

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, JAMAICA, NIGERIA, PHILIPPINES and UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

31/134. Improvement of the status and role of women in education

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women emphasizes the need to take all appropriate measures to ensure to women equal rights with men in education at all levels,

Recalling further its resolutions 3520 (XXX), 3521 (XXX), 3522 (XXX), 3523 (XXX) and 3524 (XXX) of 15 December 1975,

Recognizing that the full and complete development of a country requires the maximum participation of women on equal terms with men in all fields,

Recognizing also the necessity for women to have equal rights, opportunities and obligations with men, particularly in the fields of education and professional and vocational training, to enable their full participation in the process of development,

Recognizing further the importance of promoting the education of women and its impact on the rearing of the young generation,

Noting that, despite the world-wide progress in reducing illiteracy, the illiteracy rate for women far exceeds that of men and, in some cases, continues to rise,

Recognizing the importance of exchange of experience in the elimination of illiteracy and improvement of the educational standard of women at the national, regional and international levels,

1. *Appeals* to all States which have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention against Discrimination in Education, 1960,⁶⁴ elaborated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and to the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958⁶⁵ and the Human Resources Development Convention, 1975,⁶⁶ elaborated by the International Labour Organisation;

2. *Calls upon* States to undertake, whenever necessary, in their economic, social and cultural programmes, specific short-term and long-term measures aimed at improving the status and role of women in education, bearing in mind the following:

(a) The provisions of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

(b) The provisions of the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year⁶⁷ concerning education and training, particularly with respect to an increase in literacy and equal access of women at every level of education, as well as the provisions of the Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education, 1960 and the appropriate recommendation concerning technical and vocational education of the United

Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization, and the provisions of the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958, the Human Resources Development Convention, 1975 and the appropriate recommendations concerning discrimination (employment and occupation), employment (women with family responsibilities) and human resources development of the International Labour Organisation;

3. *Calls upon* States, whenever necessary, to undertake all possible measures to eliminate illiteracy among women, especially during the United Nations Decade for Women;

4. *Calls upon* States which have not yet done so to consider undertaking all appropriate measures:

(a) To introduce free and compulsory education at the elementary level and, where possible, free education at all levels, including professional, vocational and technical education, which should be accessible to women without discrimination;

(b) To promote co-education;

(c) To ensure that men and women have access on a footing of equality to scholarships and other study grants when these are provided nationally or are made available to States under bilateral or multilateral agreements;

5. *Recommends* that States should introduce measures to expand the exchange of experience on issues concerning the improvement of the status and role of women in education, particularly through courses, seminars and symposiums organized at the national, regional and international levels;

6. *Invites* Member States, as well as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Labour Organisation and other organizations of the United Nations system, including regional commissions, and interested intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, to submit to the Secretary-General their observations concerning the improvement of the status and role of women in education;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Directors-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Labour Organisation and taking into account the comments and observations received under paragraph 6 above, to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session a report on the status and role of women in education;

8. *Decides* to consider the report of the Secretary-General at its thirty-third session.

*102nd plenary meeting
16 December 1976*

31/135. International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975,

Noting the recommendations made by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1998 (LX) of 12 May 1976,

⁶⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 429, p. 93.

⁶⁵ International Labour Organisation, *Conventions and Recommendations, 1919-1966* (Geneva, 1966), Convention No. 111.

⁶⁶ International Labour Office, *Official Bulletin*, vol. LVIII, 1975, Series A, No. 1, Convention No. 142.

⁶⁷ *Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. II, sect. A.

Noting also the report of the Secretary-General on the progress achieved towards the establishment of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,⁶⁸

1. *Endorses* the decision of the Economic and Social Council to create an International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women;

2. *Endorses* the guidelines set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 1998 (LX) regarding the activities of the Institute, in particular the necessary close collaboration with the regional centres and institutes which have similar objectives;

3. *Accepts with appreciation* the offer of the Government of Iran to act as host for the Institute;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to expedite the substantive preparations for the early establishment of the Institute and, to this end, to seek actively financial resources through voluntary contributions as well as technical support for it;

5. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-second session on the progress achieved.

*102nd plenary meeting
16 December 1976*

31/136. United Nations Decade for Women

The General Assembly,

Considering that in its resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975 it proclaimed the period from 1976 to 1985 United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, to be devoted to effective and sustained national, regional and international action to implement the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year,⁶⁹ and related resolutions⁷⁰ adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975,

Aware of the importance of developing and implementing without delay a programme of concrete action for the Decade,

Considering further its decision to convene in 1980 a world conference to review and evaluate progress made and, where necessary, readjust existing programmes in the light of new data and research available,

Noting with satisfaction the Programme for the United Nations Decade for Women as adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-sixth session and transmitted to the General Assembly by the Economic and Social Council at its resumed sixty-first session,⁷¹

1. *Approves* the Programme for the United Nations Decade for Women, which focuses on the first half of the Decade, 1976 to 1980;

2. *Urges* Governments and United Nations bodies to take all necessary steps to give effect to the Programme for the Decade and to give it priority in view of the real need to attain the goals of the Decade;

⁶⁸ A/31/310.

⁶⁹ *Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. II, sect. A.

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, chap. III.

⁷¹ E/5894.

3. *Calls upon* Governments to take measures to ensure equal and effective participation of women in political, economic, social and cultural life and in policy-making at local, national, regional and international levels, thereby increasing their role in international co-operation and in the strengthening of peace;

4. *Recommends* that Governments should establish machinery, where appropriate, which could include governmental and non-governmental agencies, bureaux and commissions, in order to ensure the effective implementation and evaluation of the World Plan of Action and of the Programme for the Decade within the framework of national development plans and regional policies;

5. *Recommends further* that Governments, in co-operation with the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions, appropriate regional and international research centres and institutes as well as appropriate intergovernmental bodies, should undertake the organization of training courses and seminars whereby officials responsible for the formulation and implementation of national development plans would study multidisciplinary techniques and methods which can be utilized in effectively integrating women in development;

6. *Invites*, as a matter of priority, Governments and organizations and bodies of the United Nations system as well as all governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned and the mass media to undertake massive public information programmes with a view to making all sectors of the population aware of the need to implement fully the Programme for the Decade;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take fully into account the financial and staff needs required to implement effectively the World Plan of Action and the Programme for the Decade;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, for the consideration of the General Assembly at its thirty-second session, a report on the measures taken to implement the present resolution, in particular paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 above, as well as a progress report on other measures taken to implement the World Plan of Action and the Programme for the Decade.

*102nd plenary meeting
16 December 1976*

31/137. Pledging conference for the United Nations Decade for Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, in which it proclaimed the period from 1976 to 1985 United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

Recalling further that in its resolution 31/136 of 16 December 1976 it endorsed the Programme for the United Nations Decade for Women,

Noting that it decided at its thirtieth session that the voluntary fund for the International Women's Year, established by Economic and Social Council resolution 1850 (LVI) of 16 May 1974, should be extended to cover the period of the Decade,

Aware that in its resolution 31/133 of 16 December 1976 it adopted the criteria and arrangements for the management of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women,