommended by the First Committee in its report. In addition, as recommended by the Committee, the Conference adopted for paragraphs 244, 257 to 259, 261, 263, 264, 266 and 267 the relevant text as it appeared in document A/CONF.116/12. It was agreed that draft paragraph 254 in that document should be omitted. It was further agreed to adopt, in lieu of draft paragraphs 247, 248 and 249 as they appeared in the said document, a paragraph in the following terms:

Safeguarding world peace and averting a nuclear catastrophe is one of the most important tasks today in which women have an essential role to play, especially by supporting actively the halting of the arms race followed by arms reduction and the attainment of a general and complete disarmament under effective international control, and thus contribute to the improvement of their economic position. Irrespective of their socio-economic system, the States should strive at avoidance of the confrontation and at building friendly relations instead, which should be also supported by women.

218. As regards paragraph 255, the Conference adopted the following text which had been recommended by the First Committee:

Mankind is confronted with a choice: to halt the arms race and proceed to disarmament or face annihilation. The growing opposition of women to the danger of war, especially a nuclear war, which will lead to a nuclear holocaust, and their support for disarmament must be respected. States should be encouraged to ensure unhindered flow and access to information, including to women, with regard to various aspects of disarmament to avoid dissemination of false and tendentious information concerning armaments and to concentrate on the danger of the escalation of the arms race and on the need for general and complete disarmament under effective international control. The resources

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released as a result of disarmament measures should be used to help promote the well-being of all peoples and improve the economic and social conditions of the developing countries. Under such conditions, States should pay increased attention to the urgent need to improve the situation of women.

Paragraphs 274 to 305 (A/CONF.116/L.5/Add.10 and Add.11, and A/CONF.116/L.6/Add.4)

219. The Conference adopted by consensus the text of paragraphs 274 to 283, 286 to 298 and 302 to 305 recommended by the Second Committee in its report (A/CONF.116/L.5/Add.10 and Add.11) and agreed to the Committee's recommendation that paragraphs 280 and 281 should be placed in chapter II. The Conference adopted also the text recommended in the First Committee's report (A/CONF.116/L.6/Add.4) for paragraphs 284 and 285, these two paragraphs to be placed in chapter III. In addition, the Conference adopted the following text of paragraphs 299 and 300 as recommended by the First Committee:

#### M. Refugee and displaced women and children

##### Paragraph 299

The international community recognizes a humanitarian responsibility to protect and assist refugees and displaced persons. In many cases refugee and displaced women are exposed to a variety of difficult situations affecting their physical and legal protection as well as their psychological and material well-being. Problems of physical debility, physical safety, emotional stress and socio-psychological effects of separation or death in the family, as well as changes in women's roles, together with limitations often found in the new environment including lack of adequate food, shelter, health care and social services call for specialized and enlarged assistance. Special attention has to be offered to women with special needs. Furthermore, the potential and capacities of refugees and displaced women should be recognized and enhanced.

##### Paragraph 300

It is recognized that a lasting solution to the problems of refugees and displaced women and children should be sought in the elimination of the root causes of the flow of refugees and durable solutions should be found leading to their voluntary return to their homes in conditions of safety and honour and their full integration in the economic, social and cultural life of their country of origin in the immediate future. Until such solutions are achieved, the international community, in an expression of international solidarity and burden-sharing, should continue providing relief assistance and also launching special relief programmes taking into account the specific needs of refugee women and children in countries of first asylum. Similarly, relief assistance and special relief programmes should also continue to be provided to returnees and displaced women and children. Legal, educational, social, humanitarian and moral assistance should be offered as well as opportunities for their voluntary repatriation, return or resettlement. Steps should also be taken to promote accession by Governments to the 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees and to implement, on a basis of equity for all refugees, provisions contained in this Convention and its 1967 Protocol.

220. On the proposal of the delegation of Niger, supported by the delegations of Mali and Burkina Faso, the Conference agreed to insert the following text as an additional section in chapter IV:

Women in areas affected by drought

1. During the Decade, the phenomenon of drought and desertification grew and developed incessantly, no longer affecting merely some localities in a single country but several entire countries.
2. The scale and persistence of drought constitutes a grave threat, particularly for the countries of the Sahel, in which famine and a far-reaching deterioration of the environment set in as a result of the desertification process.
3. Hence, despite the considerable efforts of the international community, the living conditions of the peoples, particularly those of women and children, which were already precarious, have become particularly miserable.
4. In view of that situation steps should be taken to promote concerted programmes between the countries concerned for combating drought and desertification. Efforts should be intensified for the formulation and implementation of programmes aimed at food security and self-sufficiency, in particular by the optimum control and exploitation of hydro-geological resources.
5. A distinction should be made between emergency aid and productive activities. Emergency aid should be intensified when necessary and as far as ever possible directed towards development aid.
6. Measures should be adopted to take into account women's contribution to production, involve them more closely in the design, implementation and evaluation of the programmes envisaged and ensure ample access for them to the means of production and processing and preservation techniques.

Paragraph 306 (A/CONF.116/12)

221. The First Committee, to which the section of document A/CONF.116/12 entitled "Women and children under apartheid" containing the paragraph in question in square brackets had been allocated, had been unable to reach agreement on the text of the paragraph and referred it to the plenary of the Conference for consideration and decision. The Conference considered this paragraph at the 20th plenary meeting.

222. The representative of Egypt, speaking on behalf of the States members of the Group of 77 represented at the Conference, proposed that the first alternative of the paragraph should be adopted as it appeared in document A/CONF.116/12, and included in chapter III of the Forward-looking Strategies, subject to two changes: (a) the opening passage of the eighth subparagraph should read "In addition to measures already taken, further effective measures, including sanctions, should be taken to terminate ..."; (b) immediately after the ninth subparagraph an additional subparagraph should be inserted which would read:

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The international community must condemn the direct aggression committed by the armed forces of the racist régime of South Africa against the frontline countries as well as the recruitment, training and financing of mercenaries and of armed bandits who massacre women and children and who are used to overthrow the legitimate Governments of these countries by reason of their support for the people of South Africa and Namibia.

223. In the ensuing discussion statements were made by the representatives of Mali, Mexico, the United States of America, Namibia (represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia), Yugoslavia, Senegal, Trinidad and Tobago, United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya. The representative of the Special Committee against Apartheid and the observer for the South West Africa People's Organization also made statements.

224. After the discussion, the text of the proposed paragraph 306, as amended, was put to the vote, by roll-call, and was adopted by 122 votes to 1, with abstentions. The result of the vote was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaïre, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

25. Statements in explanation of vote were made or expressing reservations were made or submitted by a number of delegations.

26. The delegation of Swaziland stated that it had voted in favour of the paragraph just adopted but reserved its position with respect to the eighth and ninth subparagraphs for reasons which, it said, were well known to the Conference.

227. The delegation of Lesotho stated that it had voted in favour of the paragraph just adopted because of its firm conviction that apartheid was the root cause of many evils, and that the Government of Lesotho had made its position clear on this matter. However, so far as the eighth subparagraph was concerned, the delegation of Lesotho stated that it could not support economic sanctions against South Africa because of Lesotho's geopolitical position and its economic dependence on South Africa.

