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Advancement of women: implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

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

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [72/147](#) and aims to support the Assembly in monitoring the implementation of the guidance provided in that resolution. It is focused on the extent to which selected intergovernmental processes of the United Nations integrate gender perspectives into their work. It provides a quantitative and qualitative assessment of progress achieved and remaining gaps, in comparison to previous years. The report also provides an update on preparations for the 25-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. It concludes with recommendations for further measures to enhance the implementation of gender equality mandates throughout the work of the United Nations.

* [A/74/150](#).



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I. Introduction

1. In its resolutions on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the Assembly has consistently called upon the bodies of the United Nations system to increase efforts to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all issues under their consideration and within their mandates. In its resolution [70/133](#), the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report on a biennial basis in that regard. As mandated in resolution [72/147](#), the present report covers progress made by selected intergovernmental processes since the seventy-first session.

2. The findings in the present report confirm that, on a year-to-year basis, the incorporation of a gender perspective into the documents of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions have shown a pattern of fluctuation. Although the incorporation of gender perspectives into the reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly has increased consistently, the trend has been more variable in the reports submitted to the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions. Whereas the absolute number of reports with a qualitatively strong reflection of gender perspectives has increased, those with low levels of coverage and/or quality of gender-specific references continued to account for the largest share.

3. Progress is slower and more uneven with respect to gender-responsive resolutions. The General Assembly has yet to achieve the rate at which 50 per cent of resolutions at a session can be characterized as being gender-responsive, a target that the Economic and Social Council has reached or exceeded three times since 2010, albeit not in a consistent manner. Although the number of gender-responsive resolutions adopted by the General Assembly has increased markedly in absolute terms, the proportion of resolutions with a low level of focus on gender-related issues grew disproportionately, compared with those with a medium or high level of focus.

II. Integration of a gender perspective into the work of selected intergovernmental bodies

4. The present report is based on an analysis of the content of the reports of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its seventy-second and seventy-third sessions and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly during those sessions, as well as the reports of the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions at the Council's 2017 (July 2017–July 2018) and 2018 (July 2018–July 2019) sessions. Resolutions adopted by the Council and its functional commissions were also analysed. The reports and resolutions examined were those available in the Official Document System of the United Nations as at 10 June 2019. In cases in which documents were submitted to more than one intergovernmental body or committee, they were considered only once. Given that the same methodology has now been used for nine years, the analysis of trends documents changes over time. Because the present report is prepared on a biennial basis, data from the seventy-second and seventy-third sessions of the General Assembly and the 2017 and 2018 sessions of the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions have been considered in the analysis, tables and figures, as applicable.

A. Methodology

5. The documents reviewed for the present report were examined for evidence of the incorporation of a gender perspective, as determined by the presence of the following keywords: gender, sex, woman, man, girl, boy (including their plural forms), female, male, sexual, reproductive and maternal. Documents containing at least one occurrence of a keyword were considered to include a gender perspective. False positive results, for instance “man-made disaster” or “sexual exploitation” with no mention of the sex of the victims/survivors or of the perpetrators, or any other information evidencing a gender perspective, were discounted.

6. The selected words indicated above are those most often found in reports and resolutions that address issues related to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Documents that passed through the first filter were analysed in depth in order to assess the extent to which they reflected a gender perspective at what qualitative level.

B. Quantitative findings

7. In total, 285 reports of the Secretary-General and 345 resolutions adopted by the intergovernmental bodies whose work was reviewed were considered for the present analysis. As at 10 June 2019, the General Assembly alone had considered 243 reports of the Secretary-General and adopted 298 resolutions. At its 2018 session, the Economic and Social Council considered seven reports of the Secretary-General and adopted 30 resolutions. The functional commissions, excluding the Commission on the Status of Women, considered 35 reports of the Secretary-General and adopted 17 resolutions. The intergovernmental bodies under analysis therefore had many opportunities to incorporate gender perspectives into their work.

Table 1
Reports and resolutions, 2013–2018

Body	Reports						Resolutions					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
General Assembly	249	238	259	245	231	243	275	280	267	288	279	298
Economic and Social Council	15	12	11	8	11	7	43	30	30	28	32	30
Functional commissions	33	33	33	29	32	35	31	18	16	12	17	17
Total	297	283	303	282	274	285	349	328	313	328	328	345

8. Table 1 illustrates the trends over time in the number of reports and resolutions per body, from 2013 to 2018.¹ The total number of reports submitted to the intergovernmental bodies under review has varied only somewhat over the preceding six years. The total number of resolutions adopted by all bodies in 2018 rose to a level comparable to that of 2013, with the most significant increase being in the number of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly.

9. Three resolutions of the General Assembly were focused exclusively on gender equality issues, namely, resolution [73/146](#), on trafficking in women and girls, resolution [73/148](#), entitled “Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all

¹ Information for the period 2011–2016 is contained in the previous report ([A/72/203](#)).

forms of violence against women and girls: sexual harassment”, and resolution 73/149, on intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation.

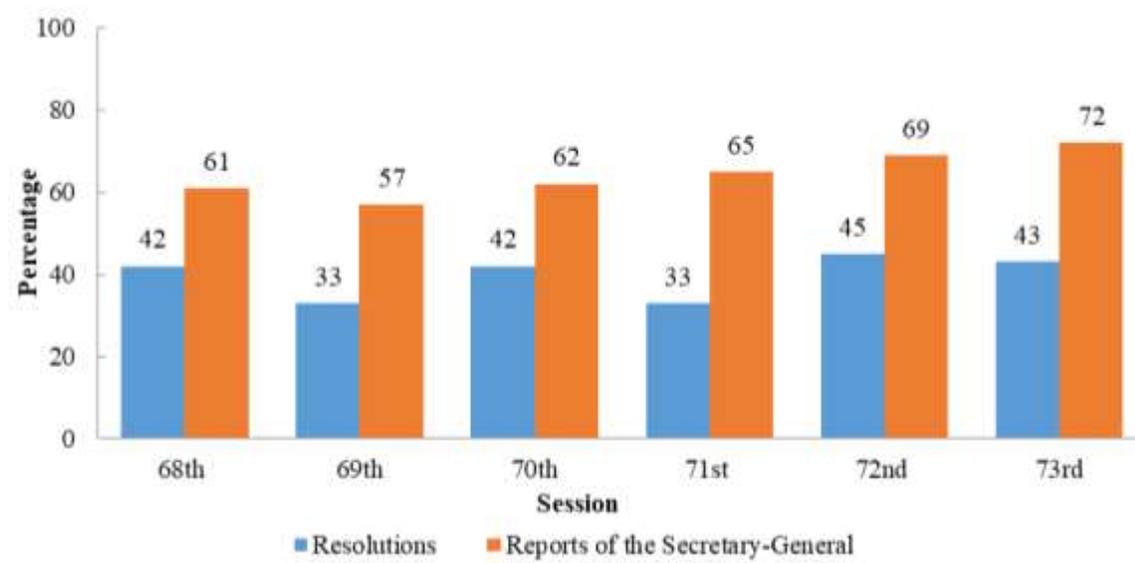
10. The Economic and Social Council continued to adopt annual resolutions on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (see resolution 2018/7) and on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (see resolution 2018/10). Although it is crucial that intergovernmental bodies address gender equality issues in a targeted and focused manner, it is equally important that a gender perspective be mainstreamed across all areas of work.

1. General Assembly

11. Figure I illustrates the consistent and steady increase in the percentage of reports of the Secretary-General that include a gender perspective. After a period of fluctuation, the overall percentage of General Assembly resolutions inclusive of a gender perspective reached a peak of 45 per cent at the seventy-second session, however, there was a slight decrease, to 43 per cent, at the seventy-third session.

