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Coordination, programme and other questions: mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

Australia: draft resolution

Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2002/23 of 24 July 2002, and its decision to establish the regular sub-item "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system" in order to, inter alia, monitor and evaluate achievements made and obstacles encountered by the United Nations system, and to consider further measures to strengthen the implementation and monitoring of gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system,

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Also recalling its agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,[1] and its subsequent decision to devote a coordination segment before 2005 to a review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of those agreed conclusions,

Affirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally-accepted strategy for promoting gender equality,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action[2] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[3]

Underlining the catalytic role played by the Commission on the Status of Women in promoting gender mainstreaming,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to and progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[4] especially on measures taken by the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies to mainstream a gender perspective into their work;

2. *Decides* to devote one of the two themes of its coordination segment in 2004 to a review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of its agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, and requests its Bureau to ensure that sufficient time is allocated in the programme of work to this theme;

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[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, para. 4.

[2] *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.

[3] General Assembly resolutions S-23/2 and 3.

[4] E/2003/69.

3. *Calls upon* Member States and all other actors of the United Nations system to continue to mainstream a gender perspective into all activities at all levels;

4. *Decides* to intensify its efforts to ensure that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of all activities in its work, and therefore to give appropriate attention to gender perspectives and the particular obstacles that women face in all its segments and agenda items, both during discussions and in outcomes;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to its subsidiary bodies for the progress made in giving attention to situations that are specific to women and to the mainstreaming of gender perspectives into their work, for example by:

(a) Reiterating that gender equality is a goal in itself as well as a means in the more effective pursuit of their specific mandates;

(b) Highlighting gender equality as a cross-cutting issue;

6. *Calls upon* its subsidiary bodies to further intensify their efforts to mainstream gender perspectives in their work, and encourages them to strengthen the practical guidance provided in resolutions, decisions, agreed conclusions and other outcomes so as to accelerate the consistent use of gender mainstreaming in all policies and programmes at all levels;

7. *Also calls upon* its subsidiary bodies to continue their efforts to address gender perspectives within their mandates, including by visibly incorporating gender aspects in their multi-year programmes of work or thematic discussions;

8. *Calls upon* the bureaux of its subsidiary bodies to consider how best to facilitate the inclusion of a gender perspective in their work;

9. *Emphasizes* the importance of its subsidiary bodies increasing their collaboration with the Commission on the Status of Women, including by making more systematic use of the output of the Commission, and encourages the Commission to continue its efforts to identify gender issues in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its other subsidiary bodies and assist them in pursuing these issues;

10. *Invites* its Bureau to include on the agenda of meetings with the bureaux of its subsidiary bodies an item on progress made and obstacles encountered in gender mainstreaming;

11. *Encourages* the President of the Council to include, on the agenda of meetings with the Chairpersons of its subsidiary bodies, an item on enhanced coordination on gender mainstreaming between the Council and its subsidiary bodies;

12. *Encourages* the collection, analysis and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data and other gender-specific information by the United Nations system and its subsidiary bodies;

13. *Also encourages* the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women to maintain their efforts to raise awareness of gender issues across the United Nations system;

14. *Notes with appreciation* the expanded efforts of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality to support gender mainstreaming in a growing number of sectors, especially its efforts to ensure that gender perspectives are addressed systematically by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, and in this regard encourages the Board in its efforts to mainstream gender perspectives throughout the United Nations system;

15. *Welcomes* the efforts by the regional commissions to promote gender mainstreaming and improve the situation of women, and encourages the regional commissions to intensify those efforts;

16. *Underlines* the importance of reports to intergovernmental bodies consistently giving attention to gender equality through systematic and rigorous analysis of the issues involved, including by using data disaggregated by sex, gender-specific studies and information, and gender analysis of budgets, where relevant, as well as by presenting issues and approaches in a gender-sensitive manner so as to give concrete and practical recommendations and serve as an analytical basis for those bodies to undertake gender responsive policy formulation in accordance with its agreed conclusions 1997/2;

17. *Encourages* United Nations bodies to promote inter-agency arrangements for increased coordination and partnership on gender issues across the United Nations system;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including on progress on gender mainstreaming, to the next substantive session of the Council.

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