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FOLLOW-UP TO ECOSOC AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS ON ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS OF THE UNITED NATIONS FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted for information to the Executive Board.

Pursuant to the decisions taken on the methods of work by the Executive Board at its First Regular Session of 1996, the documentation prepared by the Secretariat for the Board has been kept brief and decision-oriented. The meetings of the Executive Board are to be conducted in a business-like manner, with increased dialogue and exchanges between delegations and the Secretariat. Efforts to promote these guiding principles will continue to be pursued by the Secretariat.

The Secretariat therefore invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document, to contact the WFP staff member(s) listed below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting. This procedure is designed to facilitate the Board's consideration of the document in the plenary.

The WFP focal point for this document is:

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Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Documentation and Meetings Clerk (tel.: 066513-2641).



FOLLOW-UP TO ECOSOC AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS ON ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS OF THE UNITED NATIONS FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

1. Article VI of the World Food Programme General Regulations, adopted by the FAO Conference (Resolution 11/97 of 17 November 1997) and by the General Assembly (Decision 52/449 of 18 December 1997), specifies the powers and functions of the Executive Board.
2. Paragraph 1 of this Article states “The Board shall, within the framework of these General Regulations, be responsible for providing intergovernmental support and specific policy direction to and supervision of the activities of WFP in accordance with the overall policy guidance of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the FAO Conference, the Economic and Social Council and the Council of FAO, and for ensuring that WFP is responsive to the needs and priorities of recipient countries. The Board will be subject to the general authority of the Economic and Social Council and the Council of FAO.”
3. Paragraph 3 indicates the Board’s reporting obligations: “The Board shall provide a concise report annually on WFP’s programmes, projects and activities including major decisions of the Board to the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council and the Council of FAO.”
4. Within the framework of the United Nations Reform, the Economic and Social Council, during its substantive session of 1998, acknowledged the need for enhanced interaction between the Council and the Executive Boards of the United Nations Funds and Programmes. It debated ways in which to improve the Council’s ability to fulfil its role in providing overall coordination and guidance for operational development funds and programmes on a system-wide basis.
5. In regard to the annual reporting mandates for the operational activities segment of the Council’s substantive session, the Economic and Social Council recalled General Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993, 50/120 of 20 December 1995, 50/227 of 24 May 1996 and 52/203 of 18 December 1997, and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1994/33 of 28 July 1994 and 1995/51 of 28 July 1995 and adopted resolution 1998/27 of 28 July 1998 - “**Reporting of the United Nations funds and programmes to the Economic and Social Council**”. In this resolution, the Council emphasized the need for more analytical and issue-oriented reporting, focusing on matters arising from the implementation of the reform programmes of the Secretary-General.
6. While examining the issue of **integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits**, the Council adopted the resolution 1998/44 of 31 July 1998, in which it gave specific guidance to the Executive Boards of funds and programmes on issues such as inter-agency coordination, country-level follow-up and evaluation of the integrated implementation of conference follow-up.
7. In its resolution 1998/26 of 28 July 1998 - “**Advancement of women: implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the role of operational activities in promoting, in particular, capacity-building and resource mobilization for enhancing the participation of women in developments**”—the Council called for specific actions to be taken by the Boards in exercising their guidance and supervisory functions.



8. At its Fifty-second Session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 52/100 of 12 December 1997 on the **Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**. In paragraph 12 of this resolution, the General Assembly invited the governing bodies of the United Nations funds and programmes to monitor the way in which gender mainstreaming in medium-term plans and programme budgets are being implemented by the agencies. concerned
9. To assist the Board in its work, the Secretariat has prepared the attached chart listing the relevant ECOSOC and General Assembly resolutions and reproducing the paragraphs which call for consideration and follow-up action by the Executive Boards of funds and programmes. Copies of the full text of resolutions E/98/27, E/98/44, E/98/26 and GA/52/100 are also attached.
10. The Bureau of the Executive Board and the Secretariat will review ways and means for the Board to better respond to the requests contained in those resolutions and will make recommendations to the Executive Board as to the course of action to be followed.



**ECOSOC AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS WHICH CALL FOR REPORTS AND/OR FOLLOW-UP ACTION
BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS OF FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES**

I - ECOSOC

Number & date of adoption	Report requested	Timing/ Frequency	Title - Paragraphs
RES. 1994/33 28 July 1994	yes	annually to ECOSOC	<p>Operational activities segment of ECOSOC</p> <p><u>Para. 4:</u> Requests the Executive Boards of the United Nations development funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and the coordinating bodies of the Secretariat to contribute to the triennial policy review of operational activities, in accordance with the provisions of Assembly resolution 48/162; (see section II of this chart)</p> <p><u>Para. 7:</u> Requests the funds and programmes, through their Executive Boards, to include in their annual reports to the Council:</p> <p>a) a section outlining measures taken in the implementation of the provisions of the triennial policy review of operational activities;</p> <p>b) a section on the activities and measures undertaken within designated theme for the high-level meeting of the operational activities segment;</p> <p>For 1999, the theme chosen for the high-level meeting of the operational activities segment is: "The role of employment and work in poverty eradication: the empowerment and advancement of women".</p>
RES. 1995/51 28 July 1995			<p>Overall guidance on operational activities for development to the United Nations funds and programmes</p> <p><u>Para. 5:</u> Requests the Executive Boards of the United Nations development funds and programmes, in establishing their priorities, to take fully into account the relevant conclusions and recommendations of United Nations conferences in the economic, social and related fields, in accordance with their respective mandates, also bearing in mind national plans and priorities and relevant General Assembly resolutions;</p> <p><u>Para. 6:</u> Requests the United Nations funds and programmes to improve coherence in their country programmes, <i>inter alia</i>, by considering the possibility of joint or consecutive meetings of the Executive Boards, where practicable, on country programmes, and by improving the link between their country programmes and the country strategy notes, where in place, bearing in mind the need for cooperation between external donors and the United Nations funds and programmes in this field.</p>

