



General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 December 2015

Original: English

Seventieth session
Agenda item 29

Advancement of women

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Adele Li Wei (Singapore)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2015, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled:

“Advancement of women:

“(a) Advancement of women;

“(b) Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly”

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee held a general discussion on the item at its 8th to 12th meetings, from 12 to 14 October 2015, and considered proposals and took action on the item at its 36th, 46th, 53rd and 54th meetings, on 30 October and 12, 23 and 24 November 2015. An account of the Committee’s discussion is contained in the relevant summary records.¹

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its fifty-eighth, fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions (A/70/38);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/70/124);

¹ See A/C.3/70/SR.8, A/C.3/70/SR.9, A/C.3/70/SR.10, A/C.3/70/SR.11, A/C.3/70/SR.12, A/C.3/70/SR.36, A/C.3/70/SR.46, A/C.3/70/SR.53 and A/C.3/70/SR.54.



(c) Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken and progress achieved in 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 (A/70/180);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (A/70/204);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on violence against women migrant workers (A/70/205);

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences (A/70/209);

(g) Letter dated 2 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting a summary of the proposals and ideas of the participants in the World Assembly for Women, held in Tokyo on 28 and 29 August 2015 (A/C.3/70/3).

4. At the 8th meeting, on 12 October, the Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of the Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships Bureau, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), made an introductory statement.

5. At the same meeting, the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women made an oral report.

6. Also at the 8th meeting, the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of the Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships Bureau, UN-Women, responded to the questions posed and the comments made by the representatives of Brazil, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Norway, the European Union, Japan, Morocco, Colombia, Yemen and Chile.

7. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, made an introductory statement.

8. Also at the 8th meeting, the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and the Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of the Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships Bureau, UN-Women, responded to the questions posed and the comments made by the representatives of Iraq, Colombia, Ireland, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, Brazil, the European Union, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Armenia, Cameroon, the United States of America, Israel, Chile, Yemen and Cuba and the observer for the State of Palestine.

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.7/Rev.1

9. At its 54th meeting, on 24 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Violence against women migrant workers” (A/C.3/70/L.7/Rev.1), which replaced draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.7 and was submitted by Argentina, Benin,

Brazil, Chile, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and the United States of America.

10. At the same meeting, the representative of the Philippines made a statement and orally revised operative paragraphs 7 and 9 of the draft resolution.²

11. Subsequently, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ghana, Guinea, Honduras, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Panama, Rwanda, Senegal, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

12. Also at its 54th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.7/Rev.1, as orally revised (see para. 26, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.22

13. At its 46th meeting, on 12 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women” (A/C.3/70/L.22), submitted by Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Subsequently, Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

14. At the same meeting, the representative of Denmark made a statement.

15. Also at its 46th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.22 (see para. 28, draft resolution II).

16. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement.

C. Draft resolutions A/C.3/70/L.24 and Rev.1

17. At the 36th meeting, on 30 October, the representative of Mongolia, on behalf of Argentina, Australia, Benin, Mongolia, Panama and Togo, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas” (A/C.3/70/L.24). Subsequently, Brazil, Chad, the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Liechtenstein, Mali, Paraguay, Peru and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

² See A/C.3/70/SR.54.

18. At its 53rd meeting, on 23 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/70/L.24/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.24 and Belize, Haiti, Norway, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sri Lanka and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Algeria, Angola, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Uruguay, Zambia and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

19. At the same meeting, the representative of Mongolia made a statement.

20. Also at its 53rd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.24/Rev.1 (see para. 26, draft resolution III).

21. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Libya, the Sudan, Yemen and Mauritania and the observer for the Holy See.

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.68

22. At its 53rd meeting, on 23 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly" (A/C.3/70/L.68), submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations.

23. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chair of the Committee (Guyana), as facilitator of the draft resolution, made a statement.

24. Also at the 53rd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.68 (see para. 28, draft resolution IV).

E. Draft decision proposed by the Chair of the Committee

25. At its 54th meeting, on 24 November, on the proposal of the Chair, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the documents considered in connection with the advancement of women (see para. 27).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

26. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I **Violence against women migrant workers**

The General Assembly,

Recalling all of its previous resolutions on violence against women migrant workers and those adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and also recalling the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,¹

Reaffirming the provisions concerning women migrant workers contained in the outcome documents of the World Conference on Human Rights,² the International Conference on Population and Development,³ the Fourth World Conference on Women⁴ and the World Summit for Social Development⁵ and their reviews,

Reaffirming also the provisions concerning women migrants contained in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,⁶ and calling upon States to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants regardless of migration status, especially those of women and children, and to encourage their active participation, as appropriate, in processes that contribute to decision-making, planning and implementation of policies and programmes for sustainable development at all levels,

Reaffirming further that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁷ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁸ and the Optional Protocols thereto,⁹ as well as other relevant conventions and treaties, provide an international legal framework and a comprehensive set of measures for the elimination and prevention of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls and for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹⁰ and acknowledging that this Agenda covers the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls and the protection of labour rights and promotion of safe and secure working environments for all workers, including

¹ See resolution 48/104.

² A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

³ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁴ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13).

⁵ *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

⁶ Resolution 66/288, annex.

⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁹ *Ibid.*, vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531.

¹⁰ Resolution 70/1.

migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment, and also acknowledging the need to, inter alia, end all violence and discrimination against them,

Acknowledging the role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), including in supporting national efforts, to increase women's access to economic opportunities, including for women migrant workers, and to end violence against them, in the light of the UN-Women strategic plan, 2014-2017,¹¹ which has among its six goals increasing women's access to economic opportunities, and preventing violence against women and girls and expanding access to services for survivors, and acknowledging the policy and programmatic work of UN-Women on empowering women migrant workers,

Reaffirming the outcomes of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,¹² and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",¹³ and their reviews,

Welcoming the political declaration adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women during its fifty-ninth session on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women,¹⁴ and taking note, in particular, of the pledge to take further concrete action to ensure the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

Taking note with appreciation of the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women during its fifty-seventh session,¹⁵ and taking note, in particular, of the commitment, as appropriate, to further adopt and implement measures to ensure the social and legal inclusion and protection of women migrants, including women migrant workers in countries of origin, transit and destination, promote and protect the full realization of their human rights and their protection against violence and exploitation, implement gender-sensitive policies and programmes for women migrant workers and provide safe and legal channels that recognize their skills and education, provide fair labour conditions and, as appropriate, facilitate their productive employment and decent work as well as integration into the labour force,

Recalling the declaration of the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development,¹⁶ held on 3 and 4 October 2013, which reaffirmed the need to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, especially those of women and children, and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and through a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of

¹¹ UNW/2013/6.

