



United Nations

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women

**Report on the sixty-fourth session
(22 March 2019 and 9 March 2020)**

**Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2020
Supplement No. 7**



Commission on the Status of Women

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United Nations • New York, 2020

Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

Summary

At its sixty-fourth session, the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution [2018/8](#), undertook a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including an assessment of current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through a gender perspective.

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution [2018/8](#), 173 Governments undertook comprehensive national-level reviews of the progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and prepared national reports, often in collaboration and consultation with civil society and other stakeholders. All five United Nations regional commissions conducted regional review processes to assess trends and identify key actions and strategies for moving forward, with the participation of civil society and youth. A comprehensive report of the Secretary-General was prepared to support the Commission's work.

The Commission adopted a political declaration on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, in which Governments committed to the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action by strengthening collective efforts towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including full enjoyment of their human rights.

Governments welcomed progress made, but also recognized that no country had fully achieved gender equality and empowerment for all women and girls, and that overall, progress had not been fast or deep enough. In some areas progress had been uneven, major gaps remained and new challenges had emerged in the implementation of the Platform for Action and its 12 critical areas of concern. In response, Governments pledged to take further concrete action to ensure the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly through a number of cross-cutting implementation strategies.

Governments reaffirmed the primary responsibility of the Commission for the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and its catalytic role in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, in promoting and monitoring gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system, and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Pursuant to the organization and methods of work of the Commission, as set out in Economic and Social Council resolution [2015/6](#), the sixty-fourth session was scheduled to include a ministerial segment comprising four ministerial round tables, three high-level interactive dialogues, a general discussion and a series of other interactive dialogues. In light of concerns regarding the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), the Commission on the Status of Women convened, on 9 March, for a scaled-down meeting that included opening statements followed by the adoption of the draft political declaration. The session was then suspended, and the Commission concluded its work through a silence procedure, in accordance with Council decisions

2020/205, 2020/206 and 2020/219, as well as Council resolution [2020/4](#) and adopted the following:

- (a) A resolution entitled “Multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women”, for action by the Economic and Social Council;
- (b) A draft resolution entitled “Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS”;
- (c) A draft resolution entitled “Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts”;
- (d) A draft decision entitled “Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixty-fourth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission”, for action by the Economic and Social Council.

The Commission also decided to take note of the report of its Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women and to include it in the present report in its entirety.

Contents

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention . . .	6
A. Political declaration on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women	6
B. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council	11
Multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women	11
C. Draft decision for adoption by the Council	13
Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixty-fourth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission . . .	13
D. Matters brought to the attention of the Council	14
Resolution 64/1. Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts	14
Resolution 64/2. Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS	19
II. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters	21
III. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”	22
IV. Communications concerning the status of women	24
V. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions	28
VI. Provisional agenda for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission	29
VII. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-fourth session	30
VIII. Organization of the session	31
A. Opening and duration of the session	31
B. Attendance	31
C. Election of officers	31
D. Agenda and organization of work	31
E. Appointment of the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women	32
F. Documentation	32
Annex	
Correspondence relating to the work of the Commission at its sixty-fourth session	33

Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Political declaration on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women

1. The following political declaration adopted by the Commission is brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 68/1 of 20 September 2013 and 70/1 of 21 October 2015, as an input to the work of the Council.

Political declaration on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women*

We, the Ministers and representatives of Governments,

Having gathered at the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in New York, on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, to undertake a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action¹ and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,² including an assessment of current challenges and gaps that affect the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all women and girls throughout their life course and its contribution towards the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³ as well as to ensure the acceleration of the implementation of the Platform for Action, with a commitment to ensuring the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the preparations for and the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the development, economic, social, environmental, humanitarian and related fields so that they effectively contribute to the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls,

1. *Reaffirm* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,¹ the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly² and the declarations of the Commission on the Status of Women on the tenth, fifteenth and twentieth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women⁴ and commit to their implementation;

* For the discussion, see chap. III.

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

² General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

³ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and E/2005/27/Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A, and Economic and Social Council decision 2005/232; *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2010/27 and E/2010/27/Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A, and Economic and Social Council decision 2010/232; and *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2015, Supplement No. 7* (E/2015/27), chap. I, sect. C, resolution 59/1, annex.