228. The delegation of Botswana stated that it supported the recommendations in the paragraph just adopted but that it reserved its position with respect to the eighth and ninth subparagraphs relating to sanctions, in conformity with the position always taken by Botswana when similar resolutions had been submitted to the General Assembly.

Paragraph 307 (A/CONF.116/12)

229. The First Committee, to which the section of document A/CONF.116/12 entitled "Palestinian women and children" containing the paragraph in question in square brackets had been allocated, had been unable to reach agreement on the text of the paragraph and referred it to the plenary of the Conference for consideration and decision. The Conference considered the paragraph at the 20th plenary meeting.

230. The representative of Egypt, speaking on behalf of the States members of the Group of 77 represented at the Conference, proposed that the second alternative of the paragraph as it appeared in document A/CONF.116/12 should be adopted and included in chapter III of the Forward-looking Strategies.

231. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic proposed that in the second subparagraph a reference to Security Council resolution 497 (1981) should be added.

232. The delegation of Israel made a statement opposing the adoption of the paragraph.

233. Statements were made by the representative of Mali and the observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization.

234. On being put to the vote, by roll-call, the text of paragraph 307, as amended by the Syrian Arab Republic, was adopted by 98 votes to 3, with 28 abstentions. The result of the vote was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Yemen, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles,

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Mainst: Australia, Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malawi, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Portugal, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Paragraphs 308 to 372 (A/CONF.116/L.5/Add.11, Add.12 and Add.13)

235. At the 20th plenary meeting the Conference adopted by consensus the text of paragraphs 308 to 372 recommended by the Second Committee in its report, as well as two additional new paragraphs recommended by the Committee (see A/CONF.116/L.5/Add.11-13).

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236. Having considered the chapters, sections and paragraphs of the Forward-looking Strategies and adopted them (as amended or revised in certain cases) at successive meetings, the Conference at its 20th plenary meeting, on 26 July 1985, adopted the text of the Forward-looking Strategies as a whole by consensus. For the final text see chapter I.

237. After the adoption of the text of the Forward-looking Strategies, statements in explanation of vote or expressing reservations were made or submitted by France, Spain, Australia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Malaysia, Finland, Albania, Sweden, Switzerland, Luxembourg (on behalf of the European Community and Portugal and Spain), United States of America, Japan, Israel, Argentina, Portugal, Canada, Netherlands, Denmark, Uruguay, Ecuador, Holy See, Norway, Chile, Malaysia, Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland.

238. The delegation of Malaysia expressed reservations concerning references to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women wherever they occurred in the texts adopted by the Conference. In that delegation's opinion, some provisions of the Convention would impose a duty on States which accept the Convention to introduce measures that could not be effected without encountering problems. Examples were the provisions of Article 2 (a) and 2 (b) which would entail specific amendments not only to the legislation but also to the Federal Constitution of Malaysia. As some of the principles enunciated in the Convention may be fundamentally inconsistent with the matters permitted by the Federal Constitution, Malaysia was unable to accept the Convention as a whole. Nevertheless, Malaysia had initiated measures giving equal opportunity to women in a manner consistent with the objectives of the Convention, specifically Articles 6, 12 and 13. The Convention would, however, be used as a guideline, whenever possible, within the constitutional framework of Malaysia.

239. The representative of the Holy See stated that the participation of the Holy See in the Conference was intended to express, both by word and by action, the Holy See's strong interest in and commitment to the main goal of the United Nations

Decade for Women, namely to proclaim and foster the human dignity of women and their full participation in the life of society. Thus the delegation of the Holy See had participated in the consensus on the Forward-looking Strategies accepted by the Conference, giving special attention to the following:

(a) Measures to overcome the discrimination against women still existing in law and politics and in society as a whole where women are marginalized simply because of their sex, which prevent an authentic equality of women and men from being attained;

(b) Projects to promote women as agents and beneficiaries of the development of peoples and of the construction of peace, directed toward a better future and brighter destiny for all human beings;

(c) Proposals to recognize the family as the fundamental natural cell of society, even though such an orientation will require strong, attentive support and commitment in the future. However, only if the family retains an important place in the reflections about women (as well as men) can one look toward the future of humanity with hope. Such reflections allow a positive future for humanity because, above all, a mutual commitment to parenthood and a loving relationship of the woman with her husband, the father of their children, are the conditions for a stable family life and recognize one of the unique contributions that women make to society. While these goals should not be inconsistent with the presence of women in the different environments of public life, nor with the contributions women make to society, a necessary and renewed sharing of commitments within the family and beyond it for both women and men brings satisfaction to both partners, to the family and to society;

(d) Opposition to showing and using women as "sex objects", even if such opposition during the deliberations was not logically developed into a criticism of sexual permissiveness and irresponsibility;

(e) Activities on behalf of some particular and difficult situations of women: the poorest women, rural women, indigenous women, migrant and refugee women, old women, handicapped women, women forced into prostitution and those under apartheid. Special attention has been given to this category because a preferential option for the poor is a gospel imperative emphasized in the constant teaching of the Church.

240. At the same time, the delegation of the Holy See stated that it was obliged to express some serious concerns about some of the paragraphs which had been adopted and which hindered or detracted from the process of authentic human development:

(a) Political change and socio-economic progress were not enough to ensure the advancement of women in equality, development and peace, for they did not adequately deal with basic anthropological and ethical questions. The Strategies failed to reflect adequately the fundamental conviction regarding the dignity of every human person which was at the base of common humanity;

(b) The participation of a larger number of women in social life of and by itself was not sufficient. Women were not simply "human resources" to be used. While the usual sexual stereotypes were not to be repeated because of their discriminatory character, the alternative could not be a uniformity of human beings. This would be a sad impoverishment of humanity. Women's original contribution and particular qualities were not sufficiently reflected in the

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strategies, and hence the diversity and richness of humanity failed to appear in the text;

(c) The development of the human person involved many levels of reflection, and therefore the only true human development was one encompassing ethical, cultural and religious aspects of the human person. The clear, convincing and consistent consciousness of this point was lacking in the text, even if occasional allusions to it occurred;

(d) Certain practices of family planning, which presupposed an ideological basis of sexual freedom as the final liberation of women, caused great concern. Often promoted by rich and powerful institutions, they threatened the unity and stability of marriage and the family and menaced the cultural values of third world countries, notably the healthy vitality and joy of living of their families.

241. The representative of the United States of America stated that her delegation had joined in the adoption of the Forward-looking Strategies document because of what it said about women and their unique concerns. The United States delegation was proud to have been a part of the Conference, and to have participated actively in the formulation of the final document.

242. In one sense, she said, the Forward-looking Strategies document was a milestone in the discussion of women's concerns and participation in societies throughout the world. In those areas of unique concern to the world's women, the Conference had truly accomplished a great deal. It had reaffirmed the right of women to full equality in every aspect of social, economic, cultural and political life. In so doing, it had placed a powerful weapon - that of international public opinion - in the hands of women throughout the world.

243. The participants had pledged their support for equal opportunities in employment, health and education. They had pointed to the need for greater attention to the role of women in industry, science, social services, trade, communications and community development, to name but a few.