Figure I

Percentage of General Assembly documents that include a gender perspective



(a) Reports of the Secretary-General

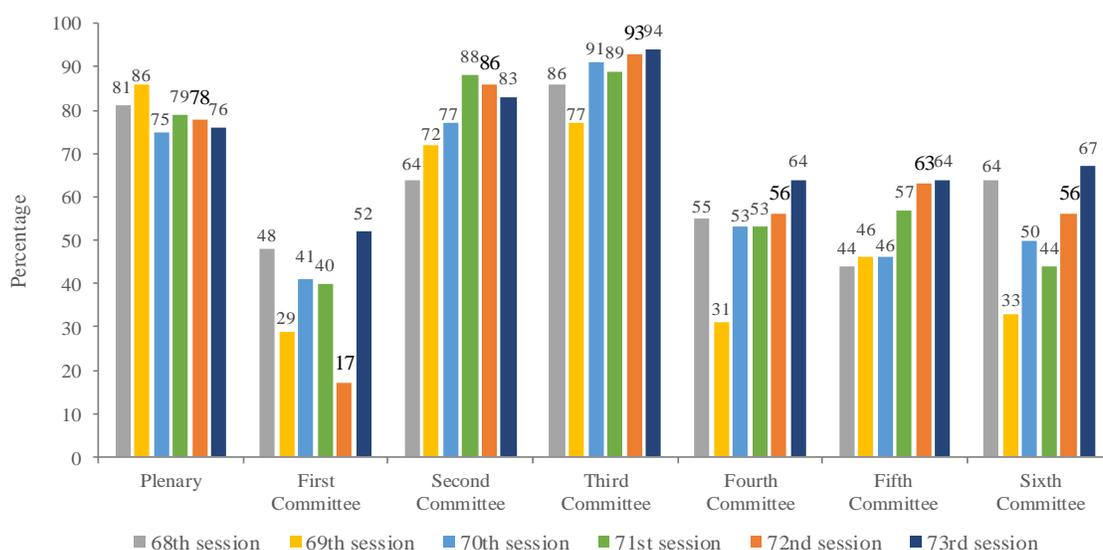
12. Reports of the Secretary-General support intergovernmental discussions and can inform resolutions adopted by intergovernmental bodies. Of the 243 reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session, 174 reports (72 per cent) included a gender perspective, an increase of 7 percentage points compared with the seventy-first session and the highest number since the sixty-eighth session (see figure I and table 2).² The finding is in line with the commitment made by the Secretary-General to place gender equality at the centre of the Organization’s work, including through the inclusion of gender analyses in reports to intergovernmental bodies and the recognition of the positive contribution of women as agents of change. It confirms that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are increasingly considered across a broad range of substantive areas.

² This is the highest percentage measured in the nine sessions of the General Assembly for which the relevant data has been analysed, i.e. since the sixty-fourth session.

Table 2
Reports of the Secretary-General to the seventy-third session of the General Assembly that include a gender perspective

<i>Body to which reports are submitted</i>	<i>Number of reports</i>	<i>Reports that include a gender perspective</i>	
		<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Plenary	49	37	76
First Committee	29	15	52
Second Committee	30	25	83
Third Committee	35	33	94
Fourth Committee	14	9	64
Fifth Committee	74	47	64
Sixth Committee	12	8	67
Total	243	174	72

Figure II
Reports of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly that include a gender perspective, by body



13. Between the seventy-first and seventy-third sessions, the increase in the percentage of reports inclusive of a gender perspective is attributable mainly to the increase in such reports submitted to the First Committee (Disarmament and International Security), Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) and Sixth Committee (Legal) by 12, 11 and 23 percentage points, respectively (see figure II). The proportion of reports integrating a gender perspective submitted to the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs) and Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) increased by 5 and 7 percentage points, respectively, while those submitted to the Second Committee (Economic and Financial) and the plenary decreased by 3 and 5 percentage points, respectively.

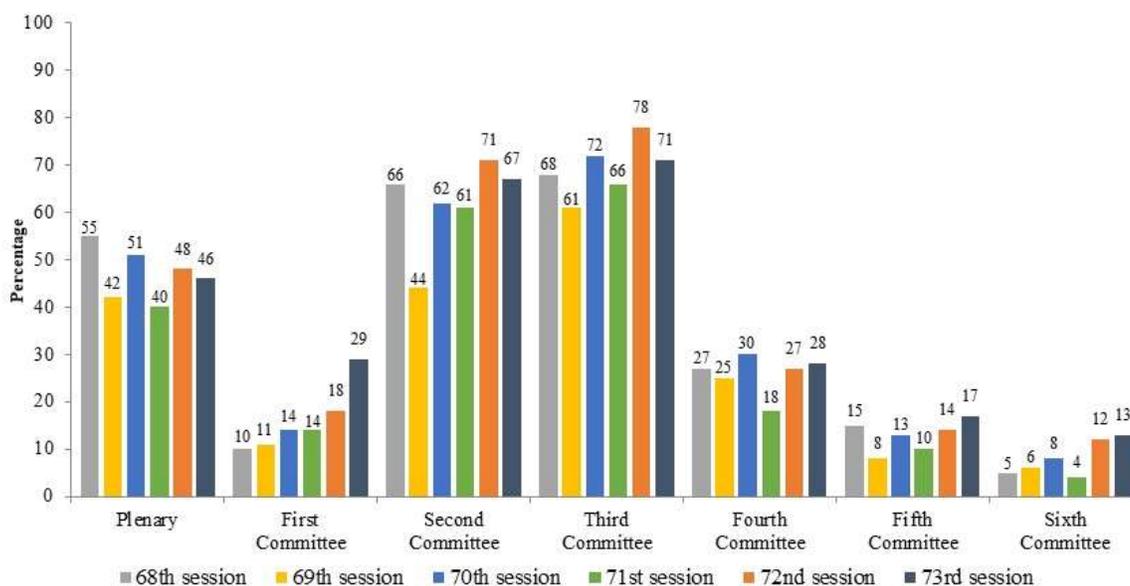
(b) Resolutions

Table 3
General Assembly resolutions adopted at the seventy-third session that include a gender perspective

Originating body	Number of resolutions	Percentage of total resolutions	Resolutions that include a gender perspective	
			Number	Percentage
Plenary	63	21	29	46
First Committee	63	21	18	29
Second Committee	39	13	26	67
Third Committee	56	19	40	71
Fourth Committee	36	12	10	28
Fifth Committee	18	6	3	17
Sixth Committee	23	8	3	13
Total	298	100	129	43

14. A total of 43 per cent of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-third session included a gender perspective, compared with 33 per cent (96 resolutions) adopted at the seventy-first session. That 43 per cent figure is the second highest since such an analysis was first undertaken, for the sixty-first session (at which 23 per cent of resolutions included a gender perspective) and just below the 45 per cent level for such resolutions, reached at the seventy-second session.