2. *Recognize* that the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁵ are mutually reinforcing in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the realization of their human rights, and call upon States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto;⁶

3. *Emphasize* the mutually reinforcing relationship among achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³ and the relevant major United Nations conferences and summits and their outcomes and follow-up, and also emphasize that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda;

4. *Welcome* the convening of the regional reviews that have been undertaken by the United Nations regional commissions, taking note of the outcomes of these intergovernmental processes at the regional level, which have contributed to the 2020 review by the Commission on the Status of Women;

5. *Also welcome* the progress made towards the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action through concerted policy action at the national, regional and global levels, further welcome the review activities undertaken by Governments in the context of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, noting the important contributions made by civil society and all other relevant stakeholders, recall General Assembly resolution [73/340](#) of 12 September 2019, and look forward to the high-level meeting of the Assembly on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held on 23 September 2020 on the theme of “Accelerating the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”;

6. *Express concern* that, overall, progress has not been fast or deep enough, that in some areas progress has been uneven, that major gaps remain and that obstacles, including structural barriers, discriminatory practices and the feminization of poverty, persist, and recognize that 25 years after the Fourth World Conference on Women, no country has fully achieved gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, that significant levels of inequality persist globally, that many women and girls experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, vulnerability and marginalization throughout their life course, and that they have made the least progress, which may include, inter alia, women of African descent, women with HIV and AIDS, rural women, indigenous women, women with disabilities, migrant women and older women;

7. *Recognize* poverty, global economic inequality and the lack of equitable distribution of development gains within and among countries as fundamental challenges to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

8. *Also recognize* that women and girls play a vital role as agents of development, that the achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if one half of humanity continues to be denied its

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 2131, No. 20378.

full human rights and opportunities, and that the Sustainable Development Goals should be achieved for all;

9. *Further recognize* the importance of men and boys fully engaging as strategic partners and allies, as well as agents and beneficiaries of change, for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and commit to taking measures to fully engage men and boys in efforts to achieve the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

10. *Recognize* that new challenges have emerged, and reaffirm our political will and firmly commit to tackling the existing and emerging challenges and remaining implementation gaps in all 12 critical areas of concern, namely, women and poverty, education and training of women, women and health, violence against women, women and armed conflict, women and the economy, women in power and decision-making, institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, human rights of women, women and the media, women and the environment, and the girl child;

11. *Also recognize* that these new challenges require intensified efforts for the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and its 12 critical areas of concern, including by:

(a) Strengthening efforts to realize the right to education for all women and girls, eliminating barriers in this regard, ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, training and skills development, promoting lifelong learning opportunities, and supporting women's and girls' participation in all sectors, especially those in which they are not equally represented, in particular science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and strengthening international cooperation on these issues;

(b) Ensuring full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making as well as equal access to leadership and representation for all women at all levels and in all spheres of society, as well as strengthening their voice, while ensuring a safe and enabling environment for them and taking action to eliminate any barriers in this regard;

(c) Ensuring women's economic empowerment by enhancing women's full access to and equal opportunities in the labour market and decent work, taking effective action against discrimination and abuse in the workplace, promoting equal pay for work of equal value, providing social security, supporting the transition from informal to formal work in all sectors, promoting women's access to credit and entrepreneurship as well as financial inclusion and financial literacy for women and girls, and enhancing cooperation with all relevant stakeholders;

(d) Recognizing and taking measures to reduce and redistribute women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work and promoting work-life balance and the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men within the household;

(e) Strengthening social protection systems and other measures to support and empower women and girls and to eliminate the burden of poverty on them, including female-headed households;

(f) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into environmental, climate change and disaster risk reduction policies, recognizing the disproportionate effect of climate change and natural disasters on women and girls, in particular those in vulnerable situations, strengthening the resilience and adaptive

capacities of women and girls to respond to the adverse impacts of climate change and natural disasters, and promoting women's participation and leadership in decision-making on environmental and climate change issues;

(g) Eliminating, preventing and responding to all forms of violence and harmful practices against all women and girls, in the public and private spheres, including in digital contexts, as well as human trafficking and modern slavery and other forms of exploitation and ensuring access to justice, and the provision of support services, including legal, health and social, to all women victims of violence;

(h) Strengthening the protection of women and girls in armed conflict and the full, equal and meaningful participation of women at all decision-making levels and at all stages of peace processes and mediation efforts, including in the prevention and resolution of armed conflicts, and recognizing their leadership therein and the need for their enhanced representation in peacekeeping;

(i) Strengthening efforts to realize the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health for women and girls throughout their life course and without discrimination of any kind, and promoting their equitable, quality and affordable access to health and well-being for all, including towards the achievement of universal health coverage;

(j) Addressing hunger and malnutrition among women and girls by paying attention to their diverse nutritional needs at all stages of life;

12. *Pledge* to take further concrete action to ensure the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including by:

(a) Eliminating all discriminatory laws and ensuring that laws, policies and programmes benefit all women and girls and that they are fully and effectively implemented and systematically evaluated to ensure their effectiveness and that they do not create and reinforce inequalities and marginalization;

(b) Eliminating structural barriers, discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes, and promoting social norms and practices that empower all women and girls and that recognize their contributions and eliminate discrimination and violence against them, including through their balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal in the media;

(c) Strengthening the effectiveness and accountability of institutions at all levels to promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, as well as ensuring equal access to justice and public services;