244. Development, a crucial factor for the overwhelming majority of the women of the world, was also an area of broad general agreement. In the developing world, where most of the work was done by women while most of the wealth was controlled by men, there was a vital need to reorient development programmes toward the needs and aspirations of women. Her delegation was proud of the development section of the Forward-looking Strategies and the new insights it provided into the unique problems of women in the development process, but also the enormous potential force that women represented if only they were allowed to devote their energies to the betterment of their own lives, as well as the lives of their families.

245. The Conference had also focused on women whose concerns were special and thus deserved special attention - the elderly, the abused, the disabled and the destitute. They coiled in poverty in both city and countryside. They were ravaged by war, held against their will, forced into unimaginable degradation and denied their means of livelihood. They were forced to leave their homes to seek work, or to flee their homelands because of persecution based on race, religion, or political affiliation. All these problems were dealt with in the Forward-looking Strategies, and her delegation was proud that it has been possible to reach agreements and form a plan of action which, if implemented, could lead to substantial improvement in the situation of these women who suffer.



246. However, there were also sections of the Forward-looking Strategies which gave her delegation reason for concern. Too often there was a tendency for the document to call for State action to correct wrongs which stemmed from obstacles beyond the control of Governments - ranging from simple ignorance to deep-rooted socio-cultural traditions. The United States representative repeated her delegation's reservations with regard to paragraphs 70, 73 and 137 [paras. 69, 72 and 137 in the final text] and the formula "equal pay for work of equal value". As had been stated, the United States Government maintained the principle of equal pay for equal work.

247. Finally, there were sections of the Forward-looking Strategies to which the United States delegation strongly objected. Most obvious of these were elements of the paragraphs on apartheid and Palestinian women, although the delegation's difficulties extended to a lesser degree to other sections of the document as well. As was well known, her delegation had long been concerned and sought to minimize the insertion of general political issues with only a nominal connection with the unique concerns of women into the Conference - a Conference which should have been devoted to the unique concerns of women. Unfortunately, other delegations seemed to be less interested in those issues, and instead had used the Conference to pursue the same divisive political issues that permeated the entire United Nations system. While not wishing to belittle the suffering in the Middle East or southern Africa - nor in Afghanistan, Cambodia or Central America - her delegation considered that this Conference was neither the place nor the occasion to attempt solutions to these global issues so hotly debated elsewhere. Her delegation could not accept the unbalanced and at times even destructive language that marred these two sections of the Forward-looking Strategies.

248. The United States delegation viewed the Forward-looking Strategies as a reflection of two basic tendencies. There were those delegations who were interested in the special problems of women and worked tirelessly for a document that would air those problems and seek to formulate practical solutions. Unfortunately, there were still others who were more interested in using the Conference to pursue a separate political agenda. For the former, her delegation had only the greatest respect and admiration, all the more so because of the way they had continued to work for the cause of women, while the latter group had done everything it could to debase their cause and the Conference itself.

249. The United Kingdom stated that it had joined the consensus on the final document of the Conference entitled "The Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women". It considered this to be a valuable document containing practical and realistic ideas for progress over the next 15 years and attached great importance to its technical content. However, the United Kingdom did not consider that the Conference was an appropriate forum for the discussion of general political issues and wished to make clear that it had reservations on several paragraphs of the document, and to explain why it had abstained on certain of them.

250. The United Kingdom did not accept the tendentious and misleading explanations of the causes of underdevelopment and of the obstacles to the implementation of United Nations goals and objectives for the advancement of women in paragraphs 45 and 95 [paras. 44 and 95 in the final text] respectively of the Forward-looking Strategies: these took no account of the discrimination and other detrimental policies in various countries and regions of the world which hindered development and the advancement of women.

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251. The United Kingdom considered that the sweeping references in paragraph 94 bis [para. 94 in the final text] to unspecified measures by unspecified countries were irrelevant to this document. It had consistently opposed the use of binding treaty language in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (para. 98) in order to impose far-reaching obligations of a long-term character. It did not accept that adjustment policies for developing countries (para. 99 bis) [para. 100 in the final text] were inadequate.

252. While the United Kingdom sympathized with the underlying sentiment of the first subparagraph of paragraph 306 [para. 259 in the final text], it believed that the language of this subparagraph was in some respects exaggerated. Its position on the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid was well-known. It was not prepared to support an armed struggle nor to give assistance to national liberation movements which condoned violence (third and eleventh subparagraphs). The United Kingdom had made clear on numerous occasions, most recently in the statement of the British Deputy Permanent Representative in the Security Council on 25 July, that it was opposed to the complete termination of contacts with South Africa (eighth subparagraph). It did not believe that this would be effective in bringing about the desired reforms in South Africa; dialogue and economic involvement in South Africa seemed more likely than isolation to help the black community.

253. The United Kingdom had great sympathy for the plight of Palestinian women, but had reservations about some of the formulations in paragraph 307 [para. 260 in the final text], which concerned political issues more appropriate to the United Nations forums.

254. The delegation of Portugal welcomed the adoption without a vote of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women as a very positive and important contribution to the United Nations activities for the promotion of the status of women. It wished, however, to record that the positions it had adopted on the controversial elements included in the text, namely those relating to political, economic and disarmament issues, should not be taken as prejudging the positions of the Government of Portugal in the appropriate United Nations forums.

255. The Government of Sweden stated that it had been pleased to join the consensus in the adoption of the Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. It was important that the process initiated by the United Nations Decade for Women should continue and that progress made and obstacles encountered be monitored and evaluated also in the years to come. In this context, the Forward-looking Strategies would be of crucial importance. In the Swedish view, the document's importance was further enhanced by its adoption without a vote.

256. While strongly supporting the Forward-looking Strategies as a whole, the Government of Sweden had reservations concerning paragraphs containing formulations which Sweden could not fully subscribe.

257. As regards paragraph 94 bis [para. 94 in the final text] concerning economic and other coercive measures, Sweden objected to coercive economic measures which were not founded on decisions by the Security Council in accordance with the United Nations Charter. However, the principles involved should have a universal applicability and Sweden, therefore, had had to abstain in the vote on the paragraph as formulated.

258. In spite of certain reservations, Sweden had been in a position to support paragraph 306 [para. 259 in the final text] concerning women and children under apartheid. There could be no question about the urgent need to eliminate the abhorrent apartheid system, which Sweden had consistently condemned as an institutionalized form of racial discrimination, and to terminate South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia through the speedy and effective implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). Further effective pressure must be brought to bear on the régime in South Africa in order to bring about the urgently needed change. Therefore, the Government of Sweden reiterated its call for mandatory, economic sanctions decided by the Security Council. Pending such decisions, Sweden, in co-operation with the other Nordic countries, had adopted certain unilateral measures aiming at restricting relations with South Africa and also at inspiring other countries to similar action. Furthermore, Sweden had expanded its humanitarian assistance to the national liberation movements struggling against apartheid in South Africa, to refugees and to other victims and opponents of apartheid as well as to the front-line States in southern Africa.

259. The Government of Sweden, however, had to reserve its position on certain formulations of the paragraph in question which did not take into account the fact that only the Security Council could adopt decisions mandatory for Member States. Sweden also reserved its position on the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.