¹² *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

¹³ Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

¹⁴ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2015, Supplement No. 7 (E/2015/27)*, chap. I, sect. C, resolution 59/1, annex.

¹⁵ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2013, Supplement No. 7 (E/2013/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

¹⁶ Resolution 68/4.

countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability,

Recalling also that the declaration recognized that women and girls account for almost half of all international migrants at the global level and the need to address the special situation and vulnerability of migrant women and girls by, inter alia, incorporating a gender perspective into policies and strengthening national laws, institutions and programmes to combat gender-based violence, including trafficking in persons and discrimination against them, and emphasized in this regard the need to establish appropriate measures for the protection of women migrant workers in all sectors, including those involved in domestic work,

Taking note with appreciation of the adoption of Convention No. 189 and Recommendation No. 201 on decent work for domestic workers by the International Labour Conference on 16 June 2011, at its 100th session, and the entry of the Convention into force on 5 September 2013, and inviting States to consider ratifying it, encouraging States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to take note of and consider general recommendation No. 26 on women migrant workers adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in November 2008,¹⁷ and encouraging States parties to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families¹⁸ to take note of and consider general comment No. 1 on migrant domestic workers adopted by the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in December 2010,¹⁹ acknowledging that they are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

Recognizing the urgency of combating trafficking in persons in all its forms, including for the purposes of forced or compulsory labour, particularly of women migrant workers, and in this regard taking note of the adoption by the International Labour Conference on 11 June 2014, at its 103rd session, of the Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), and of Recommendation No. 203 on supplementary measures for the effective suppression of forced labour, of the International Labour Organization,

Recognizing also the increasing participation of women of all skill levels in international migration, driven in large part by socioeconomic factors, and that this feminization of migration requires greater gender sensitivity in all policies and efforts related to the subject of international migration,

Recognizing further that the demand for migrant care work appears to be rising, where the failure to resolve care deficits and secure public provision of care has increased the demand for care work, particularly in the private sphere, and that some migrant workers engaged in informal care work, particularly women, face serious human rights abuses owing to the invisible nature of their workplace, while many benefit from the economic opportunities offered by care work,

¹⁷ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/64/38)*, part one, annex I, decision 42/I.

¹⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

¹⁹ CMW/C/GC/1.

Recognizing the roles and responsibilities of and need for cooperation among all stakeholders, in particular countries of origin, transit and destination, relevant regional and international organizations, the private sector and civil society, in promoting an environment that prevents and addresses violence against women migrant workers, including in the context of discrimination, through targeted measures, and in this regard recognizing the importance of joint and collaborative approaches and strategies at the national, bilateral, regional and international levels,

Recognizing also that women migrant workers have the potential to foster equitable, inclusive and sustainable growth and human development through the economic and social impacts, as a result of their work, on countries of origin and destination, and underlining the value and dignity of their labour, including the labour of domestic and care workers,

Recognizing further the particular vulnerability and needs of women and their children at all stages of the migration process, extending from the moment of deciding to migrate, and including transit, engagement in formal and informal employment and integration into the host society, as well as during their return to and reintegration in their countries of origin,

Expressing deep concern at the continuing reports of grave abuses and violence committed against migrant women and girls, including gender-based violence, sexual violence, domestic and family violence, racist and xenophobic acts, discrimination, abusive labour practices, exploitative conditions of work and contemporary forms of slavery, inter alia, all forms of forced labour and trafficking in persons,

Recognizing that one of the key causes of labour exploitation that migrants, including women migrant workers, suffer is linked to the unscrupulous practices of some recruitment agencies and informal brokers which charge high recruitment fees, and noting with concern the reports of abuse committed by some recruitment agencies and employers,

Recognizing also that the intersection of, inter alia, gender, age, class, race and ethnic discrimination and stereotypes can compound the discrimination faced by women migrant workers and that gender-based violence is a form of discrimination,

Reaffirming the commitment to respect, protect and promote the human rights of all women, including, without discrimination, indigenous women who migrate for work, and in this regard noting the attention paid in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples²⁰ to the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against indigenous women, as appropriate,

Noting that the priority theme of the sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women will be “Women’s empowerment and its link to sustainable development” and that migration can enable equitable, inclusive and sustainable growth and human development for countries of origin and destination, migrants and their families, and in this regard recognizing the potential role of women migrant workers in contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

²⁰ Resolution 61/295, annex.

Concerned that many migrant women who are employed in the informal economy and in less skilled work are especially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, underlining in this regard the obligation of States to protect the human rights of migrants so as to prevent and address abuse and exploitation, observing with concern that many women migrant workers take on jobs for which they may be overqualified and in which, at the same time, they may be more vulnerable because of poor pay and inadequate social protection, and in this regard taking note of the adoption by the International Labour Conference on 12 June 2015, at its 104th session, of International Labour Organization Recommendation No. 204 on the transition from the informal to the formal economy,

Emphasizing the need for objective, comprehensive and broad-based information, including sex- and age-disaggregated data and statistics, and gender-sensitive indicators for research and analysis, and a wide exchange of experience and lessons learned by individual Member States and civil society in the formulation of targeted policies and concrete strategies to specifically address violence against women migrant workers, including in the context of discrimination,

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

Recognizing the importance of exploring the link between migration and trafficking in persons in order to further efforts towards protecting women migrant workers from violence, discrimination, exploitation and abuse,