Figure III

Resolutions of the General Assembly that include a gender perspective, by body

15. The proportion of resolutions inclusive of a gender perspective increased among resolutions adopted by all Main Committees and the General Assembly plenary during the biennium covering the period from the seventy-first to the seventy-third session (see table 3 and figure III). As in previous years, the Second Committee (67 per cent) and Third Committee (71 per cent) had the highest proportion of such

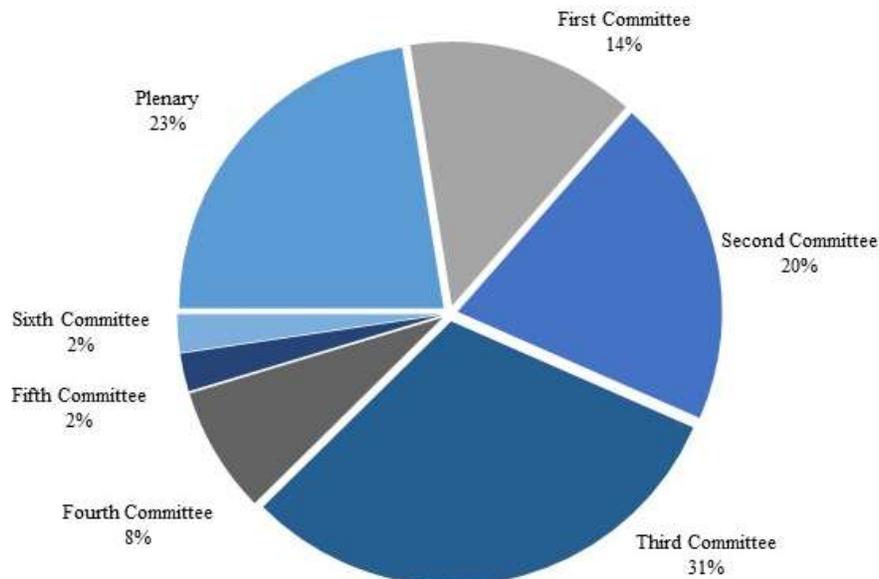
resolutions, representing an increase of 6 and 5 percentage points, compared with the seventy-first session. The First Committee doubled the number of resolutions that integrated a gender perspective, from 9 (14 per cent) at the seventy-first session to 18 (29 per cent) at the seventy-third session.

16. As in previous years, in the General Assembly plenary and in the First, Second, Third and Fourth Committees, comparatively more resolutions were adopted, and fewer resolutions were adopted by the Fifth and Sixth Committees, which affects the proportional increase in the share of resolutions that incorporate a gender perspective (see table 3). There was a slight increase in the total number of resolutions adopted at the seventy-third session, compared with the seventy-first session, by the General Assembly plenary (five more) and the Second Committee (three more), Third Committee (six more) and Fourth Committee (two more). In contrast, the number of resolutions adopted by the First, Fifth and Sixth Committees declined by one, three and two resolutions, respectively.

17. Figure III illustrates trends over the previous six sessions in the share of resolutions of the General Assembly that include a gender perspective. The levels reached by the First, Fifth, and Sixth Committees at the seventy-third session of the Assembly are the highest since the sixty-eighth session. In the biennium covering the seventy-first and seventy-third sessions, the most notable increases occurred in the First, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Committees, in which the percentage of resolutions inclusive of a gender perspective increased, from 14 to 29 per cent, 18 to 28 per cent, 10 to 17 per cent and 4 to 13 per cent, respectively. The percentage of such resolutions in the Second and Third Committees fell short of their highest levels (71 and 78 per cent, respectively), reached at the seventy-second session. Fifty-five per cent of the resolutions adopted in plenary at the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly included a gender perspective, its highest percentage to date; the percentage has remained noticeably lower since then. Together, the Assembly in plenary and the First, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Committees adopted some two thirds of all resolutions, and several of those bodies have yet to approach the 50 per cent mark in terms of reflecting a gender perspective, which suggests that there is a significant opportunity for increased attention to the incorporation of gender perspectives.

Figure IV

Origin of all General Assembly resolutions adopted at the seventy-third session that include a gender perspective

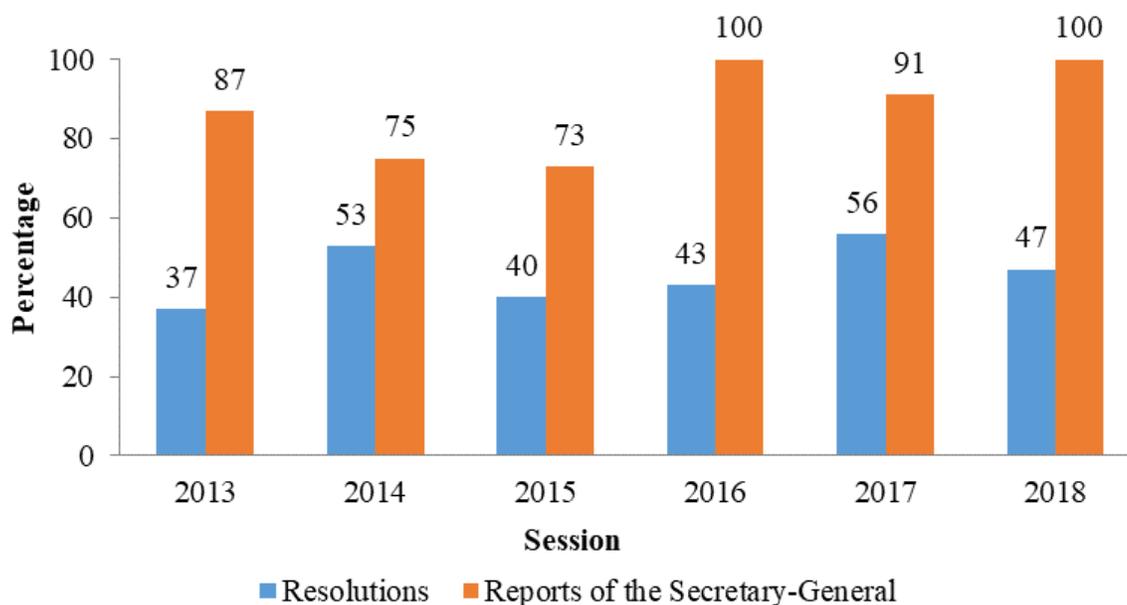


18. Figure IV illustrates that the Third Committee continues to contribute the largest share of gender-responsive resolutions, accounting for 31 per cent of the total number of such resolutions. The Second and Third Committees combined contribute more than half (51 per cent) of resolutions that include a gender perspective. Although that follows the trend of previous sessions, the share of resolutions of those Committees declined, from 58 per cent at the seventy-first session, indicating that other Committees have increased their contribution of gender-responsive resolutions. The most significant improvement came from the First Committee, whose share increased from 9 to 14 per cent. Overall, however, the contributions by the Committees remain uneven, and significant additional opportunities remain for the more effective incorporation of gender perspectives, in terms of both coverage and quality, into their work.

2. Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions

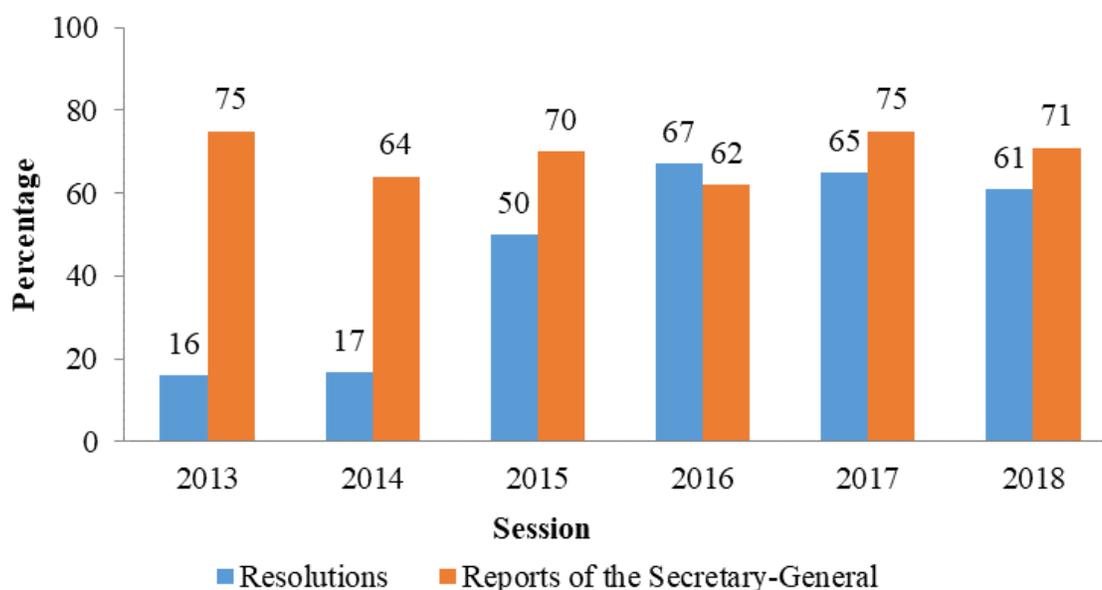
Figure V

Economic and Social Council documents that include a gender perspective, 2013–2018