I - ECOSOC

Number & date of adoption	Report requested	Timing/ Frequency	Title - Paragraphs
RES. 1998/27	yes	annually to ECOSOC	<p>Report of the United Nations funds and programmes to the Economic and Social Council</p> <p><u>Para. 1:</u> Calls on the Executive Boards of the United Nations funds and programmes to ensure that the heads of these funds and programmes include in their annual reports to the Economic and Social Council, prepared in accordance with Council Resolution 1994/33, a thorough analysis of problems encountered and lessons learned, with emphasis on issues arising from the implementation of the Secretary-General's reform, the triennial policy review and the follow-up to conferences, so as to allow the Council to fulfil its coordinating role;</p> <p><u>Para. 2:</u> Calls on the Executive Boards, when considering the annual reports of the heads of the United Nations funds and programmes to the Council, to identify specific problems, opportunities and areas in which the Council could provide cross-sectoral coordination and overall guidance on a system-wide basis and to make appropriate proposals in line with Council resolution 1995/51;</p> <p><u>Para 4:</u> Invites the Secretary-General to arrange for submission by the executive heads of the funds and programmes, in consultation with the United Nations Development Group, to the substantive session of the Council each year, a concise consolidated list of issues which are central to the improved coordination of operational activities, and on which the funds and programmes seek consideration by and guidance from the Council, particularly in regard to the triennial policy review and to include in the list recommendations whenever possible;</p> <p><u>Para 6:</u> Notes that consecutive and/or joint meetings of the Executive Boards of the United Nations funds and programmes, bearing in mind their respective mandates, could provide a useful forum for board-level discussion of the issues arising from the reporting requirements mentioned in paragraph (...) 4. (see full text of the resolution)</p>
RES. 1998/44 31 July 98		ongoing	<p>Integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits</p> <p>Coordination and management role of the Economic and Social Council:</p> <p><u>Para. 7:</u> Invites its Bureau and Secretariat to convey the outcome of its deliberations to the Executive Boards of the funds and programmes, and requests the Executive Boards to take into account the Council's guidance on the coordinated implementation of conferences, in accordance with their respective mandates and priorities;</p>

I - E C O S O C

Number & date of adoption	Report requested	Timing/ Frequency	Title - Paragraphs
			<p>Inter-agency coordination</p> <p><u>Para. 8:</u> (...) encourages regular interaction between the inter-agency committees of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and enhanced interaction between the relevant executive committees and the standing bodies of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, further welcomes and encourages the interaction between the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, on the follow-up to conferences, and requests that collaboration among organizations of the system on conference follow-up also include the use of networks of United Nations system organizations that make use of task managers and information technology and liaise with the Administrative Committee on Coordination;</p> <p>Country-level follow-up</p> <p><u>Para. 14:</u> Encourages the resident coordinator system, within existing mechanisms and in close collaboration with Governments, to continue to foster a broad dialogue with and to support the involvement of all relevant actors in the follow-up to conferences; and encourages the establishment of thematic groups on cross-cutting conference themes, as well as the full utilization of collaborative programming frameworks, including the country strategy note, where they exist and the ongoing pilot phase of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, as appropriate, to support, at the request of Governments, the development of national strategies and action plans for integrated conference follow-up; and also encourages greater interaction between the country representatives of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, including the Bretton Woods institutions;</p>
	yes by S-G	to ECOSOC 1999	<p>Evaluation of the integrated implementation of conference follow-up</p> <p><u>Para. 16:</u> Reaffirms the importance of the monitoring and evaluation, by the relevant intergovernmental bodies, of the performance of relevant parts of the United Nations system, in accordance with the priorities set by Member States, with respect to assisting countries to meet the commitments, objectives and goals emanating from conferences, and calls upon the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to carry out evaluations of the impact of their activities in support of the coordinated implementation of conferences, taking into account their existing practices;</p> <p><u>Para. 18:</u> Invites the Secretary-General to prepare a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution for consideration by the Council in 1999.</p>

I - E C O S O C

Number & date of adoption	Report requested	Timing/ Frequency	Title - Paragraphs
RES. 1998/26	yes	regularly	<p>Advancement of women: implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the role of operational activities in promoting, in particular, capacity-building and resource mobilization for enhancing the participation of women in development</p> <p><u>Para. 13:</u> Requests the governing bodies of the United Nations funds and programmes to monitor the implementation of gender mainstreaming in their programme of work, including in the budgeting of their respective organizations;</p> <p><u>Para. 14:</u> Requests the respective governing bodies to ensure the development of integrated monitoring and evaluation of gender mainstreaming activities to facilitate an early identification of problems and to develop effective responses thereto, and requests the United Nations funds and programmes to evaluate the impact of their gender mainstreaming activities, in cooperation with the national Governments concerned, and to report thereon;</p> <p><u>Para. 15:</u> Requests the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, within their mandates and the priorities set by their respective governing bodies, to establish internal funding targets for gender mainstreaming wherever they do not exist, and requests that, where they do exist, more determined efforts be made to reach their own targets and to report regularly to their respective governing bodies thereon;</p> <p><u>Para. 20:</u> Welcomes the work undertaken by the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality in implementing General Assembly resolution 52/100, and, in this regard, requests the funds and programmes to submit proposals for the implementation of paragraphs 12 and 40 of Assembly resolution 52/100 to their respective governing bodies (see section II of this chart).</p>

II - GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Number & date of adoption	Report requested	Timing	Title - Paragraphs
RES. 48/162 20 Dec. 1993	yes	annually to ECOSOC	<p>Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields</p> <p><u>Section III. 3 of the Annex</u></p> <p><u>Para. 29:</u> In order to ensure an effective and efficient interaction between the Assembly, the Council and the individual Executive Boards, each Board is to submit an annual report on its programmes and activities to the Council at its substantive session. This report will include a section which follows a common structure on the basis of specific areas designated by the Council or the Assembly.</p>
RES. 50/120 20 Dec. 1995	yes	annually to ECOSOC	<p>Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the UN system.</p> <p><u>Para. 46:</u> Urges the members of the UN development system to adopt a more collaborative approach in preparing reports at all levels;</p> <p><u>Para. 55:</u> Reaffirms that the governing bodies of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the UN system should take appropriate action for the full implementation of the present resolution, and requests the executive heads of those funds, programmes and specialized agencies, bearing in mind para. 46 of the present resolution, to submit a yearly progress report to their governing bodies on measures taken and envisaged for the implementation of the present resolution, as well as appropriate recommendations;</p> <p><u>Para 57:</u> Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-third session, through the Council, a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of the present resolution in the context of the triennial policy review, and to make appropriate recommendations.</p>

II - GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Number & date of adoption	Report requested	Timing	Title - Paragraphs
RES. 50/227 24 May 1996	yes	annually ECOSOC	<p>Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields</p> <p><u>Para. 12:</u> The governing bodies of each fund and programme coordinated by the Economic and Social Council (United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Population Fund and World Food Programme) shall adopt, in the context of their programme arrangements and financial plans, a specific and realistic target for core resources, based on the needs arising from their agreed programmes and priorities, as well as the specific mandates of each programme and fund. On this basis, and in accordance with relevant decisions taken by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, the governing bodies of each programme fund and shall take decisions on their own funding arrangements. The importance of non-core resources as a mechanism to enhance the capacity of the United Nations development system and to supplement the means available for operational activities for development is also recognized.</p> <p><u>Para. 62:</u> Governing boards should highlight in their respective reports to ECOSOC the issues requiring examination and identify action to be taken;</p> <p><u>Para. 76:</u> The Executive Boards should, on a continuous basis, consider adjustments to their agendas, reporting procedures and format, as well as reviewing the number and scheduling of meetings and sessions, with a view to continuing the rationalization of the working methods of the Boards;</p> <p><u>Para. 77:</u> Governing bodies should describe in their reports how the overall policy guidance and coordination provided by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council have been implemented, as well as their specific recommendations for further action;</p> <p><u>Para. 78:</u> The effective participation of observer Member States and observer States in the sessions of the Executive Boards should be facilitated. Executive Boards should review their arrangements and working methods and, where applicable, their rules of procedure.</p>
RES. 52/100 12 December 1997			<p>Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action</p> <p><u>Para.12:</u> Invites other intergovernmental bodies, such as the governing bodies of the United Nations funds and programmes, to monitor the way in which the concerned agencies, funds and programmes implement gender mainstreaming in their respective medium-term plans and programme budgets, including at the field level.</p>

II - GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Number & date of adoption	Report requested	Timing	Title - Paragraphs
			<p><u>Para. 40:</u> Welcomes the progress made by the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality in strengthening system-wide coordination for implementation of the Platform for Action and gender mainstreaming and encourages the Committee to continue its cooperation with Administrative Committee on Coordination bodies to develop strategies, tools and methodologies, such as gender-sensitive budgeting, to enhance implementation of the Platform for Action and for gender mainstreaming, particularly at the field level.</p>
RES. 52/203 18 December 1997	yes	annually to ECOSOC	Operational activities for development of the United Nations
			<p><u>Para. 6:</u> Calls upon the governing bodies of UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and WFP to adopt a specific and achievable target for core resources for the period 1999-2001, taking into account the relationship between their programme arrangements and financial plans.</p> <p><u>Para. 7:</u> Urges the Executive Boards to complete the review on their funding schemes as soon as possible, and to report thereon to the ECOSOC at its substantive session of 1998;</p> <p><u>Para.10:</u> Requests the funds and programmes in their regular reporting on the triennial policy review to the General Assembly through ECOSOC, to include in their reports, to the extent possible and in a clearly identifiable way, actions taken to implement adopted reform measures of the Secretary-General, including an analysis of the implications of those reforms for operational activities as well as for inter-agency coordination;</p>
		ECOSOC July 98 UNGA 53 1998	<p><u>Para. 12:</u> Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, through ECOSOC, a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of its resolution 50/120, as well as subsequent relevant decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly and ECOSOC, in the context of the triennial policy review, and to make appropriate recommendations.</p>

E/1998/27

Reporting of the United Nations funds and programmes to the Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993, 50/120 of 20 December 1995, 50/227 of 24 May 1996 and 52/203 of 18 December 1997 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1994/33 of 28 July 1994 and 1995/51 of 28 July 1995 as regards annual reporting mandates for the operational activities segment of the Council's substantive session,

Seeking to enhance the ability of the Council to fulfil its role in providing overall coordination and guidance for operational development programmes and funds on a system-wide basis,

Acknowledging the need for enhanced interaction between the Council and the Executive Boards of the United Nations funds and programmes,

Welcoming the submission by the executive heads of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund to the Council, on the invitation of their Executive Board, of a consolidated list of issues central to the improved coordination of operational activities,

Welcoming also the oral reports of the executive heads of the United Nations funds and programmes during the operational activities segment of the Council on, inter alia, the resident coordinator system, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the United Nations Development Group,