Recognizing also that the vulnerabilities documented for women migrant workers highlight increasingly complex migration contexts and channels, where migrant workers may find themselves in life-threatening situations when entering other countries,

Encouraged by some measures adopted by some countries of destination to alleviate the plight of women migrant workers residing in their areas of jurisdiction and to promote access to justice, such as the establishment of gender-sensitive protection mechanisms for migrant workers, facilitating their access to mechanisms for reporting complaints or providing assistance during legal proceedings,

Underlining the important role of relevant United Nations treaty bodies in monitoring the implementation of human rights conventions and of the relevant special procedures, as well as of the supervisory mechanisms of the International Labour Organization in monitoring the implementation of labour rights instruments, within their respective mandates, in addressing the problem of violence against women migrant workers and in protecting and promoting their human rights and welfare,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on violence against women migrant workers;²¹
2. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and

²¹ A/70/205.

Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,²² which highlights, inter alia, that overall progress in the implementation of the Platform for Action has been particularly slow for women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and that marginalized groups of women, including migrant women, are at particular risk of discrimination and violence;

3. *Invites* Member States to consider ratifying relevant International Labour Organization conventions, including Convention No. 97 on migration for employment,²³ Convention No. 143 on migrant workers,²⁴ Convention No. 181 on private employment agencies²⁵ and Convention No. 189 on decent work for domestic workers, and to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,¹⁸ the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,²⁶ the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,²⁷ the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons²⁸ and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,²⁹ as well as all other human rights treaties that contribute to the protection of the rights of women migrant workers, calls upon States Parties to comply with their relevant obligations under international law, and also encourages Member States to implement the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons;³⁰

4. *Takes note* of the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the human rights of migrants submitted to the Council at its seventeenth and twentieth sessions,³¹ in particular their elaboration of the vulnerabilities and challenges faced by irregular migrants, including negative public perceptions and limited access to protection, assistance and justice, and of the report of the Special Rapporteur submitted to the Council at its twenty-sixth session,³² in particular the focus of its thematic part on labour exploitation of migrants, covering some of the most common manifestations of labour exploitation affecting migrants;

5. *Encourages* all United Nations agencies and special rapporteurs on human rights whose mandates touch on the issues of violence against women migrant workers to improve the collection of information on and analysis of those areas within their mandates relating to the current challenges facing women migrant workers, including in supply chains, and also encourages Governments to cooperate with the agencies and special rapporteurs in this regard;

²² E/CN.6/2015/3.

²³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 120, No. 1616.

²⁴ Ibid., vol. 1120, No. 17426.

²⁵ Ibid., vol. 2115, No. 36794.

²⁶ Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.

²⁷ Ibid., vol. 2241, No. 39574.

²⁸ Ibid., vol. 360, No. 5158.

²⁹ Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.

³⁰ Resolution 64/293.

³¹ A/HRC/17/33 and A/HRC/20/24.

³² A/HRC/26/35.

6. *Calls upon* all Governments to incorporate a human rights, gender-sensitive and people-centred perspective in legislation, policies and programmes on international migration and on labour and employment, consistent with their human rights obligations and commitments under human rights instruments, for the prevention of and protection of migrant women against violence and discrimination, exploitation and abuse, to take effective measures to ensure that such migration and labour policies do not reinforce discrimination, and, where necessary, to conduct impact assessment studies of such legislation, policies and programmes in order to identify the impact of measures taken and the results achieved in regard to women migrant workers;

7. *Calls upon* Governments to adopt or strengthen measures to protect the human rights of women migrant workers, including domestic workers, regardless of their immigration status, including in policies that regulate the recruitment and deployment of women migrant workers, to consider expanding dialogue among States on devising innovative methods to promote legal channels of migration, inter alia, in order to deter irregular migration, to consider incorporating a gender perspective into immigration laws in order to prevent discrimination and violence against women, including in independent, circular and temporary migration, and to consider permitting, in accordance with national legislation, women migrant workers who are victims of violence to apply for residency permits independently of abusive employers or spouses, and to eliminate abusive sponsorship systems;

8. *Encourages* Governments to seek to address the push and pull factors for women's irregular migration, including the need to resolve care deficits in labour-importing countries and to regulate, formalize, professionalize and protect the terms and conditions of employment in care work, in line with national law and applicable obligations under international law;

9. *Urges* Governments to enhance bilateral, regional, interregional and international cooperation to address violence against women migrant workers, fully respecting international law, including international human rights law, as well as to strengthen efforts to reduce the vulnerability of women migrant workers by promoting decent work, by, inter alia, adopting minimum wage policies and employment contracts in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, by facilitating effective access to justice and effective action in the areas of law enforcement, prosecution, prevention, capacity-building and victim protection and support, by exchanging information and good practices in combating violence and discrimination against women migrant workers and by fostering sustainable development alternatives to migration in countries of origin;

10. *Also urges* Governments to take into account the best interests of the child by adopting or strengthening measures to respect, promote and protect the human rights of migrant children, especially girls, including unaccompanied girls, regardless of their immigration status, so as to prevent labour and economic exploitation, discrimination, commercial sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, violence and sexual abuse in the workplace, including in domestic work;

11. *Further urges* Governments to strongly encourage all stakeholders, especially the private sector, including employment agencies involved in recruiting women migrant workers, to strengthen the focus on and funding support for the prevention of violence against women migrant workers, in particular by promoting the access of women to meaningful and gender-sensitive information and education

on, inter alia, the costs and benefits of migration, rights and benefits to which they are entitled in the countries of origin and employment, overall conditions in countries of employment and procedures for legal migration, as well as to ensure that laws and policies governing recruiters, employers and intermediaries promote adherence to and respect for the human rights and, where applicable, labour rights of migrant workers, particularly women;