19. Figure V illustrates the somewhat inconsistent trend in the work of the Economic and Social Council in incorporating a gender perspective into its resolutions. Despite an increase of 4 percentage points during the biennium 2016–2018, from 43 to 47 per cent, the Council was not able to repeat its peak result of 2017, when 56 per cent of its resolutions incorporated a gender perspective. In 2018, the percentage of reports of the Secretary-General inclusive of a gender perspective submitted to the Council reached a record high of 100 per cent, as it had in 2016, increasing from a slightly lower 91 per cent at the 2017 session. The sample size for the analysis, as in previous years (see table 1) is small (seven reports). The small sample size, especially in the case of the Council, results in a noticeable fluctuation in the percentage from year to year.

Figure VI
Documents of the functional commissions that include a gender perspective



20. Figure VI illustrates a decline of 6 percentage points in resolutions adopted by functional commissions that contain a gender perspective, from a high of 67 per cent in 2016 to 61 per cent in 2018, and an increase in the proportion of reports of the Secretary-General submitted to functional commissions that include a gender perspective, from 62 per cent in 2016 to 71 per cent in 2018. The latter, however, remains below the 75 per cent peak reached in both 2013 and 2017.

(a) **Reports of the Secretary-General**

Table 4

Reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions that include a gender perspective

Body to which reports are submitted	Total number of reports	Reports that include a gender perspective ^a	
		Number	Percentage
Economic and Social Council	7	7	100
Functional commissions of the Council	35	25	71
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	7	6	86
Commission on Narcotic Drugs	3	2	67
Commission on Science and Technology for Development	2	2	100
Statistical Commission	10	3	30
Commission on Population and Development	5	5	100
Commission for Social Development	3	3	100
United Nations Forum on Forests	5	4	80

^a Results do not include the Commission on the Status of Women, owing to its exclusive focus on gender equality issues.

21. As in the case for the General Assembly, reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the Economic and Social Council include a gender perspective at a

higher rate than the resolutions (see table 4 and figures V and VI). All seven reports submitted to the Council in 2018 integrated gender equality issues.

22. Of the 35 reports submitted by the Secretary-General to the functional commissions in 2018, 25 (71 per cent) reflected a gender perspective (see figure VI and table 4). All reports submitted to the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development included a gender perspective. Of the reports submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the United Nations Forum on Forests, a large majority (86 per cent and 80 per cent, respectively) included gender perspectives. Three of 10 reports to the Statistical Commission integrated a gender perspective. Although the number of reports submitted to the Statistical Commission in 2018 was higher than for any other Commission, it had the lowest rate of incorporation of gender perspectives (30 per cent).

(b) Resolutions

Table 5

Resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions that include a gender perspective, 2018

Originating body	Total number of resolutions	Resolutions that include a gender perspective ^a	
		Number	Percentage
Economic and Social Council	30	14	47
Functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council	18	11	61
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	6	4	67
Commission on Narcotic Drugs	11	6	55
Commission on Population and Development ^b	0	0	0
Commission on Social Development	0	0	0
Commission on Science and Technology for Development	0	0	0
United Nations Forum on Forests	1	1	100

^a Results do not include the Commission on the Status of Women, owing to its exclusive focus on gender equality issues. The Statistical Commission traditionally only adopts decisions, which are not considered in the analysis.

^b The Commission on Population and Development adopted 4 decisions and no resolutions.

23. In 2018, the Economic and Social Council adopted 30 resolutions, 2 more than in 2016 (see table 5).³ Forty-seven per cent of those resolutions were gender-responsive, representing an increase of 4 percentage points, compared with its 2016 session (see figure V and table 5). The percentage of Council resolutions that considered gender-related issues therefore continued to fluctuate, decreasing, from 53 per cent in 2014 to 43 per cent in 2016, and then increasing to 47 per cent in 2018. That variation may be due in part to the relatively small sample sizes, which ranged from 28 to 32 resolutions. It is also worth mentioning that procedural resolutions of the Economic and Social Council rarely include gender perspectives. In 2018, the Council adopted five procedural resolutions, four of which did not integrate a gender perspective.⁴

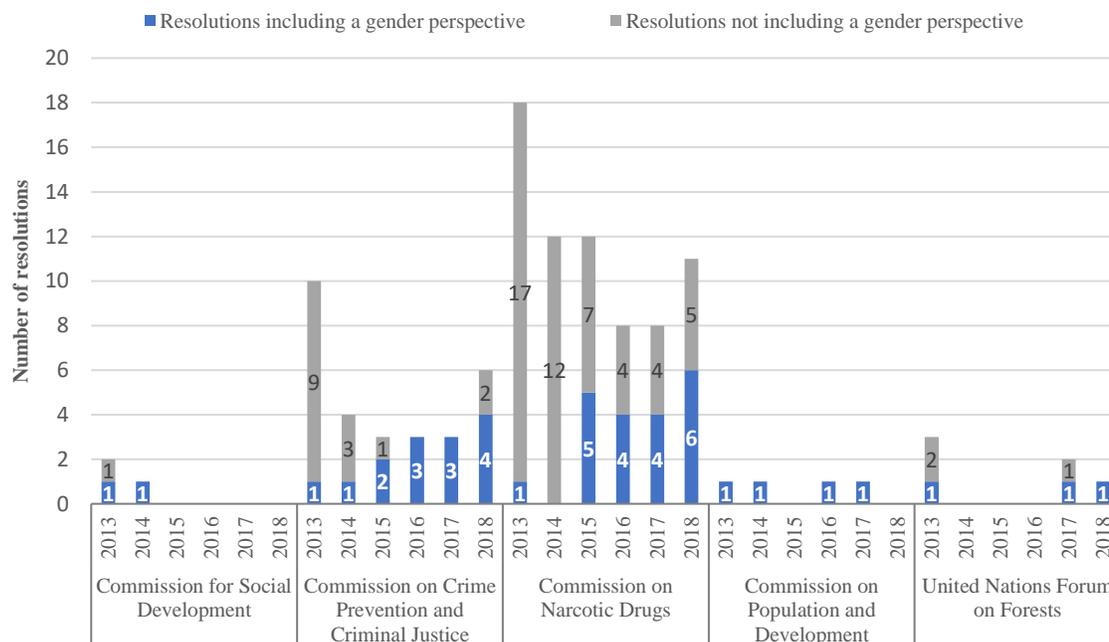
³ Draft resolutions of functional commissions submitted for action by the Economic and Social Council or the General Assembly through the Council are counted once, under the body that finally adopts them.

⁴ See Economic and Social Council resolution 2018/1, on the working arrangements of the Economic and Social Council.

24. Nine resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council inclusive of a gender perspective had initially been drafted by functional commissions, namely, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (one resolution), the Commission on Social Development (three resolutions), the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (two resolutions) and the Commission on the Status of Women (3 resolutions), and were recommended for adoption by the Council. Those resolutions constitute 64 per cent of the Council's gender-responsive resolutions, which confirms the critical importance of the gender-responsive contributions of the functional commissions to the work of the Council. Five gender-responsive resolutions originated in the Council, indicating opportunities for paying increased attention to gender-related issues.

