

the recent initiatives taken by some specialized agencies to strengthen their participation in the internal coordination mechanisms, such as the United Nations Development Group and the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions;

24. *Requests* the Secretary General, in the context of the next triennial policy review, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the impact of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and progress in the implementation of the multi-year funding framework, as part of ongoing efforts to reverse the declining trend in core resources, and also on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of operational activities of the United Nations system, including recommendations for enhancing the impact of these processes, as well as for appropriate follow-up.

*44th plenary meeting
28 July 2000*

2000/21. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of Commission of Human Rights resolution 2000/14 of 17 April 2000,³

1. *Approves* the Commission's recommendation that the General Assembly, through the Council, request the Secretary-General to assign high priority to the activities of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and to earmark adequate resources to finance the activities of the Programme;

2. *Endorses* the Commission's decision to appoint an eleven-member Bureau for the two sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, comprising two representatives per regional group and a representative of the host country as an ex-officio member, in order to ensure continuity and the adequate representation of all Member States;

3. *Approves* the Commission's requests to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights:

(a) To continue and intensify, in her capacity as Secretary-General of the World Conference, the activities already initiated within the framework of the world information campaign with a view to mobilization and support for the objectives of the World Conference by all sectors of political, economic, social and cultural life, as well as other interested sectors;

(b) To undertake appropriate consultations with non-governmental organizations on the possibility that they might hold a forum before and partly during the World Conference

and, insofar as possible, to provide them with technical assistance for that purpose;

4. *Also approves* the Commission's requests:

(a) To the Secretary-General, the United Nations specialized agencies and the regional economic commissions to provide financial and technical assistance for the organization of the regional preparatory meetings planned in the context of the World Conference;

(b) To the regional preparatory processes to identify trends, priorities and obstacles at the national and regional levels, to formulate specific recommendations for the action to be carried out in future to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and to submit to the Preparatory Committee, by its 2001 session at the latest, the conclusions of these regional preparatory processes;

(c) To the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of Commission resolution 2000/14 under the agenda item entitled "Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination";

5. *Further approves* the Commission's recommendations that:

(a) The World Conference adopt a declaration and a programme of action containing concrete and practical recommendations to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(b) The particular situation of children receive special attention during the preparations for and during the World Conference, especially in its outcome;

(c) The importance of adopting systematically a gender-based approach through the preparations for and in the outcome of the World Conference be stressed.

*45th plenary meeting
28 July 2000*

2000/22. Establishment of a Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the provision contained in the final document of the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, according to which the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people within the United Nations system should be considered,⁸²

Recalling also that consideration of the establishment of a permanent forum is recognized as one of the important

⁸² See A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III, sect. II.B, para. 32.

objectives of the programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People,⁸³

Noting the two workshops on the subject held under the auspices of the Commission on Human Rights in Copenhagen from 26 to 28 June 1995 and in Santiago from 30 June to 2 July 1997,

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Review of the existing mechanisms, procedures and programmes within the United Nations concerning indigenous people",⁸⁴ and noting in particular the striking absence of a mechanism to ensure coordination and regular exchange of information among interested parties – Governments, the United Nations and indigenous people – on an ongoing basis,

Taking into account the deliberations of the open-ended inter-sessional ad hoc working group on a permanent forum for indigenous people⁸⁵ established pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1998/20 of 9 April 1998⁴³ and 1999/52 of 27 April 1999⁸⁶ to consider the establishment of a permanent forum and to submit concrete proposals to that effect, as well as the consideration given to the subject at the fifty-sixth session of the Commission,

Wishing to finalize this project during the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People as one means of furthering the objectives of the Decade in partnership between Governments and indigenous people,

Stressing that the establishment of the permanent forum should lead to careful consideration of the future of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights,

Bearing in mind the common resolve to promote peace and prosperity in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and recalling the functions and powers of the Council in that respect as contained in the Charter,

1. *Decides* to establish as a subsidiary organ of the Council a permanent forum on indigenous issues, consisting of sixteen members, eight members to be nominated by Governments and elected by the Council, and eight members to be appointed by the President of the Council following formal consultation with the Bureau and the regional groups through their coordinators, on the basis of broad consultations with indigenous organizations, taking into account the diversity and geographical distribution of the indigenous people of the world as well as the principles of transparency, representativity and equal opportunity for all indigenous people, including internal

processes, when appropriate, and local indigenous consultation processes, with all members serving in their personal capacity as independent experts on indigenous issues for a period of three years with the possibility of re-election or reappointment for one further period; States, United Nations bodies and organs, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council may participate as observers; organizations of indigenous people may equally participate as observers in accordance with the procedures which have been applied in the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights;