(d) Mainstreaming a gender perspective across the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, for the realization of the human rights of all and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

(e) Matching commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls with adequate financing through the mobilization of financial resources from all sources;

(f) Strengthening accountability for the implementation of commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

(g) Harnessing the potential of technology and innovation to improve women's and girls' lives and to close the development divide and the digital divide, including the gender digital divide, as well as addressing the risks and challenges emerging from the use of technologies;

(h) Closing data and evidence gaps through improved regular collection, analysis and use of gender statistics, including through strengthening national statistical capacities, to strengthen the implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes;

(i) Strengthening international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as public-private partnerships, to implement commitments to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

13. *Reaffirm* the primary responsibility of the Commission on the Status of Women for the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and recall the follow-up work of the Commission in that regard, also reaffirm its catalytic role in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, in promoting and monitoring gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system, and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Platform for Action, in which it is recognized that the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women and girls is essential for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and further reaffirm that the Commission also contributes to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, so as to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

14. *Acknowledge* the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and reaffirm its important role in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and in supporting Member States and coordinating the United Nations system and mobilizing civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, at all levels, in support of the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

15. *Call upon* the United Nations system to continue to support the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including through systematic gender mainstreaming, the mobilization of resources to deliver results and the monitoring and assessment of progress with data and robust accountability systems;

16. *Welcome* the contributions made by civil society, including non-governmental organizations and women's and community-based organizations, youth-led organizations and all other stakeholders such as national human rights institutions where they exist, to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and pledge to continue supporting, at the local, national, regional and global levels, civil society efforts for the advancement and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including by promoting and ensuring a safe and enabling environment for them, and recognize the importance of having an open, inclusive and transparent engagement with civil society as a contribution to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

17. *Commit* to the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action by strengthening our collective efforts towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including full enjoyment of their human rights.

B. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Draft resolution

Multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that, in its resolutions [1987/24](#) of 26 May 1987, [1990/15](#) of 24 May 1990, [1996/6](#) of 22 July 1996, [2001/4](#) of 24 July 2001, [2006/9](#) of 25 July 2006, [2009/15](#) of 28 July 2009, [2013/18](#) of 24 July 2013 and [2016/3](#) of 2 June 2016, the Council adopted multi-year programmes of work for a focused and thematic approach for the Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling also that, in its resolution [2018/8](#) of 12 June 2018, the Council requested the Commission at its sixty-fourth session to decide on its future multi-year programme of work,

Recalling further its resolution [2015/6](#) of 8 June 2015, in which the Council requested the Commission to continue to apply a thematic approach to its work and to adopt a multi-year programme of work to allow for predictability and adequate time for preparation; and, in selecting its priority theme, to take into consideration, in addition to the Beijing Platform for Action¹ and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,² the programme of work of the Council, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³ so as to build synergies and contribute to the work of the Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development, according to the modalities established by the Assembly and the Council in the context of the high-level political forum,

Recalling that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with their respective mandates and with Assembly resolution [48/162](#) of 20 December 1993 and other relevant resolutions, should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that would play the primary role in overall policymaking and follow-up and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Platform for Action, and reaffirming the catalytic role of the Commission in mainstreaming a gender perspective in policies and programmes,

Acknowledging the centrality of the Beijing Platform for Action to the work of the Commission, and recognizing that a robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated follow-up and review framework of the 2030 Agenda will make a vital contribution to the implementation of the Platform for Action and help countries to maximize and track progress in order to ensure that no one is left behind,

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

² General Assembly resolution [S-23/2](#), annex, and resolution [S-23/3](#), annex.

³ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

A. Themes for the period 2021–2024

1. *Decides* that the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women for the sixty-fifth, sixty-sixth, sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions will be as follows:

(a) Sixty-fifth session (2021):

(i) Priority theme: Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

(ii) Review theme: Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session);

(b) Sixty-sixth session (2022):

(i) Priority theme: Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes;

(ii) Review theme: Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work (agreed conclusions of the sixty-first session);

(c) Sixty-seventh session (2023):

(i) Priority theme: Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

(ii) Review theme: Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls (agreed conclusions of the sixty-second session);

(d) Sixty-eighth session (2024):

(i) Priority theme: Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective;

(ii) Review theme: Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (agreed conclusions of the sixty-third session);

2. *Requests* the Commission, in order to achieve concrete results in each review cycle, to consider and make a recommendation at its sixty-sixth session, in 2022, on how best to utilize the year 2025, on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, so as to accelerate the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the full realization of their human rights;

3. *Affirms* that the Commission will contribute to the thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals taking place at the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

B. Methods of work

4. *Decides* that at its sixty-sixth session, in 2022, the Commission should review, as appropriate, its methods of work, adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2015/6, taking into consideration the outcome of the process of alignment of the agendas of the General Assembly

and the Council and its subsidiary bodies, with a view to further enhancing the impact of the work of the Commission;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its sixty-sixth session, taking into consideration the outcome of the process of alignment of the agendas of the General Assembly and the Council and its subsidiary bodies, a report on ways and means to further enhance the impact of the work of the Commission.

C. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

3. The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixty-fourth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixty-fourth session and approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission set out below:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”:
 - (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:
 - (i) Priority theme: to be determined;
 - (ii) Review theme: to be determined;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the priority theme

Report of the Secretary-General on the review theme

Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

Note by the Secretariat containing a discussion guide for the ministerial round tables

- (b) Emerging issues, trends, focus areas and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women, including equality between women and men;
- (c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on the activities of the United Nations trust fund in support of actions to eliminate violence against women

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the outcome of relevant sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women and responses thereto

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
6. Provisional agenda for the sixty-sixth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-fifth session.

D. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

4. The following resolutions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

Resolution 64/1

Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Guided by the purposes, principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations,

Guided also by the principles and norms of international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949⁴ and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977,⁵ as well as relevant international standards of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁶ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,⁷ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,⁴ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁸ the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁹ the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment¹⁰ and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted on 25 June 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights,¹¹

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

⁶ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

⁷ See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 1465, No. 24841.

¹¹ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

Recalling that 2020 marks the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict,¹²

Recalling also the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹³ recognizing its universal, integrated and indivisible nature, and acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda, inter alia, addresses the elimination of all forms of violence against all women and girls, as well as ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls,

Taking duly into account the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution [61/177](#) of 20 December 2006,¹⁴

Recalling all its previous resolutions on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts,¹⁵ as well as all relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council concerning hostage-taking and General Assembly resolution [61/172](#) of 19 December 2006,

Recognizing that women and children bear particular vulnerabilities when taken hostage, including sexual violence and reproductive health concerns,

Noting that the girl child may be disproportionately exposed to violence when taken hostage, which may have long-term effects on her physical and psychological well-being, and further noting that boys can also be victims in these circumstances,

Recognizing that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person and that the taking of hostages is an offence of grave concern to the international community,

Recalling the relevant provisions contained in the instruments of international humanitarian law relative to the protection of the civilian population as such,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,¹⁶ as well as the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,¹⁷ and the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled “A world fit for children”,¹⁸ including the provisions therein regarding violence against women and children, and reaffirming also the declarations of the Commission on the Status of Women on the tenth,¹⁹

¹² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2173, No. 27531.

¹³ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

¹⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2716, No. 48088.

¹⁵ Resolutions [39/2](#), [40/1](#), [41/1](#), [42/2](#), [43/1](#), [44/1](#), [45/1](#), [46/1](#), [48/1](#), [50/1](#), [52/1](#), [54/3](#), [56/1](#), [58/1](#), [60/1](#) and [62/1](#).

¹⁶ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

¹⁷ General Assembly resolution [S-23/2](#), annex, and resolution [S-23/3](#), annex.

¹⁸ General Assembly resolution [S-27/2](#), annex.

¹⁹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum ([E/2005/27](#) and [E/2005/27/Corr.1](#)), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/232.

fifteenth,²⁰ twentieth²¹ and twenty-fifth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolution [57/337](#) of 3 July 2003 on the prevention of armed conflict, and Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) and its subsequent resolutions on women and peace and security, as well as the Council resolutions on children and armed conflict and the Council resolutions on kidnapping for ransom and hostage-taking by terrorists,

Recalling also the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime²² and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,²³ which provides a framework to effectively prevent and combat trafficking in persons, and recalling further the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,²⁴

Expressing grave concern about the growing number and increasingly protracted nature of armed conflicts in many regions throughout the world and the human suffering and humanitarian emergencies they cause, while also holding back progress for women and children, and recognizing the need to strengthen the protection of women and children during armed conflict in accordance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law,

Noting that women and children who are taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, including in armed conflicts, whether international or non-international, are victims of serious violations or abuses of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, which continues to have a negative impact on efforts to put an end to those conflicts and causes suffering to the families of those women and children, and stressing in this regard the need to address the issue from a humanitarian perspective, among others,

Noting also the particular impact that trafficking in persons in situations of armed conflict has on women and children, including their increased vulnerability to sexual and gender-based violence, and expressing solidarity with and compassion for women and children who are trafficked, as noted in, inter alia, the political declaration on the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,²⁵

Emphasizing that all forms of violence in areas of armed conflict committed against the civilian population as such, including taking women and children hostage, seriously contravene international humanitarian law, in particular as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,

Cognizant that States that are parties to an armed conflict have a responsibility not to take hostage and subsequently imprison women and children in armed conflicts and to ensure accountability as regards the

²⁰ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum ([E/2010/27](#) and [E/2010/27/Corr.1](#)), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2010/232.

²¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2015, Supplement No. 7 (E/2015/27)*, chap. I, sect. C, resolution 59/1, annex.

²² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

²³ *Ibid.*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

²⁴ General Assembly resolution [64/293](#).

²⁵ General Assembly resolution [72/1](#).

implementation of relevant mechanisms, policies and laws in order to protect them, bearing in mind that all parties to armed conflict must refrain from hostage-taking,

Concerned that, despite the efforts of the international community, acts of kidnapping and hostage-taking in different forms and manifestations, including those committed by terrorists and armed groups, continue to take place and have even increased in many regions of the world,

Noting with concern the serious threats posed by transnational organized crime in some regions and its increasing links, in some cases, with terrorism, and strongly condemning the incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed for any purpose, including raising funds or gaining political concessions,

Recognizing that addressing the problem of hostage-taking calls for resolute, firm and concerted efforts on the part of the international community, in accordance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law, in order to bring such abhorrent practices to an end and hold perpetrators accountable,

Expressing its strong belief that the rapid and unconditional release of women and children taken hostage in areas of armed conflict will promote the implementation of the noble goals enshrined in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on children, including the provisions therein regarding violence against women and children and the respect for international law, including international humanitarian law,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,²⁶

1. *Reaffirms* that hostage-taking, wherever and by whomever committed, is an illegal act aimed at the destruction of human rights and is, under any circumstances, unjustifiable;

2. *Condemns* all violent acts committed against the civilian population as such, in violation of international humanitarian law in situations of armed conflict, and calls for an effective response to such acts, in particular the immediate release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, including by strengthening international cooperation in the field;

3. *Also condemns* the acts committed in the context of hostage-taking, in particular torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, murder, rape and other forms of sexual violence, and trafficking in women and children, including for the purpose of slavery, and deplores their consequences, and stresses the importance of ensuring the safety of women and children during armed conflict;

4. *Urges* States that are parties to an armed conflict to take all measures necessary, in a timely manner, to determine the identity, fate and whereabouts of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, and to the greatest possible extent, to provide their family members, through the appropriate channels, with all relevant information they have on their fate and whereabouts;

²⁶ E/CN.6/2020/7.

5. *Invites* States, in this regard, to adopt a comprehensive approach, including all appropriate legal and practical measures and coordination mechanisms;

6. *Recognizes* the need for the collection, protection and management of information on women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, according to international and national legal norms and standards, and urges States to cooperate with each other and with other appropriate actors working in this area by, inter alia, providing all relevant and appropriate information;

7. *Strongly urges* all parties to armed conflicts to respect fully the provisions of international humanitarian law and to take all measures necessary for the protection of the civilian population as such, including measures to prevent and combat acts of hostage-taking;

8. *Urges* all parties to armed conflicts to provide safe, timely and unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance for women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, in accordance with international humanitarian law;

9. *Also urges* all parties to armed conflicts to cooperate fully with the International Committee of the Red Cross and, where relevant, with national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, in establishing the fate and whereabouts of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts;

10. *Stresses* both the need for increased accountability and the responsibility of all States to investigate, prosecute or bring to justice, in accordance with international law, those responsible for war crimes, including those crimes involving hostage-taking and sexual violence;

11. *Also stresses* the need to address the issue of the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, also as part of peace processes, with reference to all justice and rule of law mechanisms, on the basis of transparency, accountability and public involvement and participation;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of exchanging objective, reliable and impartial information, including through improved analysis and dissemination of data disaggregated by sex and age, on hostages, verifiable by relevant international organizations, in facilitating their release, and calls for assistance, as appropriate, to those organizations in this regard;

13. *Welcomes* the progress made in the release of women and children taken hostage in situations of armed conflicts, but expresses grave concern over the continuation of this problem;

14. *Highlights* the importance of the appropriate victim-centred rehabilitation and reintegration of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned in armed conflicts, as well as children born in captivity, recognizing their particular vulnerability to violence, including sexual violence, in those situations, and urges the concerned States to take all measures practically possible to this end;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the context of the present resolution, to continue to widely disseminate information, in particular relating to Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) of 31 October 2000;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General and all relevant international organizations, including international humanitarian organizations, to use their capabilities and undertake efforts to facilitate the immediate and safe release of women and children who have been taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, as well as to seek to ensure their rehabilitation, family reunification and community-based reintegration;

17. *Invites* the special rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council, within their respective mandates, as well as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, to continue to address the issue of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts and its consequences;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-sixth session a comprehensive report covering all aspects of the present resolution, including relevant practical recommendations to address issues relating to the release of women and children taken hostage in armed conflicts, taking into account the information provided by States and relevant international organizations;

19. *Decides* to consider the question at its sixty-sixth session.