25. The number of resolutions adopted by each of the functional commissions varied greatly, as depicted in figure VII. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the United Nations Forum on Forests were the only commissions that adopted resolutions in 2018, as all other functional commissions either prepared draft resolutions for action by the Council (see para. 23) or adopted decisions, as in the case of the Statistical Commission. Figure VII also illustrates the fluctuation over time in the number of resolutions adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, including resolutions that include a gender perspective. Given those numbers, it remains essential that those two commissions continue to reflect gender perspectives across the entire spectrum of their work.

Figure VII
Resolutions of the functional commissions that include a gender perspective



Note: Only the functional commissions that have adopted resolutions at their sessions held between 2013 and 2018 have been included.

26. As in previous years, the work of the Commission on the Status of Women was not included in the analysis of content covered in the present report, in order to avoid biased results. During the biennium 2016–2018, the Commission further strengthened the global normative framework for gender equality and the empowerment of all

women and girls. Its work was instrumental in the accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the priority theme “Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls” set out the steps necessary to overcome persistent inequalities, discrimination and barriers faced by women and girls living in rural areas and concrete measures for lifting all rural women and girls out of poverty and ensuring the realization of their rights and their well-being and resilience (see [E/2018/27-E/CN.6/2018/20](#), chap. I, sect. A). The Commission urged Governments and all other relevant stakeholders to take action to strengthen normative, legal and policy frameworks, to implement economic and social policies for the empowerment of all rural women and girls and to strengthen the collective voice, leadership and decision-making of all rural women and girls. The Commission adopted two resolutions and submitted three draft resolutions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

C. In-depth analysis

27. The level of attention given to gender equality issues and the placement of references to such issues within reports and resolutions provide an indication of the importance given to the incorporation of gender perspectives. In-depth analysis suggests that reports and resolutions often vary greatly in the level of attention given to gender-related issues.

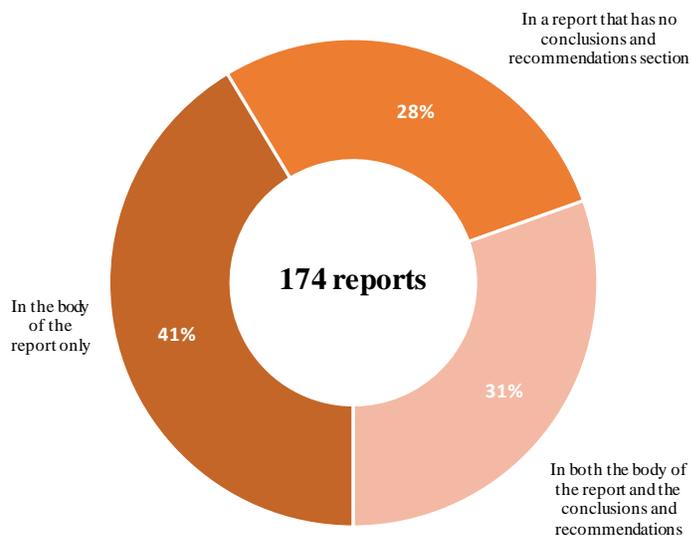
1. Placement of references to gender-related issues

28. The placement of references to gender-related issues within intergovernmental documents determines their prominence and could influence the likelihood of follow-up actions. The reports of the Secretary-General draw more attention to gender equality issues when such references are included not only in the body of the report but also in the conclusions and recommendations. Likewise, the emphasis on gender equality issues in resolutions is stronger when those issues are referred to in both the preambular and the operative parts and when a specific action or commitment to address the gender-related issue under consideration is included. Such an assessment was carried out for documents of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council only, to maintain comparability with data for previous years.⁵

⁵ In line with previous practice, the assessment was not done for documents of the functional commissions.

(a) Reports of the Secretary-General

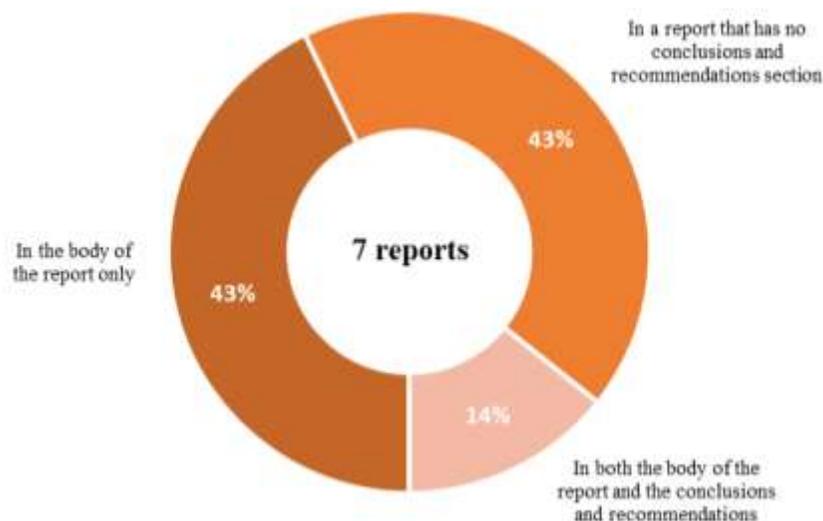
Figure VIII

Placement of references to gender-related issues in reports of the Secretary-General to the seventy-third session of the General Assembly

Note: One report included references only in the conclusions or recommendations section. That report was included in the category “In both the body of the report and the conclusions and recommendations”.

29. An analysis of the placement of the relevant references in the 174 reports of the Secretary-General inclusive of a gender perspective indicates that well over one third (41 per cent) dedicated attention to gender-related issues in only the body of the document, which is, however, an increase of 8 percentage points compared with the reports submitted to the seventy-first session of the General Assembly. A total of 28 per cent contained references in both the body of the report and in the conclusions and recommendations section. Although the number of reports to the seventy-third session inclusive of a gender perspective was the highest ever, the percentage of reports containing references in both the body of the report and the conclusions and recommendations section remained the same as at the seventy-first session. A total of 31 per cent of reports into which gender perspectives had been integrated did not have a separate conclusions and recommendations section (see figure VIII).

Figure IX
Placement of references to gender-related issues in reports of the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council in 2018

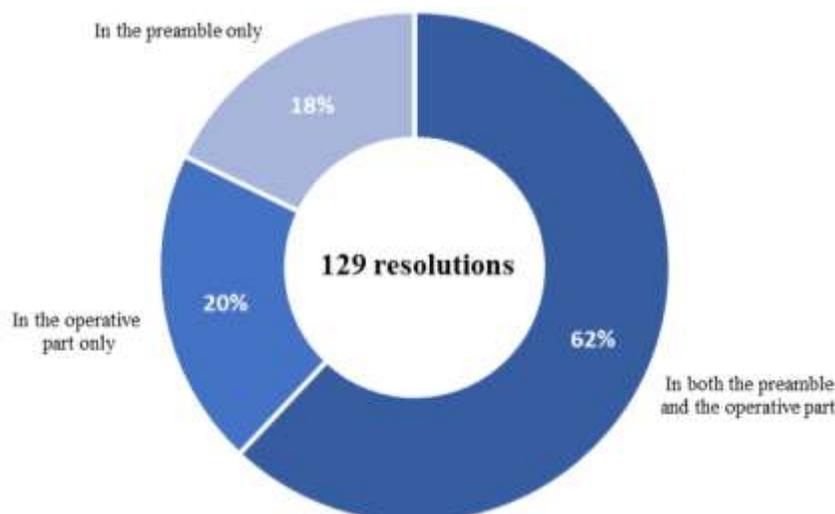


30. As illustrated in figure IX, of the seven reports inclusive of a gender perspective that were submitted to the Economic and Social Council, 43 per cent contained references in both the body and the conclusions and recommendations section, an increase from 30 per cent in 2016. A total of 43 per cent had such references in the body of the document only, a decrease from 50 per cent in 2016, and 14 per cent (one) report that did not contain a separate conclusions and recommendations section, a decrease from 39 per cent in 2016.