2. *Also decides* that the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues shall serve as an advisory body to the Council with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues within the mandate of the Council relating to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights; in so doing the Permanent Forum shall:

(a) Provide expert advice and recommendations on indigenous issues to the Council, as well as to programmes, funds and agencies of the United Nations, through the Council;

(b) Raise awareness and promote the integration and coordination of activities relating to indigenous issues within the United Nations system;

(c) Prepare and disseminate information on indigenous issues;

3. *Further decides* that the Permanent Forum shall apply the rules of procedure established for subsidiary organs of the Council as applicable, unless otherwise decided by the Council; the principle of consensus shall govern the work of the Permanent Forum;

4. *Decides* that the Permanent Forum shall hold an annual session of ten working days at the United Nations Office at Geneva or at United Nations Headquarters or at such other place as the Permanent Forum may decide in accordance with existing financial rules and regulations of the United Nations;

5. *Also decides* that the Permanent Forum shall submit an annual report to the Council on its activities, including any recommendations for approval; the report shall be distributed to the relevant United Nations organs, funds, programmes and agencies as a means, inter alia, of furthering the dialogue on indigenous issues within the United Nations system;

6. *Further decides* that the financing of the Permanent Forum shall be provided from within existing resources through the regular budget of the United Nations and its specialized agencies and through such voluntary contributions as may be donated;

7. *Decides* that, five years after its establishment, an evaluation of the functioning of the Permanent Forum,

⁸³ General Assembly resolution 50/157, annex.

⁸⁴ A/51/493.

⁸⁵ See E/CN.4/1999/83 and E/CN.4/2000/86.

⁸⁶ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 3 (E/1999/23)*, chap. II, sect. A.

including the method for selection of its members, shall be carried out by the Council in the light of the experience gained;

8. *Also decides*, once the Permanent Forum has been established and has held its first annual session, to review, without prejudging any outcome, all existing mechanisms, procedures and programmes within the United Nations concerning indigenous issues, including the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, with a view to rationalizing activities, avoiding duplication and overlap and promoting effectiveness.

*45th plenary meeting
28 July 2000*

2000/23. Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered with appreciation the section concerning the situation of Palestinian women and assistance provided by organizations of the United Nations system of the report of the Secretary-General⁸⁷ on follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration³⁶ and Platform for Action³⁷ adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,⁸⁸ in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, and the Beijing Platform for Action,

Recalling also its resolution 1999/15 of 28 July 1999 and other relevant United Nations resolutions,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women³⁵ as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

Stressing the need for full implementation of the Memorandum signed at Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on 4 September 1999 and full compliance with the existing agreements, as well as the need for the conclusion of the final settlement by the agreed time of September 2000,

Concerned about the continuing difficult situation of Palestinian women in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and about the severe consequences of continuous illegal Israeli settlement activities, as well as the harsh economic conditions and other consequences for the situation of Palestinian women and their families resulting from the frequent closures and isolation of the occupied territory,

1. *Calls upon* the concerned parties, as well as the entire international community, to exert all the necessary efforts to ensure the continuity and success of the peace process and its conclusion by the agreed time of September 2000 and the achievement of tangible progress in the improvement of the situation of Palestinian women and their families;

2. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli occupation remains a major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development planning of their society;

3. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,³¹ the Regulations annexed to The Hague Convention IV, of 18 October 1907⁸⁹ and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,³⁹ in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

4. *Calls upon* Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties, in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

5. *Urges* Member States, financial organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and other relevant institutions to intensify their efforts to provide financial and technical assistance to Palestinian women, especially during the transitional period;

6. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,⁸⁸ in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, and the Beijing Platform for Action;³⁷

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation and to assist Palestinian women by all available means, and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-fifth session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*45th plenary meeting
28 July 2000*

2000/24. Revitalization and strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1979/11 of 9 May 1979, in which it recommended that the International Research and Training

⁸⁷ E/CN.6/2000/2, sect. III.A.

⁸⁸ *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.

⁸⁹ See Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).