

Expresses its deep appreciation to the Government and people of Mexico for acting as host to the World Conference of the International Women's Year.

2441st plenary meeting
15 December 1975

3519 (XXX). Women's participation in the strengthening of international peace and security and in the struggle against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation and all forms of foreign domination

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3276 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974,

Considering the report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year,⁴⁷ held at Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975, in particular the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and Their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975,⁴⁸ the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year⁴⁹ and the resolutions contained in the report of the Conference,⁵⁰

Appreciating that the Conference emphasized the important role women must play in the strengthening of international peace and security and in the expansion of co-operation among States, irrespective of their social and economic systems, based on the principles of peaceful coexistence in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Endorsing the statement of the Conference that international co-operation and peace require the achievement of national liberation and independence, the preservation of sovereignty and territorial integrity, the elimination of colonialism and neo-colonialism, foreign aggression and occupation, *apartheid* and racial discrimination in all its forms, as well as the recognition of the dignity of peoples and their right to self-determination,

Noting with satisfaction the opinion expressed by the Conference that peace requires that women as well as men should reject any type of intervention in the domestic affairs of States, openly or covertly carried out by other States or by transnational corporations, and that women as well as men should also promote respect for the sovereign right of a State to establish its own economic, social and political system without political and economic pressures or coercion of any type,

Taking into account the view of the Conference that the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States⁵¹ confirms, *inter alia*, the obligation of all States to promote the implementation of general and complete disarmament, to use the funds thus saved for economic and social development and to provide part of these funds for the needs of the developing countries,

Noting with satisfaction the positive changes which have taken place during the last few years in international relations, such as the elimination of the dangerous sources of war in Viet-Nam and the results of the

Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, and noting also the importance of deepening the process of international détente and strengthening an international just peace based on full respect for the Charter of the United Nations and the interests of all States, large and small,

Emphasizing the grave concern that in some regions of the world colonialism, *apartheid*, racial discrimination and foreign aggression continue to exist and territories are still occupied, which represents a most serious infringement of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of human rights of both men and women, and of the peoples' right to self-determination,

1. *Reaffirms* the principles promulgated in the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and Their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975;

2. *Reaffirms* that the strengthening of international peace and security, co-operation among all States irrespective of their social and economic systems, based on the principle of peaceful coexistence, and the elimination of the remaining vestiges of colonialism, neo-colonialism, *apartheid*, all forms of racism and racial discrimination, alien domination and foreign aggression and occupation are indispensable for the safeguarding of the fundamental human rights of both men and women;

3. *Calls upon* all Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, particularly women's organizations and women's groups, to intensify their efforts to strengthen peace, to expand and deepen the process of international détente and make it irreversible, to eliminate completely and definitely all forms of colonialism and to put an end to the policy and practice of *apartheid*, all forms of racism, racial discrimination, aggression, occupation and foreign domination;

4. *Urges* all Governments to take effective measures towards bringing about general and complete disarmament and convening the World Disarmament Conference as soon as possible;

5. *Expresses* its solidarity with and its assistance for women who contribute towards the struggle of the peoples for their national liberation;

6. *Invites* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution.

2441st plenary meeting
15 December 1975

3520 (XXX). World Conference of the International Women's Year

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3010 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972 in which it proclaimed the year 1975 International Women's Year,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 1849 (LVI) and 1851 (LVI) of 16 May 1974 on the convening of an international conference during the International Women's Year as a focal point of the international observance of the Year,

Recalling further its resolutions 3276 (XXIX) and 3277 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974 as well as Eco-

⁴⁷ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, chap. I.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, chap. II, sect. A.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, chap. III.

⁵¹ Resolution 3281 (XXIX).

conomic and Social Council resolution 1959 (LIX) of 28 July 1975 concerning the World Conference of the International Women's Year,

Recalling the importance of the participation of women in the implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly at its sixth⁵² and seventh⁵³ special sessions as well as in the implementation of the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order,⁵⁴

Having considered the report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year,⁵⁵ held at Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975,

Having considered also the note by the Secretary-General on the establishment of an international research and training institute for the advancement of women,⁵⁶

Convinced that the Conference, through the adoption of the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and Their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975,⁵⁷ the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year⁵⁸ and related resolutions,⁵⁹ has made a valuable and constructive contribution towards the achievement of the threefold objectives of the Year, namely, to promote equality between men and women, to ensure the full integration of women in the total development effort and to promote women's contribution to the development of friendly relations and co-operation among States and to the strengthening of world peace,

Considering the valuable and constructive contributions towards the implementation of the threefold objectives of the International Women's Year made by conferences and seminars held during the Year,

Convinced also that the promotion of development objectives and the solution of crucial world economic and social problems should contribute significantly to the improvement of the situation of women, in particular that of women in rural areas and in low-income groups,

Convinced further that women must play an important role in the promotion, achievement and maintenance of international peace,

Considering that the decisions and recommendations of the Conference should be translated into concrete action without delay by States, organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Recalling that the Conference stressed the important role of regional commissions in the implementation of the World Plan of Action and related resolutions of the Conference,

Convinced that periodic and comprehensive reviews and appraisals of the progress made in meeting the goals of the World Plan of Action and related resolu-

⁵² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixth Special Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/9559)*.

