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Commission on the Status of Women

Forty-seventh session

3-14 March 2003

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”:
 - (a) Review of gender mainstreaming in entities of the United Nations system;
 - (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;
 - (c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives;
 - (i) Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women;
 - (ii) Women’s human rights and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.
4. Communications concerning the status of women.
5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
6. Provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-seventh session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the Commission shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairperson, one or more Vice-Chairpersons and such other officers as may be required. At its forty-sixth session, the Commission elected, in addition to a Chairperson, four Vice-Chairpersons, with one Vice-Chairperson having rapporteurial responsibilities.

In its resolution 1987/21, the Council recommended that, in order to enhance the effectiveness of the work of the Commission, the officers elected to the Bureau of the Commission should serve a term of office of two years. The officers elected at the forty-sixth session will continue to serve during the forty-seventh session.

In accordance with its decision 2002/234, the Council, in order to improve the work of the Commission and to ensure continuity in the work of its successive bureaux, decided that, starting with the forty-seventh session of the Commission, in 2003, the Commission, immediately following the closure of a regular session, would hold the first meeting of its subsequent regular session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chairperson and other members of the Bureau, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council.

The first meeting of the forty-eighth session will be held immediately following the closure of the forty-seventh session, when the Commission may wish to elect the Chairperson and other members of the Bureau to serve at the forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions of the Commission.

The membership of the Commission expiring at the end of its forty-seventh through fiftieth sessions is given in annex II, the membership of the Commission expiring at the end of its forty-eighth through fifty-first sessions in annex III.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, after the election of its officers, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

The provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-seventh session of the Commission were approved by the Council in its decision 2002/236.

Preparations for the forty-seventh session of the Commission were undertaken in accordance with its agreed conclusions 1996/1 on methods of work. Accordingly, the Bureau of the Commission held several meetings, as well as a consultative briefing with all interested delegations on 27 November 2002, to consider the organization and methods of work for the session.

It is expected that time will be set aside for a general debate. To ensure wide participation, it is recommended that individual interventions by Governments, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations be limited to 5 minutes, and that interventions on behalf of groups be limited to 10 minutes, as was the case at previous sessions. It was also recommended at previous sessions that interventions from non-governmental

organizations, with geographical location being taken into consideration, be integrated into the general debate, and that the participation of non-governmental organizations in the general debate would be in addition to their participation in each of the panels on the thematic issues.

In its decision 46/101, the Commission decided that, starting from its forty-seventh session, it would introduce the option of high-level round tables. It authorized the Bureau, after consultation with all interested States through the regional groups, to decide on the number, timing and theme of any such round tables.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 57/175, requested the working group on the future operations of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women to present a preliminary report on the follow-up to the implementation of the measures referred to in paragraph 2 of that resolution to the Commission at its forty-seventh session, and to present its final report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation for the session.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation for the session (E/CN.6/2003/L.1)

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”

(a) Review of gender mainstreaming in entities of the United Nations system

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

In section III, paragraph 5, of its resolution 1996/6, the Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare annually, under item 3, a report on measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the progress achieved in mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system. That request was most recently reiterated in General Assembly resolution 57/182. The Commission will have before it the report requested.

The Commission will also hear an oral report by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women on the work of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality.

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

In its resolution 2002/25 on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women, the Council requested the Commission to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and requested the Secretary-General

to continue to review the situation and to assist Palestinian women by all available means, and to submit to the Commission at its forty-seventh session a report on the progress made in the implementation of that resolution. The Commission will have before it the report requested.

Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan

In its resolution 2002/4 on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan, the Council requested the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and to submit to the Commission at its forty-seventh session a report on progress made in implementation of that resolution. The Commission will have before it the report requested.

Joint work plan on the human rights of women

In its resolution 39/5, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to see to the preparation of a joint work plan on the human rights of women for the then Centre for Human Rights and the Division for the Advancement of Women on an annual basis. In its resolution 2002/50, the Commission encouraged the Secretary-General to ensure implementation of the joint work plan, to continue to elaborate the plan, reflecting all aspects of work under way and the lessons learned, to identify obstacles/impediments and areas for further collaboration, and to make it available to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-ninth session and to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-seventh session. The Commission will have before it the joint work plan.

Improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system

In its resolution 57/180 on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of that resolution, including by providing up-to-date statistics on the number and percentage of women in all organizational units and at all levels throughout the United Nations system, as well as gender-segregated attrition rates for all organizational units and at all levels, and on the implementation of departmental action plans for the achievement of gender balance. The Commission will have before it the report requested.

