

6. *Urges* the Commission on the Status of Women, as the preparatory body for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, to ensure that older women's concerns and contributions to development are recognized and incorporated into the strategies, programmes and policies of the Platform for Action which deal with equality, development and peace;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

94th plenary meeting  
23 December 1994

**49/163. International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 48/105 of 20 December 1993, in which it urged the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women to continue to strengthen its activities in the areas of research, training and information aimed at mainstreaming gender in development strategies and giving women greater visibility by evaluating their contribution to social and economic development as important means of empowering women and improving their status, emphasized the unique function of the Institute as the only entity within the United Nations system devoted exclusively to research and training for the integration of women in development and stressed the importance of making its research findings available for policy purposes and for operational activities,

*Recalling also* its resolution 48/111 of 20 December 1993, in which it recognized the importance of adequate preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, to be held in 1995, and the role therein of the Institute,

*Taking into consideration* that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1994/30 of 27 July 1994, reiterated the importance of maintaining the level of resources devoted to independent research and related training activities which are crucial for the situation of women,

*Emphasizing* that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1994/51 of 3 November 1994, stressed the urgent need for appropriate leadership and staffing for the Institute so that it could continue to comply with its mandate,

*Taking into account* that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1994/51, emphasized that the advancement of women should be an integral part of the economic and social development process within the main global issues, such as gender equality and women's participation in the peace process, in national and international governance and in sustainable development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 48/111;<sup>55</sup>

2. *Takes note also* of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;<sup>56</sup>

3. *Reiterates* the importance of maintaining the level of resources devoted to independent research and related training activities which are crucial for the situation of women;

4. *Calls upon* States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute, through voluntary contributions and pledges, to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, thus enabling the Institute to continue to respond effectively to its mandate;

5. *Urges* the Secretary-General to appoint, as expeditiously as possible, a Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and to fill the existing vacancies in order to permit the Institute to carry out its mandate;

6. *Also urges* the Secretary-General to take appropriate action for the implementation of resolution 48/111, Economic and Social Council resolutions 1994/30 and 1994/51 and the present resolution;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on this question to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

94th plenary meeting  
23 December 1994

**49/164. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

*The General Assembly,*

*Bearing in mind* that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as stated in Articles 1 and 55 of the Charter, is to promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind, including distinction as to sex,

*Affirming* that women and men should participate equally in social, economic and political development, should contribute equally to such development and should share equally in improved conditions of life,

*Recalling* its resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979, by which it adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

*Recalling also* its previous resolutions on the Convention, and taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/7 of 21 July 1994,

*Welcoming* the growing number of States parties to the Convention, which now stands at one hundred and thirty-four,

*Noting with deep concern* that the Convention is still one of the human rights instruments with a large number of reservations, many of which run contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention, despite the fact that some States parties have withdrawn their reservations to it,

*Recalling* the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,<sup>5</sup> in which the Conference stipulated that the human rights of women and the girl child were an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights,

*Recalling also* that, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Conference recommended the adoption of new procedures to strengthen implementation of the commitment to women's equality and human rights, including a call upon the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to examine quickly the possibility of introducing the right of petition through the preparation of an optional protocol to the Convention,

*Taking note* of the decision adopted at the Sixth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, on 4 February 1992,<sup>69</sup>

*Aware* of the important contribution that the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women<sup>57</sup> can make to eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and to achieving legal and de facto equality between women and men,

<sup>69</sup> See CEDAW/SP/1992/4.