260. While in agreement with the general thrust of paragraph 307 [para. 260 in the final text] concerning Palestinian women and children, Sweden had found it necessary to abstain in the vote on that paragraph because of its reservations concerning certain formulations using unbalanced language or failing to reflect adequately the complexity of the underlying political conflict. In that regard, the Government of Sweden continued to maintain that the principles contained in Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) should constitute the basis for a negotiated settlement. In the Swedish view, these principles implied an Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied since 1967 in return for peace within secure and recognized boundaries. Furthermore, a settlement must enable the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination, including the right to establish a State of their own.

261. Certain paragraphs, such as paragraphs 36 and 90 [paras. 35 and 97 in the final text], implied endorsement of instruments or resolutions to which Sweden had expressed reservations or which Sweden had not been able to support, either as a whole or in parts. The Swedish position regarding those documents had been repeatedly stated and remained unchanged.

262. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany stated that:

(a) With regard to paragraph 36 [para. 35 of the final text] of the Forward-looking Strategies it wished to recall that it had been unable to support the Declaration of Mexico and the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the Decade;

(b) It reserved its position with regard to paragraphs 45 and 95 [paras. 44 and 95 of the final text] because it considered that these paragraphs did not adequately describe the reasons for discrimination against women and the obstacles to their integration into the development process;

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(c) It reserved its position with regard to paragraphs 94 bis, 98 and 99 bis [paras. 94, 99 and 100 of the final text] which in its view contained imbalances and inappropriate accusations at variance with the objectives of this document;

(d) It reserved its position with regard to paragraph 306 [para. 259 of the final text] because it could not support some of the measures demanded in order to eliminate apartheid;

(e) It reserved its position with regard to paragraph 307 [para. 260 of the final text] because it felt that the formulations in that paragraph should duly take into account all elements of a just and durable settlement of the Middle East conflict as laid down in Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

263. The delegation of Belgium expressed a general regret that certain questions concerning relations between States or the human condition as a whole and not having a specific bearing on the status of women had been discussed by the Conference and dealt with in the context of the Forward-looking Strategies. These questions were within the competence of other international forums, and accordingly Belgium reserved the position it had taken or would take in those forums with regard to such questions. In particular, Belgium expressed reservations with respect to certain passages of the Forward-looking Strategies document contained in paragraphs 94 bis, 99 bis, 306 and 307 [paras. 94, 100, 259 and 260 in the final text]. In addition, Belgium wished to reiterate the reservations it had expressed at the time of the adoption of the Forward-looking Strategies concerning certain declarations and instruments referred to in the Strategies. These reservations applied in particular to certain instruments referred to in paragraphs 36 and 98 [paras. 35 and 98 in the final text] of the Strategies document.

264. The Government of Finland stated that it had been pleased to join the consensus on the adoption of the Forward-looking Strategies for the advancement of women. It was important that the process initiated by the United Nations Decade for Women should continue and that progress should be made and obstacles encountered should be monitored and evaluated also in the years to come. In this context, the Forward-looking Strategies would be of crucial importance. In the Finnish view, the document's importance was further enhanced by its adoption without a vote.

265. While strongly supporting the Forward-looking Strategies as a whole, the Government of Finland had reservations concerning paragraphs containing formulations to which it could not fully subscribe.

266. As regards paragraph 94 bis [para. 94 in the final text] concerning economic and other coercive measures which were not founded on decisions by the Security Council in accordance with the United Nations Charter. However, the principles involved should have a universal applicability, and Finland, therefore, had had to abstain in the vote on the paragraph as formulated.

267. In spite of certain reservations, Finland had been in a position to support paragraph 306 [para. 259 in the final text] concerning women and children under apartheid. There could be no question about the urgent need to eliminate the horrent apartheid system which Finland had consistently condemned as an institutionalized form of racial discrimination, and to terminate South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia through the speedy and effective implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). Further effective pressure must be brought to bear on the régime in South Africa in order to bring about the urgently needed

change. Therefore, the Government of Finland reiterated its call for mandatory, economic sanctions decided by the Security Council. Pending such decisions, Finland, in co-operation with the other Nordic countries, had adopted certain unilateral measures aiming at restricting relations with South Africa and also at inspiring other countries to similar action. Furthermore, Finland had expanded its humanitarian assistance to the national liberation movements struggling against apartheid in South Africa, to refugees and to other victims and opponents of apartheid as well as to the front-line States in southern Africa.

268. The Government of Finland, however, had to reserve its position on certain formulations of the paragraph in question which did not take into account the fact that only the Security Council could adopt decisions mandatory for Member States. Finland also reserved its position on the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.

269. While in agreement with the general thrust of paragraph 307 [para. 260 in the final text] concerning Palestinian women and children, Finland had found it necessary to abstain in the vote on that paragraph because of reservations concerning certain formulations using unbalanced language and failing to reflect adequately the complexity of the underlying political conflict. In that regard, the Government of Finland continued to maintain that the Security Council's resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) constituted the basis for a comprehensive settlement. According to these resolutions Israel must withdraw from Arab territories occupied since 1967. The rights of Israel and all other States of the area to exist within secure and recognized boundaries must be guaranteed. Furthermore, a settlement must enable the Palestinian people to exercise its right to national self-determination.

270. Finally, paragraph 98 implied endorsement of instruments or resolutions to which Finland had expressed reservations or which Finland had not been able to support, either as a whole or in part. The Finnish position regarding those documents had been repeatedly stated and remained unchanged.

271. The delegation of Japan stated that it had joined in the adoption by consensus of "the Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women", recognizing the importance of this document and respecting the spirit of co-operation and solidarity for the success of the Nairobi Conference.

272. As indicated at the time, Japan wished to clarify its position on some of the contents of the Strategies document.

273. Japan had contributed, in various forums, to the promotion of disarmament, as disarmament could play a great role for the achievement and the maintenance of world peace and stability, which were most important for the improvement of life and the welfare of all mankind. However, disarmament was inseparable from the security policies of each nation and no nation could be expected to implement disarmament unilaterally, because it might affect its own security. Japan did not believe that effective disarmament could be achieved by merely expressing idealistic slogans or principles and that true disarmament could be realized without sufficient verification measures.

274. Japan wished to make clear that its participation in the adoption by consensus of the Strategies document did not in any way mean a departure from its aforementioned basic positions on this matter.

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275. Japan was aware of the view of the developing countries on the establishment of a new international economic order (NIEO). However, Japan considered that a NIEO had not yet been fully discussed in the proper forum, and hence Japan's joining in the consensus did not mean any change in its past position on a new international economic order.

276. Japan had abstained from voting on paragraph 94 bis [para. 94 in the final text] because the thrust of this paragraph came from General Assembly resolutions 38/197 and 39/210, which Japan had voted against. In this regard, Japan wished to make the following two points:

(a) The paragraph in question dealt with a matter of a political nature inconsistent with the principal aims of the Forward-looking Strategies;

(b) The paragraph was not even-handed because it referred only to the "coercive" economic measures taken by developed countries against developing countries, without due regard to other cases.