1. Requests the Executive Boards of the United Nations funds and programmes to ensure that the heads of these funds and programmes include in their annual reports to the Economic and Social Council, prepared in accordance with Council resolution 1994/33, a thorough analysis of problems encountered and lessons learned, with emphasis on issues arising from the implementation of the reform programmes of the Secretary-General, the triennial policy review and the follow-up to conferences so as to allow the Council to fulfil its coordinating role;
2. Also requests the Executive Boards, when considering the annual reports of the executive heads of the United Nations funds and programmes to the Council, to identify specific problems, opportunities and areas in which the Council could provide cross-sectoral coordination and overall guidance on a system-wide basis and to make appropriate proposals in line with Council resolution 1995/51;
3. Requests the Secretary-General, when drawing up his annual report for the operational activities segment requested in Council resolution 1994/33, to take account of the annual reports of the executive heads of the United Nations funds and programmes, as well as of the comments of the respective Executive Boards on the annual reports, and to focus the report on the themes to be agreed upon by the General Assembly in the next triennial policy review for future discussion by the Council's working-level meetings of the operational activities segment;



4. Invites the Secretary-General to arrange for the submission by the executive heads of the United Nations funds and programmes, in consultation with the United Nations Development Group, to the Council at its annual substantive session, of a concise consolidated list of issues that are central to the improved coordination of operational activities and on which the funds and programmes seek consideration by and guidance from the Council, particularly in regard to the triennial policy review, and to include in the list recommendations whenever possible;
5. Also invites the Secretary-General to arrange for the United Nations Development Group to explore ways and means to enhance the consultation with the specialized agencies and the Secretariat in drawing up the consolidated list, as outlined in paragraph 4 above;
6. Notes that consecutive and/or joint meetings of the Executive Boards of the United Nations funds and programmes, bearing in mind their respective mandates, could provide a useful forum for board-level discussion of the issues arising from the reporting requirements mentioned in paragraphs 3 and 4.

44th plenary meeting
28 July 1998



E/1998/44

Integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its productive dialogue with a broad range of representatives of the United Nations system and with non-governmental organizations at its session on the integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits, held from 13 to 15 May 1998, and taking note with appreciation of the summary of that session by the President of the Economic and Social Council¹⁵⁷ and of the report of the Secretary-General¹⁵⁸ as well as the guidance provided by Member States,

Reiterating the need for integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits, while recognizing the specific identity and integrity of each conference,

Recalling its agreed conclusions 1995/1 on coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system and implementation of the results of the major international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,¹⁵⁹

Noting that the work concerning the follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 50/227 of 24 May 1996 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and 52/12 B of 19 December 1997 entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform", as well as on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities, on mainstreaming the gender perspective and in many other areas, addresses key issues related to integrated conference follow-up and is complementary to the present resolution,

Reaffirming the importance of the progress made towards meeting the commitments, objectives and goals emanating from conferences,

Recognizing that, while each country has the primary responsibility for the implementation of the integrated and coordinated follow-up to major United Nations conferences, the United Nations system is an important instrument in helping countries to meet this challenge,

1. Reiterates that poverty eradication and improving the living conditions of people everywhere are key development objectives of the Council's efforts to ensure integrated and coordinated follow-up to conferences;
2. Reaffirms the urgent need for the timely and full implementation of all commitments, agreements and targets agreed upon at the major United Nations

conferences and summits, including by the United Nations system and international financial institutions, and, in this context, notes the efforts to achieve those targets as well as the target of reducing by one half, by 2015, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty;

3. Reiterates the importance of mobilizing new and additional resources from all sources for implementing conference outcomes and, in this regard, reaffirms the commitments undertaken to fulfil as soon as possible the agreed United Nations targets for official development assistance, and stresses the need for further progress in implementing the 20/20 initiative for interested countries;

4. Stresses the important role of civil society in support of the implementation of conference goals, calls upon Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to support the participation of non-governmental organizations, particularly those from developing countries, in the conference follow-up processes of the United Nations, stresses also that efforts should be made to facilitate the balanced participation of non-governmental organizations from developed and developing countries, and invites the Non-governmental Liaison Service to play an active role in involving non-governmental organizations, particularly those from developing countries, in United Nations conference follow-up activities, as appropriate, and in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996;

II

"Coordination and management role of the Economic and Social Council Functional commissions

5. Notes the results obtained from the review of the functional commissions and, in that context, agrees that the Council, on the basis of an integrated report by the Secretary-General, will consider annually the relevant outcomes of the functional commissions on conference follow-up, for transmission, as appropriate, to the funds, programmes and specialized agencies;

Regional commissions

6. Notes the results obtained from the review of the regional commissions and, in that context, invites the regional commissions to pursue conference follow-up on a systematic basis, within their respective mandates and priorities by, inter alia, enhancing their interaction with other parts of the United Nations system, in particular the functional commissions;

Executive boards of the funds and programmes

7. Invites its Bureau and secretariat to convey the outcome of its deliberations to the

executive boards of the funds and programmes, and requests the executive boards to take into account the Council's guidance on the coordinated implementation of conferences, in accordance with their respective mandates and priorities;

III

"Inter-agency coordination

8. Welcomes the role played by the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and the contribution of its ad hoc task forces and its standing machinery, in promoting United Nations system-wide coordination and coordinated and integrated inter-agency follow-up to conferences at all levels, also welcomes the efforts of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to ensure a clear sharing of tasks and interaction within its standing machinery on the follow-up to conferences, encourages regular interaction between the inter-agency committees of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and enhanced interaction between the relevant executive committees and the standing bodies of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, further welcomes and encourages the interaction between the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, on the follow-up to conferences, and requests that collaboration among organizations of the system on conference follow-up also include the use of networks of United Nations system organizations that make use of task managers and information technology and liaise with the Administrative Committee on Coordination;

9. Also welcomes the briefings on the work of the Administrative Committee on Coordination given in 1998, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure more intensive and improved interaction between the Administrative Committee on Coordination and the Council and its functional and regional commissions, inter alia, by providing briefings after each meeting of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on a regular and timely basis;

