

1987/22. Measures to strengthen the role and functions of the Commission on the Status of Women

Number of meetings proposed, subject to approval by the Commission at each session

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its 1987 session,²⁴

Recalling its resolutions 11 (II) of 21 June 1946, 48 (IV) of 29 March 1947, 76 (V) of 5 August 1947, 304 I (XI) of 14 and 17 July 1950 and 1983/27 of 26 May 1983, concerning the terms of reference of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Considering that over the years the functions of the Commission on the Status of Women have in practice been expanded to include monitoring of the implementation of the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year²⁵ and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,³ as well as reviewing and appraising progress made in achieving the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

Considering also the necessity of strengthening the capacity of the Commission on the Status of Women to carry out the tasks deriving from the world conferences on women and of improving its effectiveness and its efficiency,

1. Decides to expand the terms of reference of the Commission on the Status of Women to include the functions of promoting the objectives of equality, development and peace, monitoring the implementation of measures for the advancement of women, and reviewing and appraising progress made at the national, subregional, regional, sectoral and global levels;

2. Decides to structure the agenda for the future sessions of the Commission around its functions, namely programming, co-ordination, monitoring and policy development, as shown in the annex to the present resolution;

3. Decides that all requests for documentation for the Commission on the Status of Women shall:

(a) Take into account all ongoing and planned research activities, in order to avoid duplication, rationalize procedures and reduce the reporting burden on Governments;

(b) Where appropriate and feasible, be explicitly related to the United Nations medium-term plan and programme budget.

*14th plenary meeting
26 May 1987*

ANNEX

Agenda for future sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women

	<i>Number of meetings proposed, subject to approval by the Commission at each session</i>
1. Election of officers	0.5
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters	0.5
3. Programming and co-ordination matters related to the United Nations and the United Nations system	2

²⁴ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1987, Supplement No. 2 (E/1987/15).*

²⁵ *Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, 19 June-2 July 1975* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. II, sect. A.

4. Monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women	4
<i>This item will deal with all issues in the Strategies—equality, development, peace, areas of special concern, international and regional co-operation—at the international, regional, subregional and national levels</i>	
5. Priority items	8
<i>The themes are determined in the long-term programme of work of the Commission, on the basis of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women</i>	
6. Provisional agenda for the next session of the Commission	0.5
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission	0.5

1987/23. Enlargement of the Commission on the Status of Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming the central role of the Commission on the Status of Women in promoting and monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,³

Bearing in mind the responsibilities of the Commission as the competent intergovernmental body on matters concerning the status of women,

Also bearing in mind that any decision on increased representation should be based on the principle of equitable, balanced geographical representation,

Accepting, in principle, the need for an increase in the membership of the Commission,

Decides to refer the matter to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-second session, and requests the Commission to submit proposals to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1988.

*14th plenary meeting
26 May 1987*

1987/24. Long-term programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women to the year 2000

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming the central role of the Commission on the Status of Women in promoting and monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,³ in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/108 of 13 December 1985,

Bearing in mind the responsibilities of the Commission as the competent intergovernmental body on matters concerning the status of women, especially with regard to its policy development function,

Aware of the continued importance of the interrelationships between the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women—equality, development and peace—and the subtheme—employment, health and education,

Mindful of the importance of adopting a co-ordinated and integrated approach to the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies by the United Nations system, whereby recommendations of the Commission

would take into account the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development and relate to the medium-term plans of the organizations of the United Nations system,

Reaffirming its resolutions 1982/50 of 28 July 1982 on the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council, especially as it relates to the subsidiary bodies of the Council, and particularly paragraph 4 of the annex thereto, in which the Council called for the streamlining of documentation and programmes of work in order to enable its subsidiary bodies to perform effectively the functions entrusted to them,

1. *Endorses* the priority themes for the next five sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women set out in the annex to the present resolution; the themes should be considered at regular sessions of the Commission under an agenda item entitled "Priority themes", notwithstanding world conferences and preparatory meetings or any process of review and appraisal that might take place; the first set of priority themes should be considered by the Commission at its thirty-second session;

2. *Decides* that the work of the Commission in relation to the priority themes should be closely related to the relevant provisions of the Forward-looking Strategies and of other policy documents, the programmes elaborated in the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development and the relevant chapters of the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development*,²⁶ with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies and lasting improvement in the situation of women; the recommendations of the Commission should be addressed, at the national level, primarily to Governments, but also to non-governmental organizations—in particular women's groups—and research institutions, and, at the regional and international levels, to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and research institutions;

3. *Agrees* that in the discussion of the priority themes, appropriate emphasis should be placed on issues of women and development, in recognition of the number and complexity of subject areas addressed in chapter II of the Forward-looking Strategies and in the programmes of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development;

4. *Recommends*, as part of the regular programme of work of the United Nations Secretariat in areas related to the advancement of women, in particular that of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, when regular budgetary or extrabudgetary resources are available, the convening of expert group meetings, as required by the Commission, to assist in the preparation of the work of the Commission on priority themes; the expert groups should be composed of an appropriate number of specialists, taking into account equitable geographical distribution and the involvement of non-governmental organizations, in the field or fields of study addressed under specific priority themes in order to prepare an analysis and preliminary proposals to assist the Commission in making informed, practical and action-oriented policy recommendations; each expert group meeting should be structured like the Expert Group Meeting on Violence in the Family, held at Vienna from 8 to 12 December 1986, and should be timed so as to permit the results of the meeting to be made available to Member States in advance of sessions of the Commission;

5. *Recommends* that every effort be made to avoid duplication in the collection of data and production of documentation for expert group meetings and for sessions of the Commission, and that the documentation include, where possible, an indication of the extent of major research undertaken or planned in the fields of study addressed under a particular priority theme;

6. *Invites* the Commission, at each session, when considering the provisional agenda for its next session, to identify and develop the specific work programme required to prepare for the in-depth consideration of the priority themes scheduled for that session.

*14th plenary meeting
26 May 1987*

ANNEX

Priority themes for the thirty-second to thirty-sixth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women

At each session, the Commission shall deal with three themes, one under each of the three objectives—equality, development and peace—in the order in which they are listed.

A. EQUALITY

- 1 National machinery for monitoring and improving the status of women
- 2 Equality in economic and social participation
- 3 Equality in political participation and decision-making
- 4 Vulnerable women, including migrant women
- 5 Elimination of *de jure* and *de facto* discrimination against women

B. DEVELOPMENT

1. Problems of rural women, including food, water resources, agricultural technology, rural employment, transportation and environment
2. Women and education, eradication of illiteracy, employment, health and social services, including population issues and child care
3. Negative effects of the international economic situation on the improvement of the status of women
4. National, regional and international machinery for the effective integration of women in the development process, including non-governmental organizations
5. Integration of women in the process of development

C. PEACE

1. Access to information, education for peace, and efforts to eradicate violence against women within the family and society
2. Full participation of women in the construction of their countries and in the creation of just social and political systems
3. Women in areas affected by armed conflicts, foreign intervention, alien and colonial domination, foreign occupation and threats to peace
4. Refugee and displaced women and children
5. Equal participation in all efforts to promote international co-operation, peace and disarmament

1987/25. International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1986/32 of 23 May 1986, concerning the report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 40/38 of 29 November 1985.

²⁶ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IV.3.