277. Japan had voted in favour of paragraph 306 [para. 259 in the final text] but wished to make the following comments:

(a) With regard to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid referred to in the first subparagraph, although Japan understood the purposes of this instrument, owing to the ambiguity of the elements constituting a crime, Japan had difficulties in signing and ratifying the Convention, in view of the Japanese domestic laws concerned;

(b) With regard to the material assistance referred to in the second subparagraph, Japan's understanding was that this did not include military assistance;

(c) With regard to the eighth subparagraph, which sought to terminate all collaboration with the racist régime of South Africa in the political, military, diplomatic and economic fields, Japan understood that such termination did not include that of normal trade;

(d) With regard to the ninth subparagraph, which sought comprehensive and mandatory measures against South Africa, Japan did not believe that such measures would provide an effective and expeditious means of achieving a peaceful solution to the question of apartheid.

278. The delegation of Israel stated that its participation in the consensus on the final document on "Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women" did not include paragraph 260. Israel had voted against this paragraph, because it was completely biased and untrue, had been introduced only to serve the ongoing relentless political warfare against Israel, was thus totally unrelated and extraneous to the subject-matters of the Conference, and would only hinder the realization of its purposes.

279. The Government of Canada expressed its great satisfaction that the Conference, a result of a spirit of compromise and co-operation on the part of all Governments present, had achieved consensus on the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies. This was a significant achievement. The Government of Canada, while pleased to join in the consensus, nevertheless wished to have its reservations recorded in the official records of the Conference with respect to those paragraphs in



the vote on which the Canadian delegation had abstained, namely: 94 bis, 98, 306 and 307 [paras. 94, 96, 259 and 260 in the final text]. With respect to paragraph 36 [para. 35 in the final text], the Government of Canada stated that Canada was one of the Member States listed in the footnote as having reservations.

280. The Government of Argentina reserved its position with respect to the reference, in the first subparagraph of paragraph 307 [para. 260 in the final text] of the Forward-looking Strategies, to torture as one of the oppressive Israeli practices to which Palestinian women in the occupied Arab territories are allegedly vulnerable.

281. The Government of the Netherlands submitted the following comments concerning certain paragraphs of the Forward-looking Strategies:

(a) As regards paragraph 95 it stated that the reference in this paragraph to "all other forms of racism" could not, in the opinion of the Netherlands, be interpreted to include a reference to Zionism;

(b) With regard to paragraph 306 [para. 259 in the final text] it stated that the Netherlands rejected the system of apartheid and agreed fully that as a result of the continued practice of this system women and children suffer from inhumane practices. The Netherlands had abstained from voting on this paragraph because it contains several elements which are not acceptable, notably the reference in the first subparagraph to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment on the Crime of Apartheid and the reference in the eighth subparagraph to the termination of all collaboration with South Africa in the political, military, diplomatic and economic fields;

(c) As regards paragraph 307 [para. 260 in the final text] the Government of the Netherlands stated that, although the Netherlands agreed that Palestinian women had for many years faced difficult living conditions, had suffered and were consequently a vulnerable group, it had had to abstain from voting on this paragraph, which contains various unacceptable elements. In the opinion of the Netherlands, reference to the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people should be placed in the context of a comprehensive, negotiated settlement of the problems in the region, including the right of Israel to exist within secure and recognized borders. One of the other problems for the Netherlands in this paragraph was the reference to the implementation of the programme of action for the achievement of Palestinian rights.

282. The delegation of Denmark stated that it had abstained in the vote on paragraph 94 bis [para. 94 in the final text] of the Forward-looking Strategies. Denmark confirmed its support for the relevant provision of the "Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations" (General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, annex). This provision reads: "No State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights and to secure from it advantage of any kind". Denmark could not accept, however, that the paragraph in question is addressed one-sidedly to developed countries only.

283. Furthermore, Denmark had reservations with respect to formulations in the Forward-looking Strategies document which are of a purely political nature and extraneous to the subject matter of the Forward-looking Strategies. Although

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Denmark had voted in favour of paragraph 306 [para. 259 in the final text] it therefore had reservations on several of its subparagraphs, in particular the eighth subparagraph. For the same reasons Denmark had abstained in the vote on paragraph 307 [para. 260 in the final text] of the Strategies document.

284. The Government of Ireland expressed reservations with respect to certain paragraphs of the Forward-looking Strategies, in addition to paragraph 36 [para. 35 in the final text] where Ireland is included in the footnote listing the countries having reservations to that paragraph.

285. As regards paragraph 75 [para. 74 in the final text], the Government stated that Ireland had joined in the consensus on this paragraph on the basis that its second sentence was concerned with the principle of equality of rights, and did not imply any obligation on the part of a State to provide for dissolution of marriage, or to provide any special forms of divorce.

286. With respect to paragraphs 94 bis and 98 [paras. 94 and 98 in the final text], Ireland was of the view that the targeting of developed countries for blame for the economic and other difficulties experienced by developing countries was unbalanced and did not adequately reflect the complex nature of the problem. For these reasons Ireland had abstained in the separate votes on these paragraphs.

287. As regards paragraph 306 [para. 259 in the final text] the Government of Ireland stated that Ireland had voted in favour of this paragraph. This position had been adopted without prejudice to the following reservations:

(a) Ireland does not propose to sign or ratify the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid;

(b) Ireland supports the introduction of measures to bring about an end to the apartheid system on a graduated, selective mandatory basis but has grave reservations about the effectiveness and the practicability of attempting to isolate South Africa totally;

(c) While Ireland has consistently supported the full implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and the unconditional withdrawal of South African forces from Angola, Ireland feels that sanctions cannot be effective unless imposed and enforced by the Security Council;

(d) While Ireland has consistently opposed the apartheid régime in South Africa the Irish Government does not recognize that violence can be a legitimate means of securing political change. For this reason Ireland will continue its policy of granting material and financial assistance to humanitarian groups and those seeking change by non-violent means.

288. With respect to paragraph 307 [para. 260 in the final text] the Government stated that Ireland attached the greatest importance to matters affecting the rights of the population of the Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967 and had fully supported the spirit of this paragraph. However, Ireland would have wished to see a number of modifications in the language of this paragraph and in particular the reference to torture. As a result Ireland had abstained in the vote on the paragraph as a whole.

289. The Government of France expressed reservations with respect to a number of paragraphs of the Forward-looking Strategies, viz.:

(a) France expressed a reservation concerning paragraph 36 [para. 35 in the final text], in particular as regards the reference to the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their contribution to Development and Peace, 1975;

(b) France expressed a reservation concerning paragraph 45 [para. 44 in the final text] as adopted by the Conference;

(c) France expressed a reservation concerning paragraph 94 bis [para. 94 in the final text] as adopted by the Conference;

(d) France expressed a reservation concerning paragraph 95 as adopted by the Conference;

(e) France expressed a reservation concerning paragraph 98 as adopted by the Conference;

(f) France expressed a reservation concerning paragraph 99 bis [para. 100 in the final text] as adopted by the Conference;

(g) France expressed a reservation concerning paragraph 306 [para. 259 in the final text], in particular as regards the eighth and ninth subparagraphs. If the subparagraphs of this paragraph had been put to the vote separately, France would have been able to vote in favour of all the other subparagraphs;

(h) France expressed a reservation concerning paragraph 307 [para. 260 in the final text] which in its opinion did not reflect a balanced point of view regarding the situation referred to in chapter IV "Areas of special concern" [of document A/CONF.116/12] in the section entitled "Palestinian women and children".