10. Urges the Administrative Committee on Coordination to disseminate widely throughout the United Nations system, including through greater use of the Internet, the results of its deliberations, including the work of the task forces, and to make the outputs of the task forces available to intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system for their consideration when integrating conference goals into their work programmes, and invites the organizations of the United Nations system, bearing in mind the guidance of member States, to fully use and implement the outputs of these task forces;

11. Stresses the role of the specialized agencies in the implementation and follow-up to conference outcomes, calls for further interaction between the Council and the specialized agencies, and encourages more active and high-level participation, particularly at the level of executive heads, by the specialized agencies in its sessions, especially in the consideration of conference follow-up;

IV

Country-level follow-up

12. Reaffirms that national Governments have the primary responsibility for the implementation and evaluation of conference follow-up, calls on all countries to continue to assess the progress made in implementing conference outcomes in those countries, and encourages the dissemination of best practices;

13. Welcomes the progress achieved in the coordination of conference follow-up at the country level and urges further intensified efforts to this end, reaffirms that the resident coordinators, within their mandates, have an important role to play in assisting Governments and enhancing United Nations system-wide coordination, and in this regard calls on the resident coordinators to facilitate through their annual reports an evaluation of the coordination of the United Nations system activities relating to conference implementation and to disseminate best practices, and invites the United Nations Development Group to fully exercise its important role in ensuring coordinated United Nations follow-up to conferences;

14. Encourages the resident coordinator system, within existing mechanisms and in close collaboration with Governments, to continue to foster a broad dialogue with and to support the involvement of all relevant actors in the follow-up to conferences; and encourages the establishment of thematic groups on cross-cutting conference themes, as well as the full utilization of collaborative programming frameworks, including the country strategy note, where they exist and the ongoing pilot phase of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, as appropriate, to support, at the request of Governments, the development of national strategies and action plans for integrated conference follow-up; and also encourages greater interaction between the country representatives of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, including the Bretton Woods institutions;

15. Recognizes the importance of integrated and coordinated implementation of conference outcomes, including commitments made under those conferences, in countries not covered by the resident coordinator system, and calls on those countries to continue to assess the progress they have made in implementing conference outcomes and encourages the dissemination of best practices in this regard, including through their existing national voluntary reporting mechanisms;

V

Evaluation of the integrated implementation of conference follow-up

16. Reaffirms the importance of the monitoring and evaluation, by the relevant intergovernmental bodies, of the performance of relevant parts of the United Nations system, in accordance with the priorities set by Member States, with respect to assisting countries to meet the commitments, objectives and goals emanating from conferences, and calls upon the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to carry out evaluations of the impact of their activities in support of the coordinated implementation of conferences, taking into account their existing practices;

17. Agrees to consider conducting in the year 2000, as a possible contribution to the Millennium Assembly, without prejudice to the discussion of this issue by the General Assembly, a review by the Council of progress made within the United Nations system in the promotion of integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Council at its substantive session of 1999 on possible modalities of such a review;

18. Invites the Secretary-General to prepare a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution for consideration by the Council in 1999.

47th plenary meeting
31 July 1998

157 E/1998/90.

158 E/1998/19.

159 Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/50/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 22.

E/1998/26

Advancement of women: implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the role of operational activities in promoting, in particular, capacity-building and resource mobilization for enhancing the participation of women in development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,¹¹⁹ and General Assembly resolutions 50/120 of 20 December 1995, 52/100 of 12 December 1997 and 52/195 and 52/203 of 18 December 1997,

Recalling also that Governments have the primary responsibility for implementing the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,¹²⁰

Reaffirming the importance of operational activities for development in assisting the developing countries to implement the commitments of the Beijing Platform for Action,

Reaffirming also that operational activities for development within the United Nations system have a critical and unique role to play in enabling developing countries to take the lead in the management of their own development process and that the funds and programmes constitute important vehicles for advancing international development cooperation,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Advancement of women: implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the role of operational activities in promoting, in particular, capacity-building and resource mobilization for enhancing the participation of women in development”,¹²¹

Noting that coordinated and integrated follow-up to United Nations conferences has become a priority of the United Nations system and that all activities related to global conference follow-up should fully integrate a gender perspective,
Emphasizing the importance of data disaggregated on the basis of sex and age for the evaluation of gender mainstreaming,

Expressing serious concern at the persistent insufficiency of resources for operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in particular the decline in contributions to core resources,

Stressing that national plans and priorities constitute the only viable frame of reference for national programming of operational activities for development within the United Nations system and that programmes should be based on such development plans and priorities and thus should be country-driven,

Stressing also in that context the need to take into account the outcomes and commitments of relevant United Nations conferences, as well as the individual mandates and complementarities of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations development system, bearing in mind the need to avoid duplication,

1. Welcomes the activities within the United Nations system that are aimed at implementing the Beijing Declaration¹²² and Platform for Action, in particular for mainstreaming gender issues, and recognizing the need to further integrate a gender perspective, in particular into operational activities for development;

2. Also welcomes the opportunities that are presented by the reform process in the United Nations to better coordinate and mainstream gender issues as part of a strategic framework and reaffirms that an active and visible policy of gender mainstreaming should be integrated into the ongoing pilot phase and review of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

3. Calls upon the United Nations system to fully incorporate a gender perspective into the coordinated and integrated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, and to continue to strengthen its capacity to support and implement world conference commitments, in particular the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

4. Calls upon the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, within their poverty eradication activities, to target women and girls living in poverty and to ensure the availability of funding sources for such activities;