Resolution 64/2

Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action¹ and the outcomes of its reviews, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,² the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,³ the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,⁴ the key actions for its further implementation⁵ and the outcomes of its reviews, the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁶ the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,⁷ the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030,⁸ Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁹ including the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular the resolve of Member States to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030, as well as its resolutions 60/2 of 24 March 2016 and 62/2 of 23 March 2018 on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS,

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

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

³ General Assembly resolution [S-23/2](#), annex, and resolution [S-23/3](#), annex.

⁴ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁵ General Assembly resolution [S-21/2](#), annex.

⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁷ General Assembly resolution [48/104](#).

⁸ General Assembly resolution [70/266](#), annex.

⁹ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General, submitted pursuant to its resolution 62/2;¹⁰
2. *Reiterates* the continued resolve to achieve the commitments made in resolution 60/2, and urges Member States to accelerate their implementation;
3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-sixth session.

¹⁰ E/CN.6/2020/6.

Chapter II

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

5. The Commission considered agenda item 2 at its 2nd meeting, on 9 March 2020. It had before it the annotated provisional agenda ([E/CN.6/2020/1](#)) and proposed organization of work ([E/CN.6/2020/1/Add.1/Rev.1](#)).
6. At the same meeting, the Chair of the Commission, Mher Margaryan (Armenia), made a statement and noted that during the informal meeting of the Commission on 2 March 2020, and taking into account the recommendation of the Secretary-General regarding the situation surrounding the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), it was agreed that the Commission, at its sixty-fourth session, would convene meetings of a largely procedural nature on 9 and 13 March that would include opening statements followed by the adoption of the draft political declaration, with the general discussion and all side events cancelled (see annex on correspondence).
7. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda and approved its organization of work (see chap. VIII, sect. D), on the understanding that further adjustments would be made, as necessary, during the course of the session.
8. In a letter dated 16 March 2020, the Chair informed the President of the Economic and Social Council that, in the light of information pertaining to the outbreak of COVID-19, the Bureau of the Commission decided to reschedule the 3rd meeting of the Commission at its sixty-fourth session, as well as the 1st meeting at its sixty-fifth session, both of which were scheduled to be held on 13 March 2020.
9. Subsequently, and taking into account the prevailing conditions relating to COVID-19 affecting the working arrangements, the Commission postponed the 3rd meeting of the sixty-fourth session and the 1st meeting of the sixty-fifth session, scheduled to be held on 13 March 2020.
10. Pursuant to Council resolution [2020/4](#), and taking into account the prevailing conditions relating to COVID-19 on the working arrangements and the available technological and procedural solutions in the interim period, the Commission thereafter held the remaining part of the sixty-fourth session through correspondence and informal consultations, and adopted four draft proposals (see chap. I) and the draft report on the sixty-fourth session ([E/CN.6/2020/L.2](#)) pending before it under silence procedure pursuant to Council decision 2020/219 (see list of correspondence in annex to the present report).

Chapter III

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”

11. The Commission considered agenda item 3 at its 2nd meeting, on 9 March. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the normative aspects of the work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women ([E/CN.6/2020/2](#));

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly ([E/CN.6/2020/3](#));

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on proposals on the Commission’s priority and review themes for 2021 and beyond ([E/CN.6/2020/4](#));

(d) Note by the Secretariat on the discussion guide for the ministerial round tables to be held on the occasion of the 25-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action ([E/CN.6/2020/5](#));

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS ([E/CN.6/2020/6](#));

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts ([E/CN.6/2020/7](#));

(g) Report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations trust fund in support of actions to eliminate violence against women ([A/HRC/44/3–E/CN.6/2020/8](#));

(h) Note by the Secretariat on the results of the seventy-third and seventy-fourth sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women ([E/CN.6/2020/9](#));

(i) Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council ([E/CN.6/2020/NGO/1–206](#)).

12. At the 2nd meeting, on 9 March, the Secretary-General, the President of the Economic and Social Council, Mona Juul (Norway), and the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session, Tijjani Muhammad Bande (Nigeria), addressed the Commission.

13. At the same meeting, statements were made by a representative of a non-governmental organization and a youth representative.

14. Also at the same meeting, an introductory statement was made by the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

15. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Chair (Armenia) informed the Commission that the introductory statements of the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, had been circulated through the PaperSmart

portal as both speakers had opted not to travel to United Nations Headquarters, as recommended.

Action taken by the Commission

Political declaration on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women

16. At the 2nd meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft resolution entitled “Political declaration on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women” (E/CN.6/2020/L.1), which was submitted by the Chair of the Commission, on the basis of informal consultations.

17. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution and decided to transmit and bring it to the attention of the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 68/1 of 20 September 2013 and 70/1 of 21 October 2015 (see chap. I, sect. A).

18. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, Namibia, the United States of America, Ecuador, Israel, South Africa and Kenya, as well as by the observers for Argentina (on behalf of the States members of the Santiago Group composed of Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Uruguay, as well as in a national capacity), Switzerland (on behalf of the States members of the Mountain Group composed of Australia, Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland), the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mexico and Uruguay.