⁵³ *Ibid.*, *Seventh Special Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/10301)*.

⁵⁴ Resolution 3202 (S-VI).

⁵⁵ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1.

⁵⁶ A/10340.

⁵⁷ *Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. I.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, chap. II, sect. A.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, chap. III.

tions endorsed by the Conference are of crucial importance for their effective implementation and should be undertaken at regular intervals by Governments and by the organizations of the United Nations system within an agreed time frame,

Noting that the Conference recommended the continuing operation of the Commission on the Status of Women or some other representative body, within the structure of the United Nations, designed specifically to deal with matters relating to the status of women, so as to ensure the implementation of ongoing projects designed to carry out the programmes set forth in the World Plan of Action,⁶⁰

1. *Takes note* of the report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, including the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and Their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975, the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year, the regional plans of action and the resolutions and other recommendations adopted by the Conference, and endorses the action proposals contained in these documents;

2. *Proclaims* 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 and related resolutions of the Conference;

3. *Calls upon* Governments, as a matter of urgency, to examine the recommendations contained in the World Plan of Action and related resolutions of the Conference including action to be taken at the national level, such as:

(a) The establishment of short-term, medium-term and long-term targets, and priorities to this end, taking into account the guidelines set forth in sections I and II of the World Plan of Action, including the minimum objectives recommended for achievement by 1980;⁶¹

(b) The adoption of national strategies, plans and programmes for the implementation of the recommendations within the framework of over-all development plans, policies and programmes;

(c) The undertaking of regular reviews and appraisals of progress made at the national and local levels in achieving the goals and objectives of the World Plan of Action within the framework of over-all development plans, policies and programmes;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the relevant organs of the United Nations and to the organizations of the United Nations system the decisions and recommendations of the Conference;

5. *Invites* all relevant organizations of the United Nations system concerned:

(a) To submit, within the framework of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-second session their proposals and suggestions for implementing the World Plan of Action and related resolutions of the Conference during the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace;

(b) To develop and implement, during the first half of the Decade, under the auspices of the Adminis-

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, chap. III, resolution 4.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, chap. II, sect. A, para. 46.

trative Committee on Co-ordination, a joint inter-agency medium-term programme for the integration of women in development, which should co-ordinate and integrate activities undertaken in accordance with subparagraph (a) above, with special emphasis on technical co-operation in programmes relating to women and development;

(c) To render, in accordance with requests of Governments, sustained assistance in the formulation, design, implementation and evaluation of projects and programmes which would enable women to be integrated in national and international development;

6. *Calls upon* the regional commissions to develop and implement, as a matter of priority, effective strategies to further the objectives of the World Plan of Action at the regional and subregional levels, bearing in mind their respective regional plans of action;

7. *Urges* all financial institutions and all international, regional and subregional development banks and bilateral funding agencies to accord high priority in their development assistance, in accordance with requests of Governments, to projects that would promote the integration of women in the development process, in particular women in the rural areas, as well as the achievement of the equality of women and men, priority being given to countries with limited financial means;

8. *Urges* non-governmental organizations, at the national and international levels, to take all possible measures to assist in the implementation of the World Plan of Action and related resolutions of the Conference within their particular areas of interest and competence¹;

9. *Decides* in principle, in accordance with resolution 26⁶⁹ adopted by the Conference, to establish, under the auspices of the United Nations, an International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, which would be financed through voluntary contributions and would collaborate with appropriate national, regional and international economic and social research institutes;

10. *Invites* the Secretary-General therefore to appoint, with due consideration to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, a Group of Experts on the Establishment of an International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, consisting of five to ten experts, to draw up, in consultation with the representatives of existing regional centres and/or institutes for research and training which have similar objectives and goals, the terms of reference and structural organization of the Institute, giving special consideration to the needs of women of developing countries, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council at its sixtieth session on the basis of the recommendations of the Group of Experts;

11. *Affirms* that a system-wide review and appraisal of the World Plan of Action should be undertaken biennially, and that such reviews and appraisals should constitute an input to the process of review and appraisal of progress made under the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade,⁶² taking into account the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the decisions resulting from the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly;

12. *Affirms* that the General Assembly and other relevant bodies should also consider biennially the progress achieved in the promotion of the full equality of women with men in all spheres of life in accordance with international standards and, in particular, the participation of women in political life and in international co-operation and the strengthening of international peace;