5. Calls upon Governments to implement specific programmes for the eradication of poverty and illiteracy, ensuring women's equal rights and access to basic social services, such as education and health, as well as productive resources, training, employment, credit, microfinance and the promotion of entrepreneurial activities in order to promote the advancement and empowerment of women in all countries, and invites the international community to support national efforts in developing countries in this regard; and also invites non-governmental organizations, in this regard, to integrate a gender perspective into their programmes;

6. Recognizes the need of the United Nations system to adopt a coordinated and coherent policy for gender mainstreaming, including the establishment and strengthening of the role of gender units and focal points, including guidelines and directives for mainstreaming a gender perspective in policies and programmes for achieving gender equality;

7. Reiterates that location, seniority level, resources and participation of gender units, gender advisers and focal points in all policy-making and programming processes are crucial for translating the gender mainstreaming mandate into practical reality;

8. Reaffirms that responsibility for translating gender mainstreaming into practice rests at the highest levels;
9. Urges all funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system to increase their efforts to fully incorporate a gender analysis and perspective into their operational activities, with a view to achieving time-bound measurable goals, and emphasizes that this process should be guided by the need for the United Nations system to extend assistance to developing countries in meeting their commitments under the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;
10. Requests the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system to assist Governments in integrating data disaggregated by sex and age in their country programmes;
11. Emphasizes the role of the resident coordinators, within their mandate, to fully incorporate a gender perspective in the implementation of operational activities for development, in consultation with the host Government, and the need to provide regular gender training for resident coordinators and their staff;
12. Recognizes the need for accountability in the operational activities of the United Nations system in the implementation of gender mainstreaming activities, including in the report on the triennial policy review and through the preparation of comprehensive reports on the use of resources allocated for gender mainstreaming, in accordance with the relevant decisions of the respective governing bodies;
13. Requests the governing bodies of the United Nations funds and programmes to monitor the implementation of gender mainstreaming in their programme of work, including in the budgeting of their respective organizations;
14. Requests the respective governing bodies to ensure the development of integrated monitoring and evaluation of gender mainstreaming activities to facilitate an early identification of problems and to develop effective responses thereto, and requests the United Nations funds and programmes to evaluate the impact of their gender mainstreaming activities, in cooperation with the national Governments concerned, and to report thereon;
15. Requests the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, within their mandates and the priorities set by their respective governing bodies, to establish internal funding targets for gender mainstreaming wherever they do not exist, and requests that, where they do exist, more determined efforts be made to reach their own targets and to report regularly to their respective governing bodies thereon;
16. Encourages the United Nations development funds and programmes, in mobilizing resources from all available sources, to provide particular attention for allocating resources to gender mainstreaming activities and capacity-building;

17. Welcomes the work that the United Nations Development Fund for Women has undertaken to support inter-agency cooperation in gender mainstreaming, as well as its efforts to assist the advancement and empowerment of women at the country level, inter alia, through placing gender advisers and gender specialists, and recommends that States and agencies of the United Nations system consider increasing their contribution to and support for the work of the Fund;

18. Reaffirms that in order to implement the Platform for Action a reformulation of policies and reallocation of resources may be needed, but that some policy changes may not necessarily have financial implications;

19. Also reaffirms that in order to implement the Platform for Action adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources to the developing countries, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries, from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources for the advancement of women, will also be required;

20. Welcomes the work undertaken by the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality in implementing General Assembly resolution 52/100, and, in this regard, requests the funds and programmes to submit proposals for the implementation of paragraphs 12 and 40 of Assembly resolution 52/100 to their respective governing bodies;

21. Requests all funds, programmes and relevant agencies of the United Nations system to assist Governments, upon their request, in their national efforts to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,¹²³ including on the reporting system;

22. Requests the Secretary-General, in reporting to the preparatory committee for the high-level review in the year 2000 of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women¹²⁴ and the Beijing Platform for Action, to be held as a special session of the General Assembly to include information on the progress in gender mainstreaming in operational activities and on the implementation of the present resolution.

44th plenary meeting
28 July 1998

- 119 See A/52/3, chap. IV, sect. A, para. 4.
- 120 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.
- 121 E/1998/54 and Corr.1.
- 122 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 I.
- 123 General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.
- 124 Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15–26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.



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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/52/638)*]

52/100. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/42 of 8 December 1995, 50/203 of 22 December 1995 and 51/69 of 12 December 1996,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1996/6 of 22 July 1996 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and 1996/34 of 25 July 1996 on the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001, as well as the Council's agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,¹

Reaffirming that the implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women² will require immediate and concerted action by all to create a peaceful, just and humane world based on all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the principle of equality for all people of all ages and from all walks of life, and, to that end, recognizing that broad-based and sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development is necessary to sustain social development and social justice,

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration³ and the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women are important contributions to the advancement of women worldwide and must be

¹ See A/52/3, chap. IV, sect. A. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3*.

² *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), resolution 1, annex II.

³ *Ibid.*, annex I.

translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned, as well as by non-governmental organizations,

Recognizing that the implementation of the Platform for Action rests primarily at the national level, that Governments, non-governmental organizations and public and private institutions should be involved in the implementation process and that national mechanisms also have an important role to play, and bearing in mind the fact that promotion of international cooperation is essential for the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action,

Reaffirming its decision 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 its resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and other relevant resolutions, constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that plays the primary role in the overall policy-making and follow-up and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Platform for Action, and reaffirming the need for a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields,

Reaffirming that the Commission on the Status of Women has a central role as a functional commission assisting the Economic and Social Council in the monitoring, within the United Nations system, of the implementation of the Platform for Action and in advising the Council thereon and should therefore be strengthened,