19. The observer for the Holy See made a statement.

20. The observer for the European Union (also on behalf of its member States and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine) also made a statement.

Chapter IV

Communications concerning the status of women

21. The Commission had before it the following documents under agenda item 4:
 - (a) Report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women (see para. 22 below);*
 - (b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications and replies by Governments concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2020/R.1 and Add.1).

Report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

22. The report of the Working Group read as follows:
 1. The Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women met in closed meetings before the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2002/235 and was guided in its deliberations by the mandate given to it by the Council in its resolution 76 (V), as amended by the Council in its resolutions 304 I (XI), 1983/27, 1992/19, 1993/11 and 2009/16.
 2. The Working Group considered the list of confidential communications and the replies by Governments thereon (E/CN.6/2020/R.1 and E/CN.6/2020/R.1/Add.1). There was no list of non-confidential communications concerning the status of women, no such communications having been received by the Secretary-General.
 3. The Working Group considered 38 confidential communications, addressed to 28 States, received directly by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. The Working Group noted that no confidential communications concerning the status of women had been received from other United Nations bodies or the specialized agencies.
 4. The Working Group noted that there were 15 replies from 13 Governments.
 5. The Working Group recalled its mandate as defined in paragraph 4 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, in which it was stated that the Working Group should perform the following functions:
 - (a) Consideration of all communications, including the replies of Governments thereon, if any, with a view to bringing to the attention of the Commission those communications, including the replies of Governments, that appeared to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women;
 - (b) Preparation of a report, based on its analysis of the confidential and non-confidential communications, that would indicate the categories in which communications were most frequently submitted to the Commission.
 6. The Working Group noted that a number of communications of a general nature had been submitted, as had communications alleging specific cases of discrimination against individual women and girls.

* The report was also circulated internally under document symbol E/CN.6/2020/R.2.

7. The Working Group discerned the following categories in which communications had most frequently been submitted to the Commission:

(a) Sexual violence against women and girls, including rape, *inter alia*, incest and trafficking in women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation and forced prostitution;

(b) Other forms of violence against women and girls, *inter alia*, domestic violence, targeted killings of women, death threats, abductions, trafficking in women and girls, including for the purpose of forced labour, and harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation and child and forced marriage;

(c) Abuse of power by law enforcement officials with impunity, including physical violence, sexual assault, torture, harassment and arbitrary detention, as well as lack of due process and delays in proceedings;

(d) Inadequate conditions for women in detention and penitentiary systems, including a lack of access to basic health care and a lack of proper sanitary and hygiene facilities, as well as forced abortion and infanticide, deliberate starvation, forced labour, degrading treatment and killings, and torture of and physical and sexual violence against those women;

(e) Systematic violations of the human rights of women, including discrimination, harassment, various forms of violence and impunity, some of which target women and girls in vulnerable and marginalized situations, including women belonging to ethnic and/or religious minorities, women and girls with disabilities, and migrant and refugee women and girls;

(f) Death threats, intimidation, including surveillance, torture, ill-treatment, harassment, including judicial harassment, expulsion, withdrawal of nationality, travel bans, expropriation of assets, arbitrary detention of and violence against women human rights defenders, some of which also target their family members, as a means of exerting pressure on them to stop their activities;

(g) Infringement of the right to health and insufficient access to health care, including sexual and reproductive health, and high rates of maternal mortality;

(h) Lack of access to education and vocational training, and illiteracy, including in situations of armed conflict;

(i) Inadequate implementation and/or enforcement of laws aimed at promoting and protecting women's human rights;

(j) Legislation, practices and/or attitudes that discriminate against women in the areas of:

(i) Civil and political rights, including the right to nationality, the right to be free from torture, freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of religion, freedom of movement, and equality before the courts;

(ii) Economic, social and cultural rights;

(iii) Family life and marriage;

(iv) Access to justice;

(v) Punishment for rape;

(vi) Failure by States to adequately: exercise due diligence to prevent violence and discrimination against women and girls; investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators in a timely manner, resulting in

impunity; provide protection and support for victims; ensure adequate access to justice; and ensure equal opportunities for women and girls.