12. *Encourages* all States to remove obstacles that may prevent the transparent, safe, unrestricted and expeditious transfer of remittances of migrants to their countries of origin or to any other countries, including, where appropriate, by reducing transaction costs and implementing woman-friendly remittance transfer, savings and investment schemes, including diaspora investment schemes, in conformity with applicable national legislation, and to consider, as appropriate, measures to solve other problems that may impede women migrant workers' access to and management of their economic resources;

13. *Encourages* States to consider designing and implementing financial literacy training for women migrant workers and, where appropriate, their families, and other programmes that may contribute to the full development impact of migration;

14. *Calls upon* States to address the structural and underlying causes of violence against women migrant workers through education, dissemination of information and awareness-raising, by promoting their empowerment and access to decent work and, where relevant, their integration into the formal economy, in particular in economic decision-making, and by promoting their participation in public life, as appropriate;

15. *Calls upon* Governments to promote access to adequate health-care services for women migrant workers and their accompanying children;

16. *Also calls upon* Governments to recognize the right of women migrant workers and their accompanying children, regardless of their immigration status, to have access without discrimination to emergency health care, including in times of humanitarian crises, natural disasters and other emergency situations, and in this regard to ensure that women migrant workers are not discriminated against on the grounds of pregnancy and childbirth and, in accordance with national legislation, to address the vulnerabilities to HIV experienced by migrant populations and support their access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support;

17. *Encourages* Governments to ensure the appropriate use of voluntary and confidential HIV testing and pregnancy testing to prevent unwarranted barriers prior to and during migration;

18. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to adopt and implement legislation and policies that protect all women migrant workers, including those in domestic work, to include therein, and improve where necessary, relevant monitoring and inspection measures in line with applicable International Labour Organization conventions and other instruments to ensure compliance with international obligations and to grant women migrant workers in domestic service access to gender-sensitive, transparent mechanisms for bringing complaints against recruitment agencies and employers, including terminating their contracts in case of labour and economic exploitation, discrimination, sexual harassment, violence and sexual abuse in the workplace, while stressing that such instruments should not

punish women migrant workers, and calls upon States to promptly investigate and punish all violations of their rights;

19. *Calls upon* Governments, in cooperation with international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders, to provide women migrant workers who are victims of violence, irrespective of their immigration status, in line with domestic legislation, with the full range of emergency assistance and protection and, to the extent possible, gender-sensitive services that are culturally and linguistically appropriate, in accordance with relevant international human rights instruments and applicable conventions;

20. *Also calls upon* Governments to ensure that legislative provisions and judicial processes are in place for women migrant workers' access to justice, to enhance, develop or maintain legal frameworks and specific gender-sensitive policies to explicitly meet their needs and rights and, where necessary, to take appropriate steps to reform existing legislation and policies to capture their needs and protect their rights;

21. *Further calls upon* Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, to put in place penal and criminal sanctions, in order to punish perpetrators of violence against women migrant workers and intermediaries, and gender-sensitive redress and justice mechanisms that victims can access effectively and that allow their views and concerns to be presented and considered at appropriate stages of proceedings, including other measures that will allow victims to be present during the judicial process, when possible, and to protect women migrant workers who are victims of violence from revictimization, including by authorities;

22. *Urges* all States to adopt and implement effective measures to put an end to the arbitrary arrest and detention of women migrant workers and to take action to prevent and punish any form of illegal deprivation of the liberty of women migrant workers by individuals or groups;

23. *Encourages* Governments to formulate, implement and refine training programmes for their law enforcement officials, immigration officers and border officials, diplomatic and consular officials, judiciary, prosecutors, public sector medical staff and other service providers, with a view to sensitizing those public sector workers to the issue of violence against women migrant workers and imparting to them the necessary skills and attitude to ensure the delivery of proper, professional and gender-sensitive interventions;

24. *Also encourages* Governments to promote coherence between migration, labour and anti-trafficking policies and programmes concerning women migrant workers, based on a human rights, gender-sensitive and people-centred perspective, to ensure that the human rights of women migrant workers are protected throughout the migration process and to enhance efforts to prevent violence against women migrant workers, prosecute perpetrators and protect and support victims and their families;

25. *Calls upon* States, in accordance with the provisions of article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations,³³ to ensure that, if a woman migrant worker is arrested or committed to prison or custody pending trial, or is detained in any other manner, the competent authorities respect her freedom to communicate with and have access to the consular officials of the country of her nationality and,

³³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 596, No. 8638.

in this regard, to inform without delay, if that woman migrant worker so requests, the consular post of her State of nationality;

26. *Invites* the United Nations system and other concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to cooperate with Governments, within existing resources, towards a better understanding of the issues concerning women and international migration, and to improve the collection, dissemination and analysis of sex- and age-disaggregated data and information in order to assist in the formulation of migration and labour policies that are, inter alia, gender-sensitive and that protect human rights, as well as to aid in policy assessment and to continue to support national efforts to address violence against women migrant workers in a coordinated way that ensures effective implementation, enhances their impact and strengthens positive outcomes for women migrant workers;

27. *Encourages* Governments, in accordance with their applicable legal obligations, to formulate national policies concerning women migrant workers that are based on up-to-date, relevant sex-disaggregated data and analysis, in close consultation with women migrant workers and relevant stakeholders throughout the policy process, and also encourages Governments to ensure that this process is adequately resourced and that the resulting policies have measurable targets and indicators, timetables and monitoring and accountability measures, in particular for employment agencies, employers and public officials, and provide for impact assessments and ensure multi-sector coordination within and between countries of origin, transit and destination through appropriate mechanisms;

28. *Encourages* concerned Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin, transit and destination, to avail themselves of the expertise of the United Nations, including the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to develop and enhance appropriate sex-disaggregated national data collection, analysis and dissemination methodologies that will generate comparable data, and tracking and reporting systems on violence against women migrant workers and, wherever possible, on violations of their rights at all stages of the migration process, and:

(a) To further study the costs of violence against women, including migrant workers, to the women themselves, their families and their communities;

(b) To analyse the opportunities available to women migrant workers and their impact on development;

(c) To support the improvement of macrodata on migration costs and on remittances, for appropriate policy formulation and implementation;