Reaffirming also that the Economic and Social Council should continue to oversee system-wide coordination on the basis of an integrated approach in the implementation of the Platform for Action, including the mainstreaming of a gender perspective, and should ensure overall coordination of the follow-up to and implementation of the results of all United Nations international conferences in the economic, social and related fields and report thereon to the General Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women;⁴
2. *Welcomes* the initiatives and actions taken by Governments, the United Nations system and other international organizations, including their secretariats, as well as by non-governmental organizations and other actors of civil society, towards the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action adopted by the Conference;
3. *Stresses* that Governments have the primary responsibility for implementing the Platform for Action, and reaffirms that Governments should continue to commit themselves at the highest political level to its implementation and should take a leading role in coordinating, monitoring and assessing progress in the advancement of women;
4. *Calls once again upon* States, the United Nations system and all other actors to implement the Platform for Action, in particular by promoting an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective at all levels, including in the design, monitoring and evaluation of all policies and programmes to ensure effective implementation of all critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action;
5. *Calls for* intensified efforts at the international level to integrate the equal status and all human rights of women into the mainstream of United Nations system-wide activity and to address those issues regularly and systematically throughout the relevant United Nations bodies and mechanisms;

⁴ A/52/281.

6. *Draws attention* to the need to give due consideration to the human rights of women and the girl child in the preparations for the five-year review of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993,⁵ and the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;⁶

7. *Welcomes* the adoption, by the Economic and Social Council, of agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,¹ to serve as a comprehensive basis for concrete steps to achieve measurable progress in gender mainstreaming at all levels and in all areas, and endorses the definition, set of principles and specific recommendations for gender mainstreaming contained therein;

8. *Welcomes also* the steps already taken by the Secretary-General to draw the attention of all senior managers in the United Nations system to agreed conclusions 1997/2 of the Economic and Social Council and to the need to ensure full accountability for their implementation, urges the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure that managers are held accountable for gender mainstreaming in their areas of responsibility, and requests the Secretary-General and his senior managers to ensure, *inter alia*, in the work of the executive committees, that gender mainstreaming is systematically integrated in the reform process of the United Nations;

9. *Reiterates* that gender mainstreaming as a strategy for achieving gender equality must become an integral part of all policies and programmes in the United Nations system and of national activities to follow-up and implement the Platform for Action and the outcomes of other recent United Nations conferences;

10. *Directs* all of its committees and bodies, and draws the attention of other bodies of the United Nations system to the need to mainstream a gender perspective systematically into all areas of their work, in particular in such areas as macroeconomic questions, operational activities for development, poverty eradication, human rights, humanitarian assistance, budgeting, disarmament, peace and security and legal and political matters;

11. *Requests* all bodies that deal with programme and budgetary matters, including the Committee for Programme and Coordination, to ensure that all programmes, medium-term plans and programme budgets visibly mainstream a gender perspective;

12. *Invites* other intergovernmental bodies, such as the governing bodies of the United Nations funds and programmes, to monitor the way in which the concerned agencies, funds and programmes implement gender mainstreaming in their respective medium-term plans and programme budgets, including at the field level;

13. *Reiterates* the Council's request to the Secretariat to present issues and approaches in a gender-sensitive manner when preparing reports, so as to provide the intergovernmental machinery with an analytical basis for gender-responsive policy formulation;

14. *Emphasizes* that the role of gender focal points as catalysts for gender mainstreaming and in providing advice, guidance and assistance in monitoring of progress needs to be strengthened, including through adequate resources and through support at the most senior levels of management and decision-making;

⁵ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

⁶ Resolution 217 A (III).

15. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to ensure that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of all its activities concerning integrated follow-up to recent United Nations conferences, building upon its agreed conclusions 1997/2;

16. *Urges* Governments that have not yet done so to establish or strengthen appropriate national machineries for the advancement of women at the highest political level, appropriate intra- and inter-ministerial procedures and staffing and other institutions with the mandate and capacity to broaden women's participation and integrate gender analysis into policies and programmes;

17. *Notes with appreciation* that many Governments have developed national strategies and action plans, some of them in consultation with non-governmental organizations, and urges those Governments that have not yet done so to prepare national action plans as strategic planning instruments, and to do so in consultation with non-governmental organizations, in full implementation of the Platform for Action, and to participate in the discussion by the Commission on the Status of Women in 1998 of a synthesis of national action plans as a first step in the comprehensive review and appraisal of the implementation of the Platform for Action;

18. *Encourages* non-governmental organizations, including women's organizations, to contribute to the design and implementation of these strategies or national plans of action in addition to their own programmes that complement government efforts;

19. *Calls upon* Governments to invite and encourage the active support and participation of all women and men and a broad and diverse range of institutional actors, including legislative bodies, academic and research institutions, professional associations, trade unions, local community groups and the media, as well as financial and non-profit organizations, in the implementation of the Platform for Action, while emphasizing the principle of shared responsibility between women and men for the achievement of gender equality;

20. *Recognizes* the importance attached to the regional and subregional monitoring of the global and regional platforms for action by regional commissions and other subregional or regional structures, within their mandates, in consultation with Governments, as well as the necessity of promoting cooperation among Governments of the same region in that respect;

21. *Calls upon* States to take action to fulfil the commitments for the advancement of women and for the strengthening of international cooperation made at the Fourth World Conference on Women, and reaffirms that adequate financial resources should be committed at the international level for the implementation of the Platform for Action in developing countries, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries;

22. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for Africa, to pay special attention to the needs and role of women as actors and beneficiaries in the development process;

23. *Recognizes* that implementation of the Platform for Action in the countries with economies in transition requires continued international cooperation and assistance, as indicated in the Platform for Action;

24. *Reaffirms* that, in order to implement the Platform for Action, a reformulation of policies and reallocation of resources may be needed, but that some policy changes may not necessarily have financial implications;

25. *Also reaffirms* that, in order to implement the Platform for Action, adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources to the developing countries, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries, from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources for the advancement of women, will also be required;