31. The analysis set out above indicates that author departments can further enhance the integration of gender perspectives into reports, in particular in conclusions and recommendations sections, thereby providing a stronger basis for gender-responsive intergovernmental action.

(b) Resolutions

Figure X
Placement of references to gender-related issues in resolutions of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly

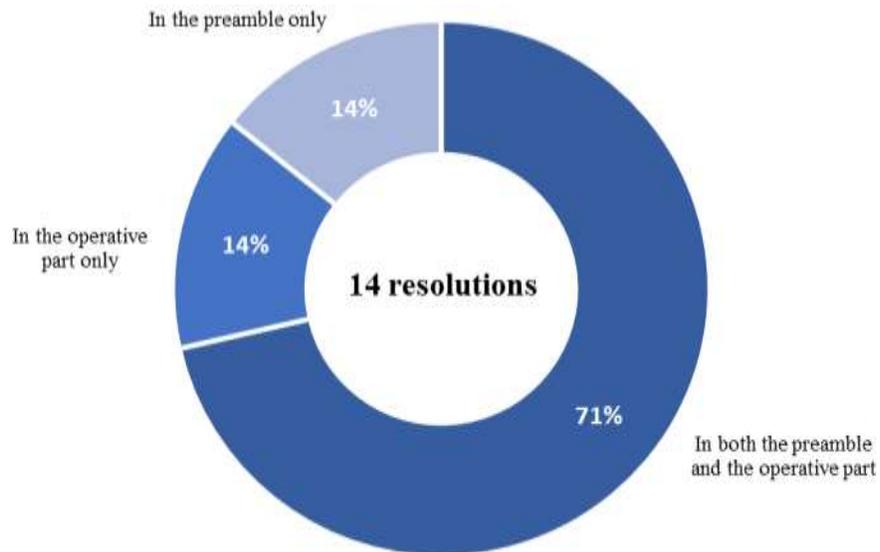


32. The analysis of the placement of gender-specific references in resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council revealed that such references were most frequently included in both the preamble and the operative parts of resolutions (see figures X and XI).

33. Of the 129 resolutions of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly that were inclusive of a gender-perspective (of the 298 total resolutions of the session), 62 per cent included references in both preambular and operative paragraphs (see figure X). Although the overall number and percentage of resolutions inclusive of a gender perspective increased from the seventy-first session, the category of resolutions with such references placed in both parts of the resolution has decreased by 4 percentage points, compared with the same category at the seventy-first session. A total of 20 per cent of the resolutions included a gender perspective in the operative part only, a decrease from the 24 per cent at the seventy-first session, and 18 per cent of resolutions contained gender-specific references solely in the preamble, an increase from the 10 per cent at the seventy-first session. In the light of the decline in references in the first two categories, and the increase in references in the third category, opportunities should be sought by the General Assembly and its Main Committees at the seventy-fourth and future sessions to include gender perspectives in all resolutions, especially in the operative parts.

Figure XI

Placement of references to gender-related issues in resolutions of the Economic and Social Council in 2018



34. Of the 14 (47 per cent) of resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council inclusive of a gender perspective (see figure XI), 71 per cent included gender-related issues in both the preamble and operative part, an increase of 4 percentage points, from 67 per cent in 2016. The remaining resolutions were divided equally, with 14 per cent being resolutions that included a gender perspective in only the preamble and 14 per cent in only the operative part. The latter two categories decreased slightly from the 2016 session, from 16 and 17 per cent, respectively. Those are positive trends that can be further built on by the Council in the year ahead.

2. Qualitative assessment

Methodology

35. Although gender perspectives may be reflected in key sections of a report or resolution, their impact depends on the strength of the analysis and language used. To assess that strength, reports of the Secretary-General and resolutions were reviewed against two qualitative variables, namely, the coverage of gender equality issues and the quality of the gender equality discussion.

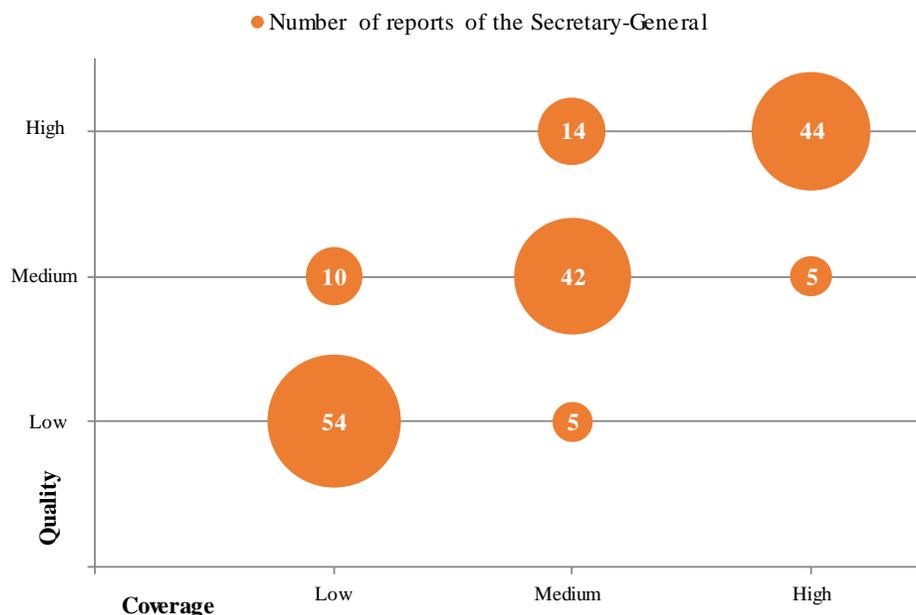
36. Reports that included a specific section on gender-related issues and several references throughout the rest of the report were considered to have a high level of coverage, whereas a single reference or a few short references were defined as a low level of coverage, with medium coverage falling somewhere in between. The quality analysis of reports characterized cursory references such as “including women” as low quality, whereas reports that provided precise facts and evidence, including quantitative data disaggregated by sex and/or explicit gender analyses, ranged from medium to high quality. Assessing the quality of such reports is an important step towards differentiating cursory references to gender-related terminology from more substantive analyses of gender equality issues.

37. For example, the report on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa (A/73/340) was considered to be of high quality, because it reflected gender analysis throughout the document and attention was devoted to sexual and gender-based violence. Another example is the budget performance report on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 (A/73/621), in which work in support of gender equality and the empowerment of women was reported on in an integral manner. A particularly strong emphasis on gender perspectives was also contained in the report entitled “Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing” (A/73/213), which contains a review of trends, drivers and the impact of care for older women, in the context of decent work, unpaid care work and migration, and sets out recommendations to Member States for reducing the burden and negative consequences of unpaid care work, which disproportionately affects women, by tackling the gender and age stereotypes of care work, promoting the sharing of care responsibilities and expanding access to respite care, supportive public services and social protection.

38. Resolutions were analysed against one variable only and categorized as having a low, medium or high level of focus on gender equality issues. Resolutions that included a single or a few passing references were considered to have a low focus. Resolutions with a high level of focus on gender-related issues were identified by the occurrence of keywords in several paragraphs and the inclusion of specific language on the situation and needs of women and girls and/or men and boys.

(i) *Reports of the Secretary-General*

Figure XII

Coverage and quality of gender equality references in the reports of the Secretary-General to the seventy-third session of the General Assembly that include a gender perspective, by frequency

39. The distribution of the reports of the Secretary-General across the two variables is illustrated in Figure XII. The distribution of reports across the two axes demonstrates that the reports varied widely, in both the coverage of gender equality issues and the characteristics of those references. There tended to be a correlation between coverage and quality; reports that devoted little space to gender equality issues were also likely to have only superficial references, whereas reports with extensive coverage tended to include more precise information and deeper analysis.