13. *Expresses the hope* that the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System, which will consider the report of the Group of Experts on the Structure of the United Nations System entitled *A New United Nations Structure for Global Economic Co-operation*,⁶³ will take full account of the need to implement the World Plan of Action and related resolutions of the Conference, as well as the requirements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, and appeals to the *Ad Hoc* Committee to ensure that the machinery designed to deal with questions relating to women should be strengthened, taking into account, in particular, the role of the Commission on the Status of Women and the procedures established for the system-wide review and appraisal of the World Plan of Action;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-first session an item entitled "United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace";

15. *Invites* the Secretary-General to submit a progress report to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session on the measures taken to implement the World Plan of Action and related resolutions of the Conference, and on the progress achieved in initiating the procedures for the Plan's review and appraisal by Member States, the United Nations organs, the regional commissions, the specialized agencies and other inter-governmental organizations concerned;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, if possible within existing resources, that the Secretariat unit responsible for women's questions possesses adequate personnel and budgetary resources in order to discharge its functions under the World Plan of Action in co-operation with all organizations of the United Nations system;

17. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in the light of paragraph 16 above, to take into account the requirements of the World Plan of Action and related resolutions of the Conference in preparing revised estimates for 1977 and the medium-term plan for 1978-1981 and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session, in accordance with established procedures;

18. *Urges* all States, the organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, as well as the mass communications media, to give widespread publicity to the achievements and significance of the Conference at the national, regional and international levels;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as a matter of high priority, to issue within existing resources, in the official languages of the United Nations, a simplified version of the World Plan of Action as a booklet, which would highlight the targets, goals and main recom-

⁶² Resolution 2626 (XXV).

⁶³ E/AC.62/9 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.7).

mendations for action by Governments, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations and which would explain the relevance of the implementation of the Plan to the daily lives of men and women throughout the world;

20. *Decides* to convene in 1980, at the mid-term of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, a world conference of all States to review and evaluate the progress made in implementing the objectives of the International Women's Year as recommended by the World Conference of the International Women's Year and, where necessary, to readjust existing programmes in the light of new data and research available.

2441st plenary meeting
15 December 1975

3521 (XXX). Equality between men and women and elimination of discrimination against women

The General Assembly,

Welcoming the results of the World Conference of the International Women's Year,⁶⁴ held at Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975,

Recalling the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations which, *inter alia*, emphasize the importance of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion and for the equality of men and women,

Firmly convinced that discrimination against women is incompatible with human dignity and prevents social progress and the achievement of the goals of development,

Mindful that the continuation of armed conflicts, the arms race, colonialism, foreign occupation, racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* hinders the effective realization of equal rights for women and prevents the improvement of the situation of women and their wider participation in all spheres of life,

Noting conventions and recommendations concerning the rights of women adopted under the aegis and within the framework of the United Nations and its specialized agencies and the progress achieved in their implementation,

Noting that all States are not yet parties to relevant conventions and other instruments elaborated by the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other United Nations bodies,

Expressing concern in connexion with continuing discrimination in many countries against women in many fields, in particular in labour relations and general and professional education and training,

Aware that women, enjoying fully the rights provided for in the relevant international instruments, should play an equal role with men in all spheres of life, including the ensuring of peace and the strengthening of international security, and should fully participate in political life,

Confident that the relaxation of international tension contributes to the development and implementation of standards in all fields of concern to women,

⁶⁴ See Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1).

1. *Calls upon* all States that have not done so to ratify the international conventions and other instruments concerning the protection of women's rights and the elimination of discrimination against women and to implement effectively the provisions of these conventions and other instruments, including declarations of the United Nations and recommendations of the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

2. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to complete, in 1976, the elaboration of the draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

3. *Calls upon* all States to promote vigorously wider participation of women in the strengthening of international peace and in extending the relaxation of international tension, on the basis of full respect for the Charter of the United Nations as well as for United Nations resolutions, in settling the problems of disarmament, in the elimination of colonialism, foreign occupation, racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* and in all other forms of political life, contributing in this way to the creation of the most favourable conditions for the complete elimination of discrimination against women.

2441st plenary meeting
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3522 (XXX). Improvement of the economic status of women for their effective and speedy participation in the development of their countries

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that many women in low-income countries are engaged in various economic activities on a self-reliant basis not normally taken into account when considering the gross national product,

Convinced that the contribution of such economic activities by women to the over-all national economic development is substantial,

Further convinced that credit facilities are a necessary prerequisite for the improvement of economic activities of women engaged in self-reliance projects,

Recognizing the continued benefits that can accrue from access to even moderate financial resources, when such become available,

Concerned that many lending and financial institutions continue to practise discrimination against women, considering them poor credit risks, and that local and national practices and customs in many parts of the world bar women from engaging in responsible financial transactions,

Reaffirming resolution 10, entitled "Access of women to financial assistance",⁶⁵ adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975,

1. *Urges* Governments and governmental and non-governmental organizations to support more vigorously official and private efforts to extend to women the facilities now being offered only to men by financial and lending institutions;

2. *Requests* Governments to encourage all efforts by women's organizations, co-operatives and lending

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, chap. III.