26. *Calls upon* Member States to allocate sufficient resources for undertaking gender impact analyses in order to develop successful national implementation strategies for the Platform for Action;

27. *Recognizes* that the creation of an enabling environment at the national and international levels is necessary to ensure the full participation of women in economic activities, and calls upon States to remove obstacles for the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action;

28. *Requests* Governments and the international community to implement specific programmes for the eradication of poverty and illiteracy, ensuring women's equal access to education, training, credit, employment and the promotion of entrepreneurial activities, and strongly urges the international community to support national efforts towards the advancement of women in developing countries, particularly those in Africa and the least developed countries;

29. *Stresses* that full and effective implementation of the Platform for Action will require a political commitment to make available human and financial resources for the empowerment of women, the integration of a gender perspective in budgetary decisions on policies and programmes and adequate financing of specific programmes for securing equality between women and men;

30. *Calls upon* Member States to commit themselves to achieving gender balance by, *inter alia*, aiming at gender balance in the composition of delegations to the United Nations and other international forums and by presenting, promoting and appointing women candidates in all government-appointed committees, boards and other relevant official bodies, as well as in all international bodies, institutions and organizations;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to formulate a new system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women to cover the period 2002-2005, to submit a new draft plan to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2000, taking into consideration the results of the Council's 1998 comprehensive mid-term review of the plan covering the period 1996-2001, in order to provide guidance for the medium-term plans of the individual organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and to submit the draft plan to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-fourth session for comments;

32. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to devote one high-level segment and one operational segment to the advancement of women and the implementation of the Platform for Action, taking into account the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women and all other functional commissions of the Council and the need for a system-wide approach to the implementation of the Platform for Action;

33. *Welcomes* the Council's decision to monitor annually, under an item entitled "Integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations conferences and summits", the way in which its functional commissions and subsidiary bodies mainstream a gender perspective, on the basis of the annual report on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, and once again invites all functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, within their mandates, to take due account of the Platform for Action and to ensure the integration of gender aspects in their respective areas of work;

34. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to ensure that the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat can effectively carry out all the tasks foreseen for it in the Platform for Action by, *inter alia*, providing sufficient human and financial resources within the regular budget of the United Nations and to ensure that the Division can play a catalytic role in support of gender mainstreaming in the new Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and through policy advisory services at the request of Governments, in cooperation with other bodies of the United Nations system;

35. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that resident coordinators, in the execution of their mandates, fully incorporate a gender perspective, in particular into the coordinated follow-up to recent global United Nations conferences, fully utilizing all the expertise available in the United Nations Development Fund

for Women, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and other organizations of the United Nations system;

36. *Notes* the importance of the activities undertaken by the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women in the implementation of the Platform for Action, and encourages the strengthening of their cooperation and coordination within their respective mandates;

37. *Encourages* the Division for the Advancement of Women, acting as the secretariat of the Commission on the Status of Women, to play an especially active role in generating new ideas, proposing practical suggestions and promoting constructive implementation of the Platform for Action, including gender mainstreaming;

38. *Welcomes* the growing number of ratifications to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁷ and the withdrawal of reservations, invites States parties to include information on measures taken to implement the Platform for Action in their reports, and encourages the Division for the Advancement of Women to provide to Governments, at their request, advice on reporting under the Convention;

39. *Urges* States to limit the extent of any reservations they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any such reservations as precisely and as narrowly as possible, to ensure that no reservations are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention or otherwise incompatible with international treaty law, to review their reservations regularly with a view to withdrawing them and to withdraw reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention or that are otherwise incompatible with international treaty law;

40. *Welcomes* the progress made by the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality in strengthening system-wide coordination for implementation of the Platform for Action and gender mainstreaming, and encourages the Committee to continue its cooperation with Administrative Committee on Coordination bodies to develop strategies, tools and methodologies, such as gender-sensitive budgeting, to enhance implementation of the Platform for Action and for gender mainstreaming, in particular at the field level;

41. *Notes with appreciation* the work done by the Division for the Advancement of Women and by the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women, *inter alia*, in her role as the Chairperson of the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, for the system-wide implementation of the Platform for Action, for increased system-wide attention to gender mainstreaming and towards the achievement of gender balance in the Secretariat and system-wide, and, in that regard, stresses the importance of increasing human and financial resources from all available funding sources;

42. *Encourages* international financial institutions to review and revise policies, procedures and staffing to ensure that investments and programmes benefit women;

43. *Invites* the World Trade Organization to consider how it might contribute to the implementation of the Platform for Action, including activities in cooperation with the United Nations system;

44. *Decides* to appraise progress on an annual basis and to retain on the agenda of its forthcoming sessions the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women";

45. *Decides also* to convene, in the year 2000, a high-level plenary review to appraise and assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of

⁷ Resolution 34/180, annex.

Women⁸ and the Platform for Action, five years after its adoption, and to consider further actions and initiatives, and requests the Secretary-General, with a view to ensuring participation at a high political level, to explore, in a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, the possibility, among other options, of convening the review (a) at the start of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, (b) within the framework of the proposed millennium Assembly, if agreed upon by the General Assembly, (c) following the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women or (d) as a special session of the General Assembly;

46. *Decides further* that the Commission on the Status of Women shall serve as the preparatory committee for the high-level review and as such will be open to the participation of all States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and observers, in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly, and invites the Commission to take appropriate action towards that end, including giving attention to appropriate arrangements for the involvement and participation of non-governmental organizations in the review;

47. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to consider at its forty-second session the report of the Secretary-General requested in paragraph 45 above, thus enabling the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, to decide on this issue, as soon as possible, at its fifty-second session;

48. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report annually to the General Assembly, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council on follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action.

*70th plenary meeting
12 December 1997*

⁸ *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.