29. *Requests* Governments and international organizations to take appropriate measures to give due consideration to the declaration of the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development,¹⁶ held in New York on 3 and 4 October 2013, in order to ensure that the human rights and human development aspects of women's migration are adequately integrated into national, regional and international development policy and practice, such as poverty reduction strategies and strategies aimed at implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

30. *Encourages* the United Nations system and related entities to continue and step up their efforts and promote partnerships with all stakeholders, including civil society organizations, and to coordinate their work in support, as appropriate, of effective implementation of relevant international and regional instruments in order to enhance their impact through concrete positive outcomes for the advancement of women migrant workers' rights;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide a comprehensive, analytical and thematic report to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session on the problem of violence against women migrant workers and on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account updated information from the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, UN-Women and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as the reports of special rapporteurs that refer to the situation of women migrant workers and other relevant sources, such as the International Organization for Migration, including non-governmental organizations.

Draft resolution II
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination
against Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 68/138 of 18 December 2013,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;¹
2. *Also welcomes* the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its fifty-eighth to sixtieth sessions;²
3. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to address and to engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventy-first and seventy-second sessions under the item on the advancement of women;
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session a report on the status of the Convention.

¹ A/70/124.

² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/70/38).*

Draft resolution III

Improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 56/129 of 19 December 2001, 58/146 of 22 December 2003, 60/138 of 16 December 2005, 62/136 of 18 December 2007, 64/140 of 18 December 2009, 66/129 of 19 December 2011 and 68/139 of 18 December 2013,

Affirming the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and also that all forms of discrimination, including discrimination against women and girls, are contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,² the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,² the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,³ the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁴ the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities⁵ and other human rights instruments,

Taking note of the provisions pertaining to women and girls in rural areas contained in the outcome documents of relevant international conferences and summits, in particular the Beijing Declaration⁶ and Platform for Action⁷ adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”⁸ and the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples,⁹ and recalling other instruments, as appropriate, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development,¹⁰

Welcoming the adoption of the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,¹¹ and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,¹²

Recalling that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development addresses the need to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, in order to ensure that no one is left behind,

Recognizing that rural women are critical agents in poverty reduction, that they are crucial to the achievement of food security and nutrition in poor and vulnerable

¹ Resolution 217 A (III).

² See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁴ Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁵ Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.

⁶ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

⁷ Ibid., annex II.

⁸ Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

⁹ Resolution 69/2.

¹⁰ Resolution 41/128, annex.

¹¹ Resolution 70/1.

¹² Resolution 69/313, annex.

households and to environmental sustainability and that, in other ways, they are also critical to the achievement of all of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Expressing concern that rural women continue to be economically and socially disadvantaged because of their limited access to economic resources and opportunities, their limited or lack of access to quality education, health-care services, justice, land, water and sanitation and other resources, as well as to credit, extension services and agricultural inputs, and expressing concern also about their exclusion from planning and decision-making and their disproportionate burden of unpaid care work,

Recognizing the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security¹³ and the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems,¹⁴ endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security, which embrace gender equality as one of the main guiding principles of implementation in order to help address the ongoing disparities with regard to access to and control of land and other natural resources,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹⁵

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

(a) Creating an enabling environment for improving their situation and ensuring systematic attention to their needs, priorities and contributions, including through enhanced cooperation and a gender perspective, and their full and equal participation in the development, implementation and follow-up of macroeconomic policies, including development policies and programmes and poverty eradication strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist, aimed at implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;¹¹

(b) Pursuing the political and socioeconomic empowerment of rural women and supporting their full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels, including through affirmative action, where appropriate, including by promoting and protecting the right to vote and to be elected and the right to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, and through support for women's and farmers' organizations in which subsistence and smallholder women farmers are members, labour unions or other associations and civil society groups promoting rural women's rights;

(c) Promoting consultation with and the participation of rural women, including indigenous women, women with disabilities and older women, through their organizations and networks, in the design, development and implementation of

¹³ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document CL 144/9 (C 2013/20), appendix D.

¹⁴ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document CFS 2014/41/4 Rev.1.

¹⁵ A/70/204.

and follow-up to programmes and strategies for gender equality, the empowerment of women and rural development;

(d) Ensuring that the perspectives of rural women are taken into account and that they participate in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies and activities related to conflict prevention, mitigation of post-conflict situations, peace mediation, impacts of climate change and emergencies, including natural disasters, humanitarian assistance, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction, and taking appropriate measures to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against rural women and girls in this regard;

(e) Integrating a gender perspective into the design, implementation and evaluation of and follow-up to development policies, plans and programmes, including budget policies, where lacking, ensuring coordination between line ministries, gender policymakers, gender machineries and other relevant government organizations and institutions with gender expertise, and paying increased attention to the needs of rural women to ensure that they benefit from policies and programmes adopted in all spheres and that the disproportionate number of rural women living in poverty is reduced;

(f) Mainstreaming a gender perspective in decision-making processes and the governance of natural resources, leveraging the participation and influence of women in managing the sustainable use of natural resources, and enhancing the capacities of Governments, civil society and development partners to better understand and address gender issues in the management and governance of natural resources;

(g) Strengthening measures, including resource generation, to improve women's health, including maternal health by addressing the specific health, nutrition and basic needs of rural women and taking concrete measures to enhance and provide access to the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health for women of all ages in rural areas, as well as quality, affordable and universally accessible primary health care and support services, including prenatal and postnatal health care, emergency obstetric care, family planning, information and education, increasing knowledge, awareness and support for the elimination of harmful practices and the prevention, treatment and care of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and by ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,¹⁶ the Beijing Platform for Action⁷ and the outcome documents of their review conferences;

(h) Promoting sustainable infrastructure, access to safe drinking water and sanitation and safe cooking and heating practices to improve the health and nutrition of rural women and girls;