*Having considered* the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its twelfth<sup>70</sup> and thirteenth<sup>71</sup> sessions,

*Taking note* of the suggestions and general recommendations made by the Committee in accordance with its mandate, as demonstrated most recently by the Committee at its thirteenth session, at which the Committee adopted suggestion No. 6 on the International Conference on Population and Development and general recommendation No. 21 related to articles 9, 15 and 16 of the Convention as its contribution to the International Year of the Family, as well as other general recommendations made by the Committee,

*Noting* that the workload of the Committee has increased because of the growing number of States parties to the Convention, that the annual session of the Committee is still the shortest of all the annual sessions of the human rights treaty bodies and that, in spite of the recommendation by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1992/17 of 30 July 1992, which was supported by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/94 of 16 December 1992, that three weeks be allowed for each session of the Committee to enable the Committee to consider the reports submitted by the States parties until the backlog in reports has been eliminated, a considerable backlog still remains,

*Convinced* of the need to adopt measures to enable the Committee to consider in a thorough and timely manner the reports submitted by States parties and to discharge all its responsibilities under the Convention,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the working methods of the Committee and its capacity to fulfil its mandate effectively,<sup>72</sup> which included a comparison of other treaty bodies,

*Welcoming* the efforts of the Committee to improve further its working methods by adopting concluding observations containing specific suggestions and recommendations,

*Recalling* that, under article 17, paragraph 9, of the Convention, the Secretary-General is required to provide the necessary staff and facilities for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 44/73 of 8 December 1989, 45/124 of 14 December 1990 and 47/94 of 16 December 1992, in which, *inter alia*, it strongly supported the view of the Committee that the Secretary-General should accord higher priority to strengthening support for the Committee,

*Strongly supporting* general recommendation No. 19 of the Committee on violence against women, and calling upon States parties to prepare their periodic reports in accordance with this and other general recommendations of the Committee,

*Noting with satisfaction* the appointment of a Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, including its causes and consequences,

1. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the increasing number of States that have ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and supports the general recommendation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to draw attention to those reservations which are incompatible with the objective and purpose of the Convention;

2. *Urges* all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so as soon as possible;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties with their obligations under the Convention;

4. *Encourages* States to consider limiting the extent of any reservation they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any reservations as precisely and as narrowly as possible and to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention or otherwise contrary to international law;

5. *Requests* States parties to the Convention to review their reservations regularly, with a view to withdrawing them expeditiously so that the Convention may be fully implemented;

6. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention,<sup>73</sup> and requests him to continue to report annually to the General Assembly;

7. *Takes note also* of the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its twelfth<sup>70</sup> and thirteenth<sup>71</sup> sessions;

8. *Recommends* that the States parties to the Convention, in the light of the reports mentioned in paragraphs 6 and 7 above, review the working situation of the Committee and its capacity to fulfil its mandate more effectively, and in this context recommends also that the States parties consider the possibility of amending article 20 of the Convention so as to allow for sufficient meeting time for the Committee;

9. *Requests* the States parties to the Convention to meet in 1995 in order to consider the review of article 20 of the Convention mentioned in paragraph 8 above;

10. *Invites* States parties to the Convention to make all possible efforts to submit their initial as well as their second and subsequent periodic reports on the implementation of the Convention in accordance with article 18 thereof and with the guidelines provided by the Committee, and to cooperate fully with the Committee in the presentation of their reports;

11. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Committee to rationalize its procedures and expedite the consideration of periodic reports, and strongly encourages the Committee to continue those efforts;

12. *Welcomes also*, in accordance with general recommendation No. 11 of the Committee,<sup>74</sup> the initiatives taken to provide regional training courses on the preparation and drafting of reports of States parties for government officials and training and information seminars for States considering acceding to the Convention, and urges the relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations to support such initiatives;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to provide secretariat staff, including legal staff members expert in human rights treaty implementation, and technical resources for the effective performance by the Committee of its functions;

14. *Strongly supports* the view of the Committee that the Secretary-General should accord higher priority, within existing resources, to strengthening technical and substantive support for the Committee, in particular to assist in preparatory research;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide for, facilitate and encourage, within existing resources, the dissemination of information relating to the Committee, its decisions and recommendations, the Convention and the concept

<sup>70</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/48/38).

<sup>71</sup> Ibid., Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/49/38).

<sup>72</sup> A/49/308, sect. III.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid., sect. II.