290. As regards chapter III as a whole of the Forward-looking Strategies, France stated that the fact that it had joined in the consensus on the chapter did not prejudice the positions adopted by France with respect to the subject-matter in the appropriate forums.

291. The Swiss delegation submitted comments and reservations regarding certain paragraphs of the Forward-looking Strategies, viz.:

(a) With respect to paragraph 36 [para. 35 in the final text] Switzerland expressed a reservation at the time when the paragraph was adopted by consensus, for the paragraph contains inter alia a reference to the Declaration of Mexico City of 1975 which was not endorsed by Switzerland (Switzerland is one of the countries listed in the footnote to this paragraph);

(b) Switzerland abstained in the vote on paragraph 94 bis [para. 94 in the final text] on the grounds that, while opposed to the taking of restrictive commercial measures for political purposes - and this objection applies to all cases of such commercial measures and irrespective of the country against which such measures are directed - Switzerland considered that this paragraph dealt with a question for the settlement of which other forums were competent;

(c) Switzerland expressed reservations concerning paragraph 98 because the formulation implies an excessively general attribution exclusively to developed countries of the responsibility for the difficulties at present being experienced in international economic relations;

(d) Switzerland expressed reservations concerning the first, second and fourth subparagraphs of paragraph 99 bis [para. 100 in the final text]. In the opinion of Switzerland it was first and foremost protectionism as such that ought to be censured in the first subparagraph. Furthermore, the language of the second and fourth subparagraphs was not satisfactory in that it did not express a balanced view regarding the causes of indebtedness and of the deterioration of growth prospects;

(e) With regard to paragraph 293 [para. 292 in the final text] Switzerland, which expressed a reservation concerning this paragraph, considers that transnational corporations are by no means principally responsible for the excessive and inappropriate exploitation of the land;

(f) With respect to paragraph 306 [para. 259 in the final text] Switzerland abstained in the vote on this paragraph. Although it firmly condemns the apartheid system, which is incompatible with human rights and with Switzerland's own conception of the dignity of the human person, and although it hopes for a change in this respect, Switzerland, by virtue of the principle of universality which is the basis of its external relations, is also seeking a dialogue with States whose ideas differ from its own;

(g) As regards paragraph 307 [para. 260 in the final text] Switzerland abstained in the vote on this paragraph, for while attaching very great importance to the settlement of the Palestinian problem, both for the sake of world peace and for the sake of the populations concerned, Switzerland took the view that bodies other than the Nairobi Conference were responsible for finding a solution to the problem.

292. The representative of Australia stated that the Forward-looking Strategies contained much that would be of very real value to women all over the world. Australia had strongly supported the Conference as a way of advancing the status of women at both national and international levels and had every confidence that the Conference would be welcomed for the benefits it would bring to women in Australia and elsewhere, especially in developing countries. It was a tribute to the efforts of Kenya as host that potentially divisive issues had been defused and that good sense had prevailed.

293. As was obvious from Australian statements and votes, there were parts of the document which Australia did not like and could not support. However, in response to the spirit of co-operation and sisterhood at the Conference, Australia was not willing to allow these objections to prevent it from supporting the Forward-looking Strategies document. Australia regretted very much not being able to vote in favour of the section on apartheid. Its abstention did not in any way represent any tolerance whatsoever of this repugnant system but was necessary because of some specific unacceptable references.

294. The representative of Australia also regretted that a negotiated solution could not be found to the section on Middle East issues. However fundamental principles were involved, and the Conference had proven inappropriate for resolving such difficulties.

295. Australia sincerely believed that a strong and progressive document was the greatest and the most unique gift that could be given to the women of the world.

296. Speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community, its member States and Spain and Portugal, the representative of Luxembourg welcomed the adoption by consensus of the document on the Forward-looking Strategies, which represented a sound basis for the development at all levels of activities to promote equality of opportunity for women.

297. The Community was already embarked on a very advanced global policy in that field and the results of the Conference, particularly the document on the Forward-looking Strategies, would be of substantial help in supporting and strengthening its efforts. The representative of Luxembourg expressed regret that questions of general policy had often relegated the special problems of women to the background. The Community and its member States naturally wanted the positions they adopted on questions of general policy to be the same as those they take in other United Nations bodies. To a large extent that explained the votes of the member States of the Community on a number of paragraphs dealing with those questions.

298. The representative of Luxembourg reiterated the intention of the community, its member States and Spain and Portugal to continue the discussions and dialogue in the United Nations after the Conference. He stressed the need for a regular evaluation at all levels of the progress achieved in creating equal opportunities for women.

299. Uruguay endorsed the Conference document entitled: "Forward-looking Strategies of implementation for the advancement of women". It wished however to express its reservations on certain statements in paragraphs 306 and 307 [paras. 259 and 260 of the final text], with which it did not agree and which, moreover, in the view of the Government of Uruguay, went beyond the objectives of the Decade and were contrary to its general spirit.

300. While strongly supporting the Forward-looking Strategies as a whole the Government of Norway wished to submit its reservations with regard to certain paragraphs to which Norway could not fully subscribe.

301. Norway abstained in the vote on paragraph 94 bis (para. 94 in the final text) of the Forward-looking Strategies, concerning economic and coercive measures, as Norway objected to measures of that type that were not founded on decisions of the Security Council in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. Furthermore, the paragraph was unbalanced in that it addressed only the developed countries.

302. Norway had voted in favour of paragraph 306 (para. 259 in the final text) concerning women and children under apartheid, despite certain reservations. There could be no question about the urgent need to eliminate the abhorrent apartheid system, which Norway had consistently condemned as an institutionalized form of racial discrimination. South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia should also be terminated through the speedy and effective implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). Further effective pressure must be brought to bear on the Government of South Africa in order to bring about the necessary changes. Therefore, the Government of Norway reiterated its call for mandatory economic sanctions by the Security Council against South Africa. Pending such decisions, Norway, in co-operation with the other Nordic countries, had adopted certain unilateral measures directed at restricting economic and other relations with South Africa and hoped that other countries would implement similar measures. Furthermore, Norway had expanded its humanitarian assistance to South Africa, to

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refugees and other victims and opponents of apartheid as well as to the front-line States in southern Africa and co-operation with the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference. The Government of Norway, however, had to reserve its position on certain formulations of that paragraph which did not take into account the fact that only the Security Council could adopt decisions which were mandatory for the Member States. Norway also reserved its position on the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, to which Norway had not acceded.

303. As regards paragraph 307 [para. 260 in the final text] concerning Palestinian women and children, Norway, despite its great sympathy for the plight of the Palestinian women, had found it necessary to abstain in the vote because of certain formulations using unbalanced language and failure to reflect adequately the complexity of the underlying political conflicts. In that regard, the Government of Norway continued to maintain that the principles contained in Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) should constitute the basis for a negotiated settlement to the conflicts in the Middle East.