8. During its consideration of all communications, including the replies of Governments thereon, and its consideration of the question of whether any of those appeared to reveal a consistent pattern of injustice and discriminatory practices against women, the Working Group expressed its concern about:

(a) Violence against women and girls, inter alia, rape and other forms of sexual violence, torture and targeted killings, trafficking in women and girls and harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation and child and forced marriage, and their adverse effects on the full enjoyment by women and girls of fundamental rights;

(b) Violations of the right of women to health, including sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights, as stipulated in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, as well as access to health care;

(c) The continued existence of legislation and/or practices in many areas that discriminated against women or had the effect of discriminating against women, ineffective or insufficient implementation of existing laws aimed at protecting and promoting the human rights of women and addressing persistent inequalities as well as the lack of such laws, notwithstanding States' international obligations and commitments;

(d) Discrimination and violence against women and girls in vulnerable and marginalized situations, including women belonging to ethnic and/or religious minorities, women and girls with disabilities, and refugee and migrant women and girls;

(e) Torture, violence, harassment, including judicial harassment, and arbitrary detention of women human rights defenders, some of which also target their family members;

(f) The persisting climate of impunity and abuse of power, including in many cases where violence against women, including sexual violence, is perpetrated or condoned by law enforcement personnel;

(g) The failure by States to adequately exercise due diligence in order to prevent all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls and to investigate and prosecute such crimes, punish perpetrators and provide protection and assistance to victims.

9. The Working Group expressed appreciation for the cooperation extended by the Governments that had submitted replies or clarifying observations with regard to the communications received, recognizing their importance. Expressing concern about the continuing gap between the number of communications and the number of replies received, the Working Group called upon all Governments that had not done so to make such submissions in the future. The Working Group expressed concern about the inadequate visibility of the communications mechanism of the Commission, which allows the existing patterns on the status of women to be reflected in a balanced way and, in that regard, encouraged continued efforts to raise awareness of the communications procedure of the Commission. The Working Group considered such cooperation essential for it to discharge its duties effectively. From the replies received, the Working Group was encouraged to note that Governments had explained their positions, carried out investigations into the allegations made and/or taken measures, such as improving the enforcement of existing legislation, introducing programmes and services to better protect and assist

women, including women who were victims of violence, prosecuting and punishing perpetrators of violence and making efforts to guarantee the full enjoyment of human rights by women, in accordance with international human rights law and relevant international standards.

Chapter V

Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

23. There was no documentation submitted under agenda item 5, and no action was necessary.

Chapter VI

Provisional agenda for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission

24. The Commission had before it under agenda item 6 the provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission ([E/CN.6/2020/L.3](#)).

Chapter VII

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-fourth session

25. The Commission had before it the draft report on its sixty-fourth session ([E/CN.6/2020/L.2](#)).

Chapter VIII

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

26. The Commission held two formal meetings (1st and 2nd) during its sixty-fourth session at United Nations Headquarters, on 22 March 2019 and on 9 March 2020, respectively (see chap. II, paras. 7–10).

B. Attendance

27. The formal meetings were attended by representatives of 45 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-Member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended.

C. Election of officers

28. The following officers were elected at the 1st and 2nd meetings of the sixty-fourth session, on 22 March 2019 and 9 March 2020, to serve on the Bureau of the Commission at its sixty-fourth session:

Chair:

Mher Margaryan (Armenia)

Vice-Chairs:

Jo Feldman (Australia)

Devita Abraham (Trinidad and Tobago)

Ahlem Sara Charikhi (Algeria)

Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur:

Zahraa Nassrullah (Iraq)

D. Agenda and organization of work

29. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 March 2020, the Commission adopted its agenda as contained in document [E/CN.6/2020/1](#). The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”:
 - (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution [2018/8](#)).

- (b) Emerging issues, trends, focus areas and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;
 - (c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.
4. Communications concerning the status of women.
 5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
 6. Provisional agenda for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission.
 7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-fourth session.
30. At the same meeting, the Commission approved its organization of work, as contained in document [E/CN.6/2020/1/Add.1/Rev.1](#).

E. Appointment of the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

31. Pursuant to Council resolution [1983/27](#), the Commission established a working group to consider communications concerning the status of women. In accordance with Council resolution [2015/6](#), the Commission appointed, at the 1st meeting of its sixty-fourth session, on 22 March 2019, the Russian Federation to serve as a member of the Working Group for the sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions, and Brazil to serve as a member of the Working Group at the sixty-fourth session of the Commission. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 March 2020, the Commission appointed Eritrea and Saudi Arabia as members of the Working Group for the sixty-fourth session, and Israel as a member of the Working Group for the sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions of the Commission.

F. Documentation

32. The list of documents before the Commission at its sixty-fourth session is available at www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw64-2020/official-documents.

Annex

Correspondence relating to the work of the Commission at its sixty-fourth session

- 2 March 2020 Letter from the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women addressed to all Permanent Representatives to the United Nations, New York, on the decision to convene the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on 9 March 2020 and to have the meeting be of a procedural nature
- 16 March 2020 Letter from the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council on the decision of the Bureau of the Commission to postpone the 3rd meeting of the sixty-fourth session of the Commission, as well as the 1st meeting of the sixth-fifth session
- 2 July 2020 Letter from the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women on the adoption under silence procedure of the four draft proposals and the draft report of the Commission on its sixty-fourth session
- 2 July 2020 Letter from the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women on the adoption under silence procedure of the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women
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