(i) Investing in and strengthening efforts to meet the basic needs of rural women, including needs relating to their food security and nutrition and that of their families, and to promote adequate standards of living for them, as well as decent conditions for work and access to local, regional and global markets through improved availability, access to and use of critical rural infrastructure, such as energy and transport, science and technology, local services, capacity-building and human resources development measures and the provision of a safe and reliable water supply

¹⁶ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

and sanitation, nutritional programmes, affordable housing programmes, education and literacy programmes, social support measures and health care, including HIV prevention, treatment, care, including psychosocial aspects, and support services;

(j) Designing and implementing national policies and legal frameworks that promote and protect the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by rural women and girls, and creating an environment that does not tolerate violations or abuses of their rights, including domestic violence, sexual violence and all other forms of gender-based violence and discrimination;

(k) Ensuring that the rights of older women in rural areas are taken into account with regard to their equal access to basic social services, appropriate social protection/social security measures, equal access to and control of economic resources and their empowerment through access to financial and infrastructure services, with special focus on the provision of support to older women, including indigenous women, who often have access to few resources and are more vulnerable;

(l) Valuing and supporting the critical role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women in rural areas, in the conservation and sustainable use of traditional crops and biodiversity for present and future generations as an essential contribution to food security and nutrition;

(m) Promoting the rights of women and girls with disabilities in rural areas, including by ensuring access on an equal basis to productive employment and decent work, economic and financial resources and disability-sensitive infrastructure and services, in particular in relation to health and education, as well as by ensuring that their priorities and needs are fully incorporated into policies and programmes, inter alia, through their participation in decision-making processes;

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

(o) Supporting women entrepreneurs and women smallholder farmers, including those in subsistence farming, by continuing to provide public investment and to encourage private investment in rural women to close the gender gap in agriculture, and facilitating their access to extension and financial services, agricultural inputs and land, water sanitation and irrigation, markets and innovative technologies;

(p) Mobilizing resources, including at the national level and through official development assistance, for increasing women's access to existing savings and credit schemes, as well as targeted programmes that provide women with capital, knowledge and tools that enhance their economic capacities;

(q) Seeking to ensure and improve equal access for rural women to decent work in agricultural and non-agricultural sectors, supporting and promoting opportunities in small enterprises, sustainable social enterprises and cooperatives and improving working conditions;

(r) Investing in infrastructure and in time- and labour-saving technologies, especially in rural areas, benefiting women and girls by reducing their burden of

domestic activities, affording the opportunity for girls to attend school and for women to engage in self-employment or to participate in the labour market;

(s) Taking steps to ensure that women's and girls' unpaid work and contributions to on-farm and off-farm production are recognized, and promoting shared responsibility within the household with a view to reducing and equitably distributing the burden of such unpaid work;

(t) Supporting remunerative non-agricultural employment of rural women, including in the informal sector, to improve working conditions, increase access to productive resources, invest in relevant infrastructure, public services and time- and labour-saving technologies, promote rural women's paid employment in the formal economy and address the structural and underlying causes of the difficult conditions of rural women;

(u) Promoting programmes and services to enable rural women and men to reconcile their work and family responsibilities and to encourage men to share, equally with women, household, childcare and other care responsibilities;

(v) Developing strategies to decrease women's vulnerability to environmental factors and the impacts of climate change while promoting rural women's full and equal participation in protecting the environment;

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

(x) Addressing the lack of quality, accessible, timely and reliable data disaggregated by sex and age and statistical information on disabilities, to help with the measurement of progress and to ensure that no one is left behind, including by intensifying efforts to include women's unpaid work in official statistics, and developing a systematic and comparative research base on rural women that will inform policy and programme decisions;

(y) Strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and other relevant government institutions to collect, analyse and disseminate sex- and age-disaggregated data and gender statistics on time use, unpaid work, land tenure, energy, water and sanitation, among other things, to support policies and actions to improve the situation of rural women and girls;

(z) Designing, revising and implementing laws to ensure that rural women are accorded full and equal rights to own and lease land and other property, including through the equal rights to economic resources, access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinancing, and undertaking administrative reforms and all necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies and access to markets and information, and to ensure their equal access to justice and legal support;

(aa) Supporting a gender-sensitive education system, including through approaches that attract and retain female students and teachers and that consider the specific needs of rural women and girls in order to eliminate gender stereotypes and discriminatory tendencies affecting them, including through community-based dialogue involving women and men and girls and boys;

(bb) Promoting education, training and relevant information programmes for rural and farming women through the use of affordable and appropriate technologies and the mass media, and taking concrete measures to improve rural women's skills, productivity and employment opportunities through technical, agricultural and vocational education and training;

3. *Encourages* Member States, United Nations entities and all other relevant stakeholders to promote access to social protection for female-headed rural households;

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

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

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

7. *Invites* Governments to promote the economic empowerment of rural women, including through entrepreneurship training, and to adopt gender-responsive and climate-sensitive rural development strategies and agricultural production, including budget frameworks and relevant assessment measures, as well as to ensure that the needs and priorities of rural women and girls are systematically addressed and that they can effectively contribute to poverty alleviation, hunger eradication and food security and nutrition;

8. *Invites* the Commission on the Status of Women to give consideration to the issue of the empowerment of rural women in a timely and appropriate manner;

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

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

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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 69/151 of 18 December 2014, and recalling also the section of resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 entitled “Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women”,

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action¹ and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,² are important contributions to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned,

Reaffirming the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit,³ the 2005 World Summit,⁴ the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,⁵ the special event of the General Assembly to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,⁶ the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda⁷ and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming also that their full, effective and accelerated implementation is integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals,

Welcoming progress made towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, but stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

Noting that 2015 marked the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, welcoming in this regard the review activities undertaken by Governments, and noting the contributions of all other relevant stakeholders and the review outcomes,

Welcoming the holding of the Global Leaders Meeting on Gender Equality and Empowerment on 27 September 2015 and the pledges submitted by Governments in this regard,

¹ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

² Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

³ Resolution 55/2.

⁴ Resolution 60/1.

⁵ Resolution 65/1.

⁶ Resolution 68/6.

⁷ Resolution 70/1.