304. Certain paragraphs, such as paragraphs 36 and 98 [paras. 35 and 98 in the final text], implied endorsement of instruments or resolutions to which Norway had expressed reservations or had not been able to support, either as a whole or in part. The Norwegian position regarding those documents remained unchanged.

## 2. Action with respect to draft resolutions submitted to the First and Second Committees

305. In the course of their meetings the First and Second Committees considered a large number of draft resolutions which had been submitted to them. Particulars of these draft resolutions and of the action taken in Committee are set out in the reports of the two Committees (A/CONF.116/L.6/Add.6 and Add.6/Corr.1 and Corr.2 as regards the First Committee, and A/CONF.116/L.5/Add.14 and 15 as regards the Second Committee). In addition, a draft declaration (A/CONF.116/L.4/Rev.1) had been submitted.

306. At the 20th (closing) plenary meeting of the Conference the Vice-President for co-ordination, referring to the draft resolutions and the draft declaration submitted by delegations, suggested that since, owing to lack of time, the Conference had been unable to take action on any of them, they should be appended to the report of the Conference in their original, amended or amalgamated form.

307. This suggestion was agreed to by the Conference. (For the text of the decision see chap. I above. For the text of the draft resolutions and the draft declaration see annex I to the present report.)

308. In response to comments by the representatives of Ethiopia, Algeria, the Libyan Arab Republic and Morocco, the President stated that the draft texts reproduced in annex I to this report would be brought to the attention of the General Assembly for consideration and action as appropriate.

D. Report of the Credentials Committee

309. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 15 July 1985, the Conference, in accordance with rule 4 of its rules of procedure (A/CONF.116/2, as revised in accordance with the decisions taken by the Conference at the same meeting in connection with the adoption of its rules of procedure) appointed a Credentials Committee composed of the following States: Bhutan, China, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Italy, Ivory Coast, Paraguay, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America.

310. The Credentials Committee held one meeting, on 22 July 1985.

311. Mr. Achyut Bhandari (Bhutan) was unanimously elected Presiding Officer of the Committee.

312. The Committee had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General of the Conference, dated 20 July 1985, on the status of credentials of representatives of participants attending the Conference (A/CONF.116/CC/WP.1). Additional information on credentials received by the Secretary-General of the Conference after the issuance of the memorandum was provided to the Committee by the Secretary of the Committee. On the basis of the information made available to it the Committee noted that as at 22 July 1985:

(a) Formal credentials issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as provided for in rule 3 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, had been submitted by the representatives of the following 127 States participating in the Conference:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian SSR, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia;

(b) Credentials for the representatives of the following eight States issued by their respective Head of State or Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs had been communicated to the Secretary-General of the Conference, in the form of a note verbale or a cable:

Benin, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Iceland, Pakistan, Peru, Rwanda, Solomon Islands;

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(c) The designation of the representatives of the following 12 States had been communicated to the Secretary-General of the Conference by means of a cable, letter or note verbale from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs or other Ministry concerned:

Belize, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Yemen, Gambia, India, Kiribati, Mauritania, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Vanuatu;

(d) The designation of the representatives of the following 10 States had been communicated to the Secretary-General of the Conference by means of a letter, note verbale or cable from their permanent representatives or permanent missions to the United Nations (Geneva, Nairobi, New York or Vienna) or their embassies in Kenya or neighbouring countries:

Ecuador, Guinea, Italy, Lesotho, Malawi, Nicaragua, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Zimbabwe;

(e) In respect of Namibia, represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia, the designation of its representatives had been communicated to the Secretary-General of the Conference by a letter from the President of the United Nations Council for Namibia.

313. Statements concerning the information provided to the Committee on the status of credentials of representatives of participants attending the Conference were made by the representatives of China, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Italy, Paraguay, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America.

314. The representative of the USSR stated that there was no country, either on the geographical map, or in real international political life, that was called "Democratic Kampuchea". There was, however, a State - the People's Republic of Kampuchea - created by the will of the Kampuchean people, Kampuchean women, men and children who had survived the barbarous bombardments of American aviation and the genocide of Pol Pot's clique. The Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, formed on the basis of free, democratic and general elections, was firmly leading the country along the way of national reconstruction. Kampuchea had made its choice as regards the route of historical development and social progress. The Soviet delegation stood firmly in favour of the restoration of the legitimate rights of the People's Republic of Kampuchea in the United Nations. The delegation of the People's Republic of Kampuchea should be granted its legitimate right to address the Conference on behalf of its country. That would be the only just solution, which would contribute to the prestige of the Conference. As to the persons who played the role of delegates of so-called "Democratic Kampuchea", they represented nobody except the elements rejected by the Kampuchean people in the process of its struggle for liberation. "The coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea" was nothing more than a screen for Pol Pot's butchers. The presence of the "Democratic Kampuchea" delegation at the Conference constituted an insult to the memory of millions of Kampuchean people, particularly women and children, who had fallen victim to the policy of genocide pursued by Pol Pot's clique. Accordingly, the Soviet delegation opposed the acceptance of credentials submitted by the representatives of the so-called "Democratic Kampuchea" and requested that a separate vote be taken on this question.



315. The representative of China stated that Democratic Kampuchea was a sovereign State and a Member of the United Nations. The coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea was the sole legitimate representative of the people of Kampuchea. The legitimate status of Democratic Kampuchea had been recognized by the General Assembly of the United Nations at successive sessions. That fact could not be disputed. The "Heng Samrin régime" was nothing more than an agent of a foreign power, a puppet propped up by the armed forces of foreign aggression. It could in no way represent the people of Kampuchea. Any attempt to force the entry of such a puppet in the United Nations was bound to fail. The Chinese delegation considered that the Conference, being held under the auspices of the United Nations, should abide by resolutions adopted by the General Assembly. The Credentials Committee should therefore recommend that the Conference accept the credentials of the delegates of Democratic Kampuchea.

316. The representative of China added that his delegation wished to reiterate that allowing the Afghan representative to attend the World Conference should not, under any circumstances, be construed as a tacit acceptance of the situation created by the foreign armed occupation of Afghanistan.

317. The representative of Cuba stated that, with regard to the credentials of the delegation of so-called Democratic Kampuchea, the task of the Committee was very simple. The Committee should examine where the credentials of the group which had designated itself as the delegation of Democratic Kampuchea had been signed. They could have been signed anywhere except in the territory of the sovereign and independent State of Kampuchea whose legitimate Government was the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. The Cuban delegation rejected the credentials of the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea and supported the request by the representative of the Soviet Union for a separate vote on the question of the acceptance of those credentials.

318. The representative of Cuba stated that the shameful facts of the situation whereby the most powerful imperialist Power dishonourably and in violation of its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations occupied tiny Grenada were well known. The authorities in Grenada at present were the product of that occupation and for as long as control was not returned to the people of Grenada to enable it to elect freely a sovereign Government, Cuba would not be in a position to accept the credentials of a delegation from Grenada. The same representative requested that a separate vote be taken by the Committee on the question of the acceptance of the credentials of the representatives of Grenada.