Violence against women

In its resolution 50/166 on the role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in eliminating violence against women, the General Assembly requested UNIFEM to include in its regular reports information on the establishment of a trust fund in support of national, regional and international actions to eliminate violence against women and to provide such information to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights. The Commission will be provided with such information.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

In accordance with article 21.2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women are transmitted to the Commission for its

information. The report of the Committee on its twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh and exceptional sessions and a note transmitting the results of the Committee's twenty-eighth session (13 January to 31 January 2003) will be before the Commission for its information.

Programme matters

In accordance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, the attention of the Commission is drawn to the programme of work and activities in the area of gender issues and the advancement of women. The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme of work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 2004-2005 (subprogramme 2 of section 9 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005). The proposed programme of work has been established in congruence with the revised medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/57/6/Rev.1).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.6/2003/2)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2003/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan (E/CN.6/2003/4)

Report of the Secretary-General on the joint work plan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/CN.4/2003/73-E/CN.6/2003/5)

Report of the Secretary-General on progress in improving the status of women in the United Nations system (E/CN.6/2003/8)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting information provided by the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/166 (E/CN.6/2003/11)

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the twenty-ninth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/2003/CRP.1)

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (E/CN.6/2003/CRP.2)

Documentation for information

Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system (A/57/447)

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its twenty-sixth, twenty-seventh and exceptional sessions (A/57/38)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/57/406)

Note by the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/57/125)

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men

In its resolution 1996/6, the Council decided that the Commission's agenda would include annually a sub-item 3 (b) on emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men, and requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on emerging issues under that sub-item, as appropriate, at the request of the Commission or its Bureau. No report has been requested under this sub-item.

(c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives

Thematic issues

In its resolution 2001/4, the Council decided on the multi-year programme of work of the Commission for the period 2002 to 2006, including a calendar for considering implementation of strategic objectives and actions in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives. For 2003, the following two themes were identified: "Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women", and "Women's human rights and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly". The Commission will have before it two reports of the Secretary-General on the thematic issues, including conclusions and recommendations emanating from expert group meetings that were held on those themes.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women (E/CN.6/2003/6)

Report of the Secretary-General on women's human rights and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.6/2003/7)

4. Communications concerning the status of women

In its resolution 76 (V), the Council established a procedure by which the Commission would receive and consider communications relating to the status of women. In its resolution 304 I (XI), the Council amended resolution 76 (V) and requested the Secretary-General to compile, before each session of the Commission,

a list of confidential and non-confidential communications, containing a brief indication of the substance of each communication.

In its resolution 1983/27, the Council reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission to consider confidential and non-confidential communications on the status of women, and authorized the Commission to appoint a working group to consider such communications and prepare a report thereon for the Commission.

In its resolution 1993/11, the Council reaffirmed that the Commission was empowered to make recommendations to the Council on what action should be taken on emerging trends and patterns of discrimination against women revealed by such communications.

In its decision 2002/235, the Council decided, in order to make the communications procedure of the Commission more effective and efficient:

- (a) That the Commission, starting at its forty-seventh session, should appoint, at each session, the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women for the next session so that the members may meet to enable the secretariat to issue their report three working days before the adoption of the agenda by the Commission;
- (b) To request the Secretary-General:
 - (i) To inform Governments about each communication pertaining to them that will be considered by the Commission and give them at least 12 weeks before the consideration of such communications by the Working Group;
 - (ii) To ensure that the members of the Working Group receive in advance the lists of communications, including replies from Governments, if any, to be taken into account in preparing its reports for examination by the Commission.

The Commission will be called upon to appoint, at its first meeting, the members of the Working Group to serve at its forty-seventh session. The Commission will also be called upon to appoint, before the closure of its forty-seventh session, the members of the Working Group for its forty-eighth session.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the confidential list of communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2003/SW/Communications List No. 37)

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

The Commission will have before it a letter from the President of the Council on follow-up to the Council's policy guidance. It will also have before it the report of the Secretary-General on follow-up by the Commission to that guidance.

Documentation

Letter dated 31 October 2002 from the President of the Council addressed to the Chairperson of the Commission (E/CN.6/2003/9)

Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to policy guidance provided by the Council (E/CN.6/2003/10)

6. Provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Commission

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Council resolution 1894 (LVII) and in accordance with Council decision 2002/236, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its forty-eighth session, with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each agenda item and the legislative authority for their preparation.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-seventh session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its forty-seventh session.