40. At the seventy-third session, 44 reports (25 per cent) of the 174 reports that incorporated a gender perspective were rated as having high levels of coverage and quality, compared with 35 (21 per cent) of 160 such reports at the seventy-first session. A total of 42 reports (24 per cent) make up the cluster at the centre of figure XII, indicating medium levels coverage and quality; at the seventy-first session, 31 reports (19 per cent) of 160 were in that category. The largest cluster of reports in figure XII is the group of 54 reports rated as low levels of coverage and quality, accounting for 31 per cent of the total number of reports inclusive of a gender perspective. The corresponding cluster at the seventy-first session included 52 reports (33 per cent).

41. In the smaller clusters outside of those with a correlation between coverage and quality, namely the low-medium, high-medium, medium-low and medium-high clusters, some changes can be observed, most notably the decrease in the group of reports with a high level of coverage of medium quality, from 13 per cent at the seventy-first session to 3 per cent at the seventy-third session, and the increase in reports with a medium level of coverage of high quality, from 7 to 14 per cent. In addition, there was a slight drop in the group of reports classified as having a medium level of coverage of low quality (5 per cent) and a small increase in the group with a low level of coverage of medium quality (10 per cent). Taken together, the group of reports rated as high-high, high-medium or medium-high stood at 36 per cent at the

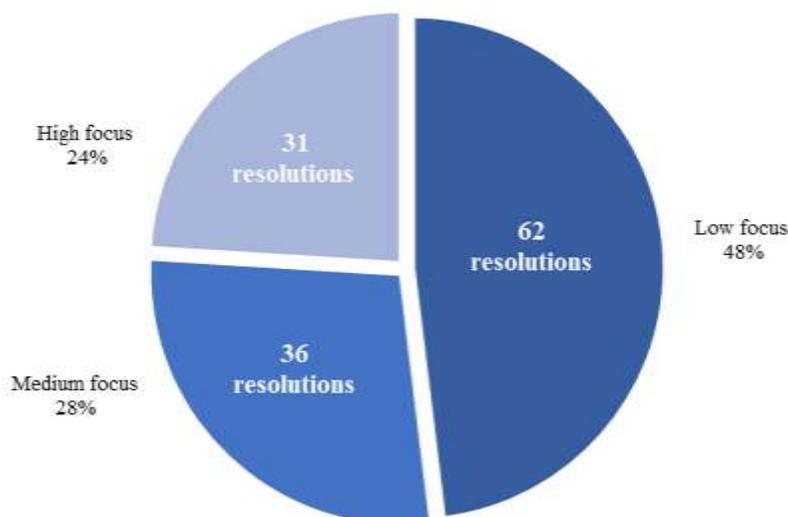
seventy-third session, which is a decrease of 3 percentage points from the seventy-first session (39 per cent). The group of reports rated as low-low, medium-low and low-medium dropped to 40 per cent at the seventy-third session, from 41 per cent at the seventy-first session.

42. Overall, the findings from the qualitative assessment indicate that there has been progress made in the integration of gender perspectives into reports of the Secretary-General, best illustrated by the increase in absolute numbers of reports with a high level of coverage and/or a high quality of gender analysis. However, the cluster of reports with low levels of coverage and/or quality of gender-specific references continues to comprise the largest share of the reports inclusive of a gender perspective. That finding highlights the pressing need for further efforts to strengthen gender analysis in reports of the Secretary-General.

(ii) *Resolutions*

Figure XIII

Extent of focus on gender equality issues in the resolutions of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly that include a gender perspective



43. The number of resolutions of the seventy-third session in which a gender perspective was incorporated (129; see table 3) was significantly higher than the 96 such resolutions at the seventy-first session. As illustrated in figure XIII, of those 129 resolutions, 31 (24 per cent) had a high level of focus on gender equality issues. Although that constitutes an increase in the absolute number, from 27 resolutions at the seventy-first session, it is a decrease of 4 percentage points, from 28 per cent, in the proportion of such resolutions. The percentage of resolutions with a medium level of focus on gender equality issues decreased by 3 percentage points, from 31 per cent (31 resolutions) at the seventy-first session to 28 per cent (36 resolutions) at the seventy-third session. Furthermore, the percentage of resolutions with a low level of focus on gender equality issues increased, from 41 per cent (39 resolutions) at the seventy-first session to 48 per cent (62 resolutions) at the seventy-third session. Although all three categories increased in absolute numbers, the category of resolutions with a low level of focus was the group that grew disproportionately.

44. Further analysis indicated that resolutions that included a gender perspective for the first time were more likely to contain cursory references only. On the other hand, resolutions on agenda items that had contained gender-responsive language in at previous sessions were more likely to include a medium to high level of focus on

gender-related issues. That also suggests a possible explanation for why the quantitative increase in resolutions that contained gender-specific references was not yet matched by a corresponding increase in the extent of focus on gender-related issues. Going forward, that provides an expectation that the General Assembly in plenary and its Main Committees will continue to deepen the attention paid to gender equality issues.

45. Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly addressed gender equality issues in various ways, including through general calls to integrate a gender perspective into the area under consideration, recognition of the importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the area under consideration and recognition of gender-specific vulnerabilities and gender gaps. Some resolutions called for the full, equal and effective participation of women in decision-making in the area under consideration. There were also many calls for gathering data disaggregated by sex.

46. In its resolution [73/253](#), on agriculture development, food security and nutrition, for example, the General Assembly reiterated the need for action to address the adverse effects of climate change on food security, in particular for women, and reiterated the importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. It drew attention to the importance of enhancing access for women to income and investing in and strengthening efforts to empower rural women. It called for closing the gender gap in access to productive resources in agriculture, noting with concern the gender gap in services, and encouraged Member States to reduce the increasing level in global hunger and all forms of malnutrition, in particular among children, women and youth. In its resolution [73/225](#), on entrepreneurship for sustainable development, the Assembly recognized that women faced unique barriers to entering the formal workforce, and invited Member States to strengthen the capacity of women to transition from the informal economy to formal employment and to outline measures to reduce and redistribute women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work and to promote decent paid care and domestic work for women and men in the public and private sectors by providing social protection, safe working conditions and equal pay for equal work or work of equal value. It also recognized the importance of addressing gaps in sex-disaggregated data. In its resolution [73/246](#), on the implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2017), the General Assembly reaffirmed that women played an important role in development and poverty reduction, and specified targeted recommendations to address their particular situation. In its resolution [73/231](#) on disaster risk reduction, the Assembly recognized that women and girls were disproportionately exposed to risk, increased loss of livelihoods and even loss of life during and in the aftermath of disasters. It encouraged Governments to promote the full, equal and effective participation and leadership of women in the design and implementation of gender-responsive and disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes. In addition, the First Committee for the first time included attention to the importance of women's participation and representation in processes related to disarmament, in eight of its resolutions.

III. Preparations for the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

47. Together with the work of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, occasions such as anniversaries and quinquennial review processes represent key opportunities for deepening the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective. Indeed, 2020 will be a pivotal year for accelerating the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women

and girls everywhere. In addition, 2020 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and the seventy-fifth anniversary of the creation of the United Nations, and those and other milestones offer significant scope for further action. The anniversary of the establishment of UN-Women, the global champion for gender equality and the empowerment and rights of women and girls, is also an occasion to be marked in 2020.

48. UN-Women will continue to respond to new and expanded opportunities and requests from Member States to strengthen attention to gender perspectives in sectoral and thematic areas (see [E/CN.6/2018/2](#) and [E/CN.6/2019/2](#)), through the provision of evidence and strengthening the knowledge base, advocacy and outreach, awareness-raising and partnership-building. The Entity will continue to bring together stakeholders to strategize on advancing common objectives.