319. The representative of the United States of America stated that the questions relating to the seating of Democratic Kampuchea in United Nations meetings had been discussed extensively in the context of the General Assembly and had been conclusively resolved. In the view of the United States delegation, the precedents set by the General Assembly should be followed at this Conference. The same representative added that the delegation of the United States regretted that the delegations of the Soviet Union and Cuba felt constrained to request a vote on the acceptance of the credentials of the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea which was a well-settled issue.

320. The representative of the United States stated also that there were no grounds upon which the credentials of the representative of Grenada could be subject to challenge. Those credentials should be approved without question. The same representative added that the United States delegation regretted that another delegation had felt constrained to request a vote on that issue.

321. The representative of the Soviet Union stated that, as was known, on 25 October 1983 the United States of America had committed an act of plunder and aggression against Grenada and the people of this tiny country had been deprived of liberty. The right of the people of Grenada to decide upon its own destiny had been trampled. The whole world condemned the aggression and the aggressor, as could be seen from General Assembly resolution 38/7, which had been supported by the votes of 108 countries. It was the duty of the United Nations and of the Conference to stand up for the people, the women and children of Grenada. It was imperative to cease the foreign intervention and to restore a normal situation on the island. The people of Grenada had been deprived of its right to live independently and the Soviet Union could not recognize the imposed puppet régime. For as long as those circumstances persisted, the Soviet delegation was not in a position to accept the credentials of the delegation which was occupying places in the conference rooms behind the nameplate "Grenada". The Soviet delegation opposed the acceptance of the credentials submitted by the puppet régime imposed by the United States in Grenada and supported the proposal by the delegation of Cuba for a separate vote on that question.

322. The representative of the Soviet Union further stated that statements made in the Committee regarding the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan - a sovereign and non-aligned country and a full and equal Member of the United Nations - were completely irrelevant. Observations made by the delegation of China were manifestations of psychological warfare and an inadmissible attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. The training and sending of mercenary bands from the territory of third countries to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan was the main obstacle to the solution of problems of Afghan women and to their liberation from the chains of age-old backwardness. It was the task of the international community and the Conference to help the people and women of Afghanistan to escape from the plunder by former feudal elements supported from outside.

323. The representative of the United States stated that the delegation of the Soviet Union had confused the facts relating to Grenada and Afghanistan. There were no foreign troops in Grenada but there were in Afghanistan. The people of Grenada had freely elected their Government and the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session had accepted the credentials of the representatives of Grenada submitted by that Government.

324. The representative of Italy stated that his delegation considered that in the light of the decisions taken by the General Assembly of the United Nations the Conference should accept as completely valid the credentials submitted for the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea and Grenada.

325. Acting on the request by the representative of the Soviet Union, supported by the delegation of Cuba, the Presiding Officer put to the vote the question of the acceptance of the credentials of the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea. The Committee by 7 votes (Bhutan, China, Equatorial Guinea, Italy, Ivory Coast, Paraguay and the United States of America) to 2 (Cuba and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) accepted as valid the credentials of the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea.

326. Subsequently, the Presiding Officer, acting on the request by the representative of Cuba, supported by the delegation of the Soviet Union, put to the vote the question of the acceptance of the credentials of the representatives of Grenada. The Committee, by 6 votes (Bhutan, Equatorial Guinea, Italy, Ivory Coast,

Paraguay and the United States of America) to 2 (Cuba and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) with 1 abstention (China), accepted as valid the credentials of the representatives of Grenada.

327. The Presiding Officer then proposed that, taking into account the statements made and positions expressed by members of the Committee, as reflected in this report, the Committee should adopt the following draft resolution:

"The Credentials Committee,

Having examined the credentials of representatives to the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women,

Taking into account the various statements made by delegations during the debate,

Accepts the credentials of representatives submitted in accordance with rule 3 of the rules of procedure of the Conference,

Accepts as provisional credentials the other communications received and reported to the Committee on the understanding that credentials in due form as required under rule 3 of the rules of procedure would be promptly submitted to the Secretary-General of the Conference by the authorities concerned,

Recommends that the Conference approve the report of the Credentials Committee."

328. The representative of the Soviet Union stated that his delegation would not object to the adoption of the Committee's report without a vote but dissociated itself from the report in so far as it related to the acceptance of the credentials of the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea and of Grenada.

329. The representative of Cuba stated that her delegation would similarly not object to the adoption of the Committee's report without a vote; however, it dissociated itself from the report in so far as it related to the acceptance of the credentials of Democratic Kampuchea and Grenada, and requested that this position should be duly reflected in the report.

330. The draft resolution proposed by the Presiding Officer was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

331. Subsequently, the Presiding Officer proposed that the Committee recommend to the Conference the adoption of a draft decision (see next paragraph). The proposal was approved by the Committee without a vote.

Recommendation of the Credentials Committee

332. The Credentials Committee recommended to the Conference the adoption of the following draft decision:

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"Credentials of representatives to the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace"

"The Conference,

"Having examined the report of the Credentials Committee,

"Approves the report of the Credentials Committee."

Action in plenary on the report of the Credentials Committee

333. The Conference considered the report of the Credentials Committee at the 17th plenary meeting on 25 July 1985.
334. The representatives of Democratic Yemen, Viet Nam, Cuba, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Albania, Mongolia, Congo and Ethiopia made statements expressing reservations with respect to the credentials of the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea.
335. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement expressing reservations with respect to the credentials of the representatives of Israel.
336. The representative of Pakistan made a statement expressing reservations with respect to the credentials of the representatives of Afghanistan.
337. The representative of Cuba made a statement expressing reservations with respect to the credentials of the representatives of Grenada.
338. The representatives of the United States of America and China reiterated the position of their delegations, as recorded in the report of the Credentials Committee, with regard to the credentials of the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea and Afghanistan.
339. Having considered the report of the Credentials Committee, the Conference adopted the report and the draft decision recommended by the Committee. (For the text of the decision see chap. I.)

## Chapter VI

### ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE

340. The Rapporteur-General introduced the draft report of the Conference (A/CONF.116/L.3 and Add.1 to 3) at the 17th plenary meeting on 25 July 1985.

341. The Conference considered chapters II, III and IV of the draft report and adopted them with certain amendments.

342. At the 20th (closing) plenary meeting on 26 July 1985, the representative of Denmark introduced a draft resolution expressing gratitude to the President of Kenya and to the Government and people of Kenya and designating the document on the Forward-looking Strategies adopted by the Conference as the "Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women".

343. The draft resolution was adopted by acclamation. (For the text of the resolution see chap. I.)

344. At the same meeting, the Conference adopted the draft report as a whole and authorized the Rapporteur-General to complete the report, in conformity with the practice of the United Nations, with a view to its submission to the General Assembly at the fortieth session.

345. After the adoption of the report statements were made by the representatives of Zambia, Egypt (on behalf of the Group of 77), the Philippines (on behalf of the Group of Asian States), the USSR (on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States), Canada (on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States), Mexico (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), Mali (on behalf of the Group of African States) and Colombia.

346. The Secretary-General of the Conference made a concluding statement.

347. The President of the Conference also made a concluding statement and declared the Conference closed.

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