

1992/20. Advancement of women and human rights

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 45/155 of 18 December 1990, in which it was decided to convene a World Conference on Human Rights in 1993 and to establish a Preparatory Committee for the Conference,

Noting that the General Assembly, in its resolution 46/116 of 17 December 1991, requested concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, among others, to submit recommendations concerning the Conference to the Preparatory Committee,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 46/98 of 16 December 1991, in particular paragraph 8 thereof,

Bearing in mind its resolution 1990/15 of 24 May 1990, in which it adopted the recommendations and conclusions arising from the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, contained in the annex to that resolution, and bearing in mind in particular those recommendations and conclusions related to the maintenance of de facto discrimination, which prevents women from achieving effective equality,

Taking into account the fact that the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women³¹ have identified violence against women as one of the major obstacles to the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

Welcoming general recommendation 19, adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its eleventh session,³⁹ and the recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Violence against Women, held at Vienna from 11 to 15 November 1991,⁴⁴

Affirming that various forms of violence against women are violations of human rights,

1. *Calls upon* the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights, when preparing the agenda and studies for the World Conference, to take into account the existence of de facto as well as *de jure* discrimination, which continues to impede the full enjoyment by women of their economic, social and cultural rights, as well as their civil and political rights;

2. *Also calls upon* the Preparatory Committee, in preparing for the examination by the Conference of the main obstacles to the implementation of international human rights instruments, to pay adequate attention to the global problem of violence against women;

3. *Invites* the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat and Member States, in preparing for the Conference, to make use of gender disaggregated data, which identify situations of inequality between women and men;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/98, to guarantee the participation of the secretariats of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in the preparatory process for the Conference, as well as in the Conference itself;

5. *Requests* the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, as the secretariat of the Commission, to report to the Commission at its thirty-seventh session on the state of the preparatory process for the Conference and the

related activities of the Division, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/98;

6. *Requests* the Commission to establish, during its thirty-seventh session, an open-ended working group to consider its contribution to the Conference;

7. *Urges* Member States, when preparing for the Conference at the national level, to consider integrating fully into the scope of the Conference issues related to the rights of women, and to respect the principle of equal participation of women and men in their delegations.

40th plenary meeting
30 July 1992