49. Following the adoption by the Economic and Social Council of its resolutions [2018/8](#) and [2018/9](#) in June 2018, UN-Women stepped up its efforts in support of the preparations for the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, at various levels. Where UN-Women has a presence at the national level, the Entity is supporting national preparations, including multi-stakeholder involvement, upon request. The Entity is working with the organizations of the United Nations system, including through the Inter-agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, to ensure their comprehensive support and engagement in the process.

50. States are called upon to undertake comprehensive national-level reviews of the progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. The reviews should include an assessment of current challenges that affect that implementation and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and of States' contributions inclusive of a gender perspective towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda. In order to assist States in and facilitate the conduct of comprehensive national-level reviews, UN-Women and the United Nations regional commissions made available a common guidance note for comprehensive national-level reviews, which was circulated to all States in September 2018. By late July 2019, 135 States had completed their national reports. UN-Women and the regional commissions has posted those reports on their respective websites.⁶ The reports will inform the regional reviews and the global synthesis report to be submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-fourth session. States that are still in the process of finalizing their reports are encouraged to do so as soon as possible so that they can be included in the analysis for the global synthesis report and posted on the website.

51. All five regional commissions are undertaking regional reviews, and the outcomes of intergovernmental processes at the regional level will feed into the review to be undertaken by the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-fourth session, to be held from 9 to 20 March 2020. The following dates have been confirmed:

- Economic Commission for Africa: Africa regional review of twenty-five years of implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 27 October to 1 November 2019, Addis Ababa

⁶ See www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw64-2020/preparations#national-level-reviews.

- Economic Commission for Europe: Beijing+25 regional review meeting, 29 to 30 October 2019, Geneva
- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: XIV regional conference on women in Latin America and the Caribbean, 4 to 8 November 2019, Santiago
- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: Asia-Pacific regional review of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Beijing+25 review, 27 to 29 November 2019, Bangkok
- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia: Regional high-level meeting, 26 to 28 November 2019⁷

52. The regional intergovernmental meetings will be preceded by multi-stakeholder forums bringing together representatives from a broad range of civil society organizations, feminist groups, faith-based organizations and trade unions, among others. UN-Women will place particular emphasis on facilitating and encouraging youth participation, including through youth forums.

53. In its resolution [73/294](#), the General Assembly decided to convene a high-level meeting in September 2020 to celebrate the anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The modalities for the event are expected to be finalized before the conclusion of the seventy-third session of the Assembly.

54. In May 2019, UN-Women launched its intergenerational campaign, on the theme “Generation equality: realizing women’s rights for an equal future”,⁸ in an effort to galvanize attention and action on key issues of concern to women and girls. The campaign is aimed at bringing together the next generations of women’s rights activists with the gender equality advocates and visionaries who were instrumental in shaping the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

55. Furthermore, UN-Women is convening the Generation Equality Forum, a global multi-stakeholder gathering on gender equality, chaired jointly by France and Mexico, with the leadership and partnership of civil society. Building on the national and regional reviews, and following the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Forum will commence in Mexico City, in a meeting to be held on 7 and 8 May 2020,⁹ and culminate in Paris, in a meeting to be held from 7 to 10 July 2020. Crucial to the success of the Forum will be its technological accessibility, intergenerational representation and participation by a diverse range of participants.

56. The Forum will provide the framework for engaging in a global public conversation for urgent action and accountability on gender equality and honouring the power of activism, feminist solidarity and youth leadership to achieve transformative change. At a moment when women’s rights are challenged in many spaces, the unique democratic and multi-stakeholder approach of the Forum is aimed at celebrating inclusion and progress achieved for women and girls.

57. The outcome of the Forum will be an action-oriented agenda to be implemented through action coalitions, a set of innovative partnerships among Member States, civil society and businesses, along with other stakeholders, including parliamentarians, trade unions and mayors. The coalitions will prioritize the achievement of scaled-up, transformative and measurable results, through concrete timelines and funding, for

⁷ Location to be confirmed.

⁸ UN-Women, “UN-Women announces global intergenerational campaign to bring women’s rights and empowerment to the forefront”, press release, 6 May 2019. Available from www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/5/press-release-global-intergenerational-campaign-for-beijing25.

⁹ Dates to be confirmed.

gender equality in the period 2020–2025 and contribute to an irreversible path to achieving gender equality by 2030.

58. Strategies for resource mobilization and strategic partnerships have been put into place to secure funding support tailored to various components of the Generation Equality Forum and to develop the action coalitions that are resourced, with a focus on the urgent and scaled-up implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in line with the 2030 Agenda.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

59. **During the reporting period, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions continued their efforts for accelerating the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, across the full spectrum of their work. The General Assembly, at its seventy-fourth session, should seize the opportunity to further advance that commitment.**

60. **Progress in gender-mainstreaming remains uneven among the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations reviewed in the present report. The percentage of General Assembly resolutions inclusive of a gender perspective was markedly higher, as was the number of such resolutions, than at the seventy-first session, but below the peak reached at the seventy-second session. At the same time, the share of resolutions categorized by low levels of quality and coverage increased. In 2018, the Economic and Social Council was not able to repeat its peak result of 2017, and its functional commissions similarly were not able to match the peak that they had achieved in 2016. This points to significant opportunities for further expanding attention to the incorporation of gender perspectives into the work of all intergovernmental bodies.**

61. **The proportion of reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly inclusive of a gender perspective reached a new peak, whereas those submitted to the Economic and Social Council once again reached 100 per cent. Such reports submitted to functional commissions have continued to show a pattern of fluctuation, declining in percentage from previous peaks. The qualitative assessment indicates that the largest share of the reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly that include a gender perspective have low levels of coverage and quality. Those results confirm that, whereas gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls were increasingly considered and integrated, across a broad range of substantive areas covered in the reports, further work is needed to ensure consistent and stable progress in terms of more in-depth and consistent gender analysis of subject matter and related policy recommendations.**

62. **UN-Women continued to play its central role in supporting intergovernmental processes. As the preparations for the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action have gained strong momentum at the regional, national and global levels, the Entity will continue to provide its expert and technical support for the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda, systematic gender-mainstreaming and the strengthening and deepening of the global framework for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.**

63. The General Assembly may wish:

(a) To call upon all intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system to contribute to the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action with concrete actions and new initiatives to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

(b) To urge all Governments and all other stakeholders to address gaps and challenges and take concrete, measurable, time-bound and fully funded new actions for the accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of its adoption;

(c) To reiterate its call upon all intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all items under their consideration and within their respective mandates;

(d) To commit to intensifying its own efforts to integrate gender perspectives into its work in plenary meetings and in its Main Committees, and to encourage the President of the General Assembly and the Chairs and Bureaux of its Main Committees to monitor progress in integrating a gender perspective into resolutions at each session;

(e) To call upon the Economic and Social Council to accelerate the inclusion of a gender perspective into its resolutions and to call upon the functional commissions to ensure that their resolutions, as well as draft resolutions prepared for action by the Council or the General Assembly, are inclusive of a gender perspective;

(f) To welcome steps taken by the Secretary-General towards ensuring that reports prepared for intergovernmental bodies reflect gender analyses and to encourage further measures to improve the quality of such analysis, including through the use of data disaggregated by sex and age, the reflection of the contribution of women and girls as agents of change and of the impact of proposed policies and programmes on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and also encourage the inclusion of gender-responsive recommendations in all reports prepared for intergovernmental bodies;

(g) To continue to strengthen the capacity of UN-Women to fully implement its normative support function, provide policy analysis, knowledge and evidence in support of intergovernmental deliberations, continue to raise awareness about opportunities to mainstream a gender perspective into the work of intergovernmental bodies and processes and provide technical assistance on strengthening the integration of a gender perspective, in terms of coverage and the quality thereof, in resolutions and other outcome documents of intergovernmental bodies.