<sup>74</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/44/38), sect. V.

of legal literacy, taking into account the Committee's own recommendations to that end;

16. *Supports* the request of the Committee at its twelfth and thirteenth sessions for additional meeting time, with adequate support from the Secretariat, so as to allow for the Committee to meet once a year for three weeks for its fourteenth and fifteenth sessions, and recommends that the request made by the Committee for additional meeting time be considered within the existing level of budgetary resources;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure adequate support to the Committee, and also requests that sufficient resources be provided for that purpose from within the existing regular budget to enable the Committee to deal in a thorough and timely manner with reports submitted by States parties;

18. *Decides* that, at its fifty-first session, it will review once again whether the backlog of the Committee in considering reports has been reduced;

19. *Recommends* that meetings of the Committee be scheduled, whenever possible, to allow for the timely transmission of the results of its work to the Commission on the Status of Women, for information, in the same year;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to make the report available to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-first session.

*94th plenary meeting  
23 December 1994*

#### **49/165. Violence against women migrant workers**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* that the Charter of the United Nations reaffirms faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women,

*Reaffirming* the principles set forth in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the General Assembly by its resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979,

*Stressing* that the promotion of the human rights of women constitutes an integral part of the human rights activities of the United Nations, as reaffirmed in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted in 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights,<sup>5</sup>

*Welcoming* the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,<sup>42</sup> held at Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994, which called upon all countries to take full measures to eliminate all forms of exploitation, abuse, harassment and violence against women,

*Noting* the large numbers of women from developing countries and from some economies in transition who continue to venture forth to more affluent countries in search of a living for themselves and their families, as a consequence of poverty, unemployment and other socio-economic situations in their home countries, while acknowledging the primary duty of States to work for conditions that provide employment to their citizens,

*Recognizing* that it is the duty of sending countries to protect and promote the interests of their citizens who seek or receive employment in other countries, to provide them with appropriate training/education and to apprise them of their rights and obligations in the countries of employment,

*Aware* of the moral obligation of receiving or host countries to ensure the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons within their boundaries, including migrant workers, and in particular women migrant workers, who are doubly vulnerable because of their gender and because they are foreigners,

*Noting with concern* the continuing reports of grave abuses and acts of violence committed against the persons of women migrant workers by some of their employers in some host countries,

*Stressing* that acts of violence directed against women impair or nullify the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Convinced* of the need to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and to protect them from gender-based violence,

1. *Expresses grave concern* at the plight of women migrant workers who become victims of physical, mental and sexual harassment and abuse;

2. *Recognizes with appreciation* the efforts exerted by some receiving countries to alleviate the negative situation of women migrant workers;

3. *Recalls*, in this context, its resolution 48/104 of 20 December 1993, by which it adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;

4. *Welcomes* measures to strengthen the human rights of women and the establishment of closer ties between the organs dealing with women's issues and rights in the United Nations, through a special programme of activities, as envisioned in the proposed revision to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997;

5. *Invites* States concerned, specifically the sending and receiving States of women migrant workers, to conduct regular consultations for the purpose of identifying problem areas in promoting and protecting the rights of women migrant workers and in ensuring health and social services for them, adopting specific measures to address those problems, setting up as necessary appropriate mechanisms to implement those measures, and, in general, creating conditions that foster greater harmony and tolerance between women migrant workers and the rest of the society in which they reside;

6. *Calls upon* the countries concerned to take appropriate measures to ensure that law enforcement officials assist in guaranteeing the full protection of the rights of women migrant workers, consistent with international obligations of Member States;

7. *Urges* both sending and host countries to help ensure that women migrant workers are protected from unscrupulous recruitment practices, if needed by the adoption of legal measures;

8. *Encourages* Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;<sup>15</sup>

9. *Invites* trade unions to support the realization of the rights of women migrant workers by assisting them in organizing themselves so as to enable them better to assert their rights;

10. *Calls upon* relevant bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to inform the Secretary-General of the extent of the problem and to recommend further measures to implement the purposes of the present resolution;