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

Welcoming the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in reviewing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, taking note with appreciation of all its agreed conclusions, and acknowledging the need for implementation,

Welcoming also the strengthening of the capacity of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and its experience in achieving its mandate,

Commending UN-Women for the continued support provided to intergovernmental processes, including on the linkages between sustainable development, financing for development and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls,

Recalling its resolution 64/289, in which it decided that the resources required to service the normative intergovernmental processes shall be funded from the regular budget,

Taking note of the activities carried out by the Fund for Gender Equality and the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women,

Recognizing that the participation and contribution of civil society, in particular women's groups and organizations and other non-governmental organizations, are important to the successful implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, in particular in the context of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Platform for Action,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting the empowerment of women and achieving gender equality by transforming structures of inequality, which is relevant to all issues considered by its Main Committees and subsidiary bodies, including in resolutions dealing with issues beyond social, humanitarian, cultural, economic and financial matters,

Reaffirming also the commitment to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, as well as the commitment to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender equality,

Reaffirming further the commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus⁸ and the

⁸ Resolution 63/239, annex.

Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,⁹

Bearing in mind the challenges and obstacles to changing discriminatory attitudes and gender stereotypes, which perpetuate discrimination against women and girls and stereotypical roles of boys and girls, men and women, and stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of international standards and norms to address inequality between men and women,

Reaffirming the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS¹⁰ and the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS, adopted at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on AIDS, held on 10 June 2011,¹¹ in which, inter alia, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women were recognized as fundamental for reducing the vulnerability of women to HIV and AIDS,

Expressing serious concern that the urgent goal of 50/50 gender balance in the United Nations system, especially at senior and policymaking levels, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, remains unmet, and that the representation of women in the United Nations system has remained almost static, with negligible improvement in some parts of the system, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on improvement in the status of women in the United Nations system,¹²

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, and stressing the need for their participation therein, including at decision-making levels, and noting in this regard that 2015 marked the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security,

Recalling Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960 (2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106 (2013) of 24 June 2013, 2122 (2013) of 18 October 2013 and 2242 (2015) of 13 October 2015 on women and peace and security and resolution 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009 on children and armed conflict,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken and progress achieved in 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;¹³

2. *Reaffirms* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women¹ and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,² affirms the political declaration on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women adopted at

⁹ Resolution 69/313, annex.

¹⁰ Resolution S-26/2, annex.

¹¹ Resolution 65/277, annex.

¹² A/69/346 and Corr.1.

¹³ A/70/180.

the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,¹⁴ and also affirms its commitment to their full, effective and accelerated implementation;

3. *Also reaffirms* the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the catalytic role of the Commission on the Status of Women, in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, based on the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and in promoting and monitoring gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system, and encourages the Commission to contribute to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁷ in order to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

4. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations of States parties under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women¹⁵ are mutually reinforcing in respect of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and welcomes in this regard the contributions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to promoting the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

5. *Calls upon* States parties to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto¹⁶ and to take into consideration the concluding observations as well as the general recommendations of the Committee, urges States parties to consider limiting the extent of any reservations that they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any reservations as precisely and narrowly as possible and to regularly review such reservations with a view to withdrawing them so as to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, also urges all Member States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to consider doing so, and calls upon those Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

6. *Reaffirms* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and girls, provide protection to the victims and investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, calls upon Governments to elaborate and implement laws and strategies to eliminate violence against women and girls, encourages and supports men and boys to take an active part in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence, encourages increased understanding among men and boys of how violence harms girls, boys, women and men and undermines gender equality, encourages all actors to speak out against any form of violence against women, and in this regard encourages Member States to continue to support the Secretary-General's ongoing campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" and the social mobilization and advocacy platform of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

¹⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2015, Supplement No. 7 (E/2015/27)*, chap. I, sect. C, resolution 59/1.

¹⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 2131, No. 20378.

(UN-Women) “Say NO — UNiTE to End Violence against Women”, as well as the UN-Women “HeforShe” campaign;

7. *Reiterates* the importance and value of the mandate of UN-Women, and welcomes the Entity’s leadership in providing a strong voice for women and girls at all levels and its efforts to support intergovernmental processes so that they fully contribute to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and the realization of their human rights;

8. *Notes with concern* that currently UN-Women has to draw on voluntary contributions in order to enable it to carry out its mandate of servicing normative intergovernmental processes, and emphasizes the need for the full implementation of resolution 64/289 in this regard;

9. *Reaffirms* the important role of UN-Women in leading, coordinating and promoting accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women;

10. *Notes with appreciation* the important and extensive work of UN-Women for more effective and coherent gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system, and calls upon UN-Women to continue to support gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system as an integral part of its work and of its efforts to accelerate action across the United Nations system;

11. *Welcomes* the commitment of UN-Women to support Member States in their efforts to develop and strengthen norms, policies and standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women as well as to integrate gender perspectives into sectoral policy and normative frameworks in line with its mandate, and encourages the Entity to continue to promote the need to mainstream and strengthen a gender perspective in the work of intergovernmental bodies and processes and the opportunities therein, and to provide technical assistance, at the request of Member States, in strengthening a gender perspective in resolutions and other outcomes;

12. *Recognizes* the important role of UN-Women in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and the central role it plays in supporting Member States, in coordinating the United Nations system and in mobilizing civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, at all levels, in support of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and calls upon UN-Women and the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to continue to support the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the international, regional, national and local levels, including through systematic gender mainstreaming, the mobilization of resources to deliver results and the monitoring of progress with data and robust accountability systems;

13. *Urges* Member States to increase funding for the budget of UN-Women by providing, when legislative and budgetary provisions allow, core, multi-year, predictable, stable and sustainable voluntary contributions, recognizing the importance of adequate funding in enabling UN-Women to implement its strategic plan promptly and effectively, and that the mobilization of financial resources for achieving its goals still remains a challenge;

14. *Also urges* Member States to take further concrete action to ensure the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and

Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including through strengthened implementation of laws, policies, strategies and programme activities for all women and girls; strengthened and increased support for institutional mechanisms for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at all levels; the transformation of discriminatory norms and gender stereotypes and the promotion of social norms and practices that recognize the positive role and contribution of women and eliminate discrimination against women and girls; significantly increased investment to close resource gaps, including through the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including domestic resource mobilization and allocation and increased priority on gender equality and the empowerment of women in official development assistance to build on progress achieved and ensure that official development assistance is used effectively to contribute to the implementation of the Platform for Action; strengthened accountability for the implementation of existing commitments; and enhanced capacity-building, data collection, monitoring and evaluation, and access to and use of information and communications technologies;

15. *Encourages* all actors, including Governments, the United Nations system, other international organizations and civil society, to continue to support the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in fulfilling its central role in the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and, as applicable, to carry out the recommendations of the Commission, welcomes in this regard the Commission's continued sharing of experiences, lessons learned and good practices in overcoming challenges to the full implementation at the national and international levels and the evaluation of progress in the implementation of priority themes, and encourages the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system, as appropriate, to incorporate the outcomes of the Commission into their work;

16. *Requests* the entities of the United Nations system to systematically and strategically incorporate the outcomes of the Commission on the Status of Women into their work, within their mandates, and, inter alia, to ensure effective support for the efforts of Member States towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and in this regard encourages UN-Women to continue to use concrete results-based reporting mechanisms and to ensure coherence, consistency and coordination between the normative and operational aspects of its work;

17. *Calls upon* Governments and the organs and the relevant funds and programmes and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, other international and regional organizations, including financial institutions, and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to intensify and accelerate action to achieve the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 20 years after their adoption, and of the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

18. *Reiterates its call upon* the United Nations system, including the main organs, their main committees and subsidiary bodies, through forums such as the high-level political forum on sustainable development and functions such as the annual ministerial review and the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council and the funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, to increase efforts to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all issues under their

consideration and within their mandates, as well as into all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and their follow-up processes, including those of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in 2012, the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in 2014, the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in 2015, the third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in 2015, and the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, held in 2015;

19. *Calls upon* States to ensure that intergovernmental processes, such as the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), consistently address gender perspectives in their preparatory processes and outcomes, and also calls upon States to ensure the reflection of a gender perspective in the discussions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as they elaborate a new climate change agreement;

20. *Reiterates* that the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session is essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

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

22. *Calls upon* Governments and the United Nations system to encourage women's groups and other non-governmental organizations specializing in gender equality and the empowerment of women to participate in intergovernmental processes, including through increased outreach, funding and capacity-building;

23. *Calls upon* the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system to systematically request the inclusion of a gender perspective in reports of the Secretary-General and other inputs to intergovernmental processes;

24. *Requests* that reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies systematically address gender perspectives through gender-sensitive analysis and the provision of data disaggregated by sex and age, and that conclusions and recommendations for further action address the different situations and needs of women and men and girls and boys in order to facilitate gender-sensitive policy development, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to convey the importance of reflecting a gender perspective to all stakeholders who provide input to his reports;

25. *Encourages* Member States, with the support of, as appropriate, United Nations entities, including UN-Women, international and regional organizations and other relevant actors, to prioritize the strengthening of national data collection and monitoring capacities with regard to statistics disaggregated by sex and age, as well as national tracking indicators for gender equality and the empowerment of women, through multisectoral efforts and partnerships;

26. *Calls upon* all parts of the United Nations system to continue to play an active role in ensuring the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third

special session through, inter alia, the maintenance of gender specialists in all entities of the United Nations system, as well as by ensuring that all personnel, especially those in the field, receive training and appropriate follow-up, including tools, guidance and support, for accelerated gender mainstreaming, and reaffirms the need to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review and redouble his efforts to make progress towards achieving the goal of 50/50 gender balance at all levels throughout the United Nations system, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, considering, in particular, women from the developing and the least developed countries, countries with economies in transition and unrepresented or largely underrepresented Member States, and to ensure the implementation of measures, including temporary special measures, to accelerate progress and managerial and departmental accountability with respect to gender-balance targets, and strongly encourages Member States to identify and regularly submit more women candidates for appointment to positions in the United Nations system, especially at more senior and policymaking levels, including in peacekeeping operations;

28. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to continue its efforts towards achieving the goal of gender balance, including with the active support of gender focal points, and requests the Secretary-General to provide an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixtieth and sixty-first sessions and to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system, under the item entitled “Advancement of women”, and on progress made and obstacles encountered in achieving gender balance, with recommendations for accelerating progress and up-to-date statistics to be provided annually by entities of the United Nations, including on the number and percentage of women and their functions and nationalities throughout the United Nations system, as well as information on the responsibility and accountability of the offices of human resources management and the secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for promoting gender balance;

29. *Encourages* increased efforts by Governments and the United Nations system to enhance accountability for the implementation of commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women at the international, regional, national and local levels, including through improved monitoring and reporting on progress in relation to policies, strategies, resource allocations and programmes and by achieving gender balance;

30. *Reaffirms* that Governments bear the primary responsibility for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries in progressing towards the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

31. *Encourages* its Main Committees and subsidiary bodies, as well as the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, particularly in the light of the analysis contained in the report of the Secretary-General¹² and of the cross-cutting nature of gender equality and the empowerment of women, to make further progress in the integration of a gender perspective into their work;

32. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the United Nations system the findings of his report in order to strengthen follow-up on these findings and to accelerate the implementation of the present resolution;

33. *Encourages* States and all stakeholders to strengthen the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all sectors and in all areas of development;

34. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly, on a biennial basis, under the item entitled “Advancement of women”, on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session.

27. The Third Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

**Documents considered by the General Assembly in connection
with the advancement of women**

The General Assembly decides to take note of the following documents submitted under the agenda item entitled “Advancement of women”:

- (a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its fifty-eighth, fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions;¹
 - (b) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;²
 - (c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.³
-

¹ A/70/38.

² A/70/124.

³ A/70/209.