Annex I

Proposed organization of work

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Programme</i>
Monday, 3 March		
a.m.	2 Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters	Opening of the session Appointment of members of the Working Group on Communications Introduction of reports followed by dialogue
	3 Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"	General discussion
p.m.	3 (c) (i) Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women	Panel of experts: presentation and dialogue
Tuesday, 4 March		
a.m.	3 (c) (ii) Women's human rights and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly	Panel of experts: presentation and dialogue
p.m.	3 (c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives	High-level round table
Wednesday, 5 March		
a.m.	3 (<i>continued</i>)	General debate
p.m.	3 (<i>continued</i>)	General debate
Thursday, 6 March		
a.m.	3 (<i>continued</i>)	Informal consultations
p.m.	3 (<i>continued</i>)	Informal consultations
Friday, 7 March		
a.m.		Observance of International Women's Day
noon-1 p.m.	5 Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions	Follow-up to Council resolutions and decisions
p.m.	3 (<i>continued</i>)	Informal consultations
Monday, 10 March		
a.m.	3 (<i>continued</i>)	Informal consultations
p.m.	6 Provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Commission	Introduction of proposals, including provisional agenda for the next session

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Programme</i>
Tuesday, 11 March		
a.m.	3 (<i>continued</i>)	Informal consultations
p.m.	3 (<i>continued</i>)	Informal consultations
Wednesday, 12 March		
a.m.	4 Communication concerning the status of women	Closed meeting to consider the report of the Working Group on Communications
p.m.	3 (<i>continued</i>)	Informal consultations
Thursday, 13 March		
a.m.	3 (<i>continued</i>)	Informal consultations
p.m.	3 (<i>concluded</i>)	Action on proposals Informal consultations
Friday, 14 March		
a.m.		Action on outstanding issues
p.m.	7 Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-seventh session	Adoption of the report
		Closure of the session
	* * *	
		Election of officers for the forty-eighth session of the Commission

Annex II

Membership of the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-seventh session*

(45 members; four-year term)

<i>Membership</i>	<i>Conclusion of forty-seventh, forty-eighth, forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions, respectively</i>
Argentina	2005
Azerbaijan	2005
Belgium	2003
Benin	2004
Botswana	2006
Brazil	2004
Burkina Faso	2006
Burundi	2003
Chile	2004
China	2004
Croatia	2004
Cuba	2006
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	2003
Denmark	2004
Dominican Republic	2004
Egypt	2003
Gabon	2006
Germany	2005
Guatemala	2006
Guinea	2004
Indonesia	2006
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2006
Italy	2003
Japan	2005
Kyrgyzstan	2004
Lithuania	2003
Malawi	2004
Malaysia	2005
Mexico	2003
Mongolia	2003
Netherlands	2005
Nicaragua	2006

* Membership expires at the conclusion of the forty-seventh, forty-eighth, forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions, in 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006, respectively, as indicated.

<i>Membership</i>	<i>Conclusion of forty-seventh, forty-eighth, forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions, respectively</i>
Pakistan	2005
Peru	2005
Republic of Korea	2006
Russian Federation	2003
Senegal	2003
South Africa	2006
Sudan	2006
Tunisia	2005
Turkey	2003
United Arab Emirates	2006
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2005
United Republic of Tanzania	2005
United States of America	2004

Annex III

Membership of the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-eighth session*

(45 members; four-year term)

<i>Membership</i>	<i>Conclusion of forty-eighth, forty-ninth, fiftieth and fifty-first sessions respectively</i>
Algeria	2007
Argentina	2005
Armenia	2007
Azerbaijan	2005
Belgium	2007
Benin	2004
Bolivia	2007
Botswana	2006
Brazil	2004
Burkina Faso	2006
Canada	2007
China	2004
Chile	2004
Congo	2007
Croatia	2004
Cuba	2006
Denmark	2004
Dominican Republic	2004
Gabon	2006
Germany	2005
Guatemala	2006
Guinea	2005
India	2007
Indonesia	2006
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2006
Japan	2005
Kyrgyzstan	2004
Malaysia	2005
Malawi	2004
Netherlands	2005
Nicaragua	2006
Nigeria	2007

* Membership expires at the conclusion of the forty-eighth, forty-ninth, fiftieth and fifty-first sessions, in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007, respectively, as indicated.

<i>Membership</i>	<i>Conclusion of forty-eighth, forty-ninth, fiftieth and fifty-first sessions respectively</i>
Pakistan	2005
Peru	2005
Republic of Korea	2006
Russian Federation	2007
South Africa	2006
Sudan	2006
Thailand	2007
Tunisia	2005
Turkey	2007
United Arab Emirates	2006
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2005
United Republic of Tanzania	2005
United States of America	2004
