



**UNITED  
NATIONS**



**FOURTH WORLD  
CONFERENCE ON WOMEN**

Beijing, China  
4-15 September 1995

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/CONF.177/17  
12 September 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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Agenda item 8

GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS:

SECOND REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
NAIROBI FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT  
OF WOMEN TO THE YEAR 2000

MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF REGIONAL  
PREPARATORY CONFERENCES

NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND COMMITMENTS

Note verbale dated 12 September 1995 from the Embassy of  
Azerbaijan to Beijing addressed to the Secretary-General  
of the Fourth World Conference on Women

The Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Beijing sends its greetings to the Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women and has the honour to inform her that the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan kindly requests that the attached statement be circulated as an official document of the Conference (see annex).

Annex

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE  
FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
RESOLUTION 39/2 OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN,  
ENTITLED "RELEASE OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN TAKEN  
HOSTAGE IN ARMED CONFLICTS AND IMPRISONED"

At its thirty-ninth session, held from 15 March to 4 April 1995, the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women adopted a resolution entitled "Release of women and children who have been taken hostage in armed conflicts and imprisoned".

The resolution, which was sponsored by 37 countries, included a request that the Secretary-General of the United Nations inform the Fourth World Conference on Women of the progress made in the implementation of the resolution, and that he submit a report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fortieth session.

Although a week has passed since the opening of the Fourth World Conference on Women, no involvement in this issue by relevant agencies has been observed. Nor did the address to the Fourth World Conference on Women made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations include any information about the progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

The delegation of Azerbaijan draws the attention of participants in the Conference to this issue because Azerbaijan is not the only country whose citizens, including women and children, are being held hostage by the opposite side in areas of armed conflict. The fact that the focus of the Conference is action for equality, development and peace makes it necessary today that the Conference urge the parties concerned to release all women and children who are being held hostage in areas of armed conflict. No discussion that the Conference participants are having will be effective if thousands of women and girls, including 486 Azerbaijanian women and children who have been taken hostage as a result of armed aggression by the Republic of Armenia against Azerbaijan, are suffering in captivity. No achievement of the Conference will be complete unless it promotes the release of women and children hostages. Violence against women and children hostages and their suffering in captivity dwarf any other problem that women are facing today.

Azerbaijan calls on all participants in the Fourth World Conference on Women and on all women of the world to support this statement regarding the urgent implementation of resolution 39/2 of the Commission on the Status of Women, entitled "Release of women and children who have been taken hostage in armed conflicts and imprisoned".

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