

UNITED NATIONS



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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

1849 (LVI). International Women's Year

The Economic and Social Council

Recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolution 3010 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972, proclaimed the year 1975 International Women's Year and decided to devote this year to intensified action:

(a) To promote equality between men and women;

(b) To ensure the full integration of women in the total development effort, especially by emphasizing women's responsibility and important role in economic, social and cultural development at the national, regional and international levels, particularly during the Second United Nations Development Decade;

(c) To recognize the importance of women's increasing contribution to the development of friendly relations and co-operation among States and to the strengthening of world peace,

1. Approves the programme of measures and activities envisaged for Member States, the United Nations, the specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations, the national and international organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status concerned, which is annexed to the present resolution;

2. Invites Member States, the specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations, the national and international organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status concerned, to devote the year 1975 to intensified efforts and undertakings, including the measures and activities set out in the above-mentioned programme;

3. Invites the Secretary-General to make every necessary arrangement to facilitate the co-operation of competent regional intergovernmental organizations in observing 1975 as International Women's Year, as provided in General Assembly resolution 3010 (XXVII);

4. Requests the Secretary-General to co-ordinate, to the extent possible, the measures and activities undertaken by Member States, the United Nations, the specialized agencies, regional organizations and the national and international organizations concerned, and in particular to collect and disseminate information on activities contemplated or undertaken in connexion with the International Women's Year.

1897th plenary meeting  
16 May 1974

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Annex

PROGRAMME FOR THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR, 1975

"Considering that discrimination against women is incompatible with human dignity and with the welfare of the family and of society, prevents their participation, on equal terms with men, in the political, social, economic and cultural life of their countries and is an obstacle to the full development of the potentialities of women in the service of their countries and of humanity."

"Convinced that the full and complete development of a country, the welfare of the world and the cause of peace require the maximum participation of women as well as men in all fields."

Extract from the preamble to the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2263 (XXII) of 7 November 1967.

I. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE YEAR

1. The International Women's Year, proclaimed by the General Assembly on 18 December 1972 (resolution 3010 (XXVII)) is to be devoted to intensified action:

- (a) To promote equality between men and women;
- (b) To ensure the full integration of women in the total development effort, especially by emphasizing women's responsibility and important role in economic, social and cultural development at the national, regional and international levels, particularly during the Second United Nations Development Decade;
- (c) To increase the contribution of women to the development of friendly relations and co-operation among States and to the strengthening of world peace.

2. The central theme therefore is: **EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE.**

3. The Year should be a time to review and evaluate progress made in these three areas since the Charter of the United Nations established the basic goals in 1945. It should also stimulate new initiatives and develop or set in motion dynamic national, regional and international action programmes.

4. Widespread publicity and promotional efforts are needed, along with substantive activities designed to have a continuing impact in the years ahead, as part of a sustained long-term effort of the international community to improve the condition of women and their contribution to society.

5. The Year should demonstrate the value of a unified approach to issues of human rights, development and peace, which cannot be successfully dealt with as isolated questions distinct from each other. It should be viewed as an event in which both men and women will participate.

6. At the same time, the activities and programmes should find an echo among men and women from urban and rural areas, from all walks of life, in all countries, and stimulate their imagination and their creativity. As a large number of activities will be organized and carried out in connexion with the Year, appropriate governmental and non-governmental authorities should be requested to make adequate budgetary allocations.

## II. OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

7. The many declarations, conventions and other recommendations adopted by the United Nations and the specialized agencies have established international goals and objectives, all of which provide guidance for the elaboration of national, regional and international programmes for the observance of the International Women's Year; among them are the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970) and the programme of concerted international action for the advancement of women (General Assembly resolution 2716 (XXV) of 15 December 1970). The specific objectives set forth below are based on these and other instruments and should be especially emphasized in the programmes and activities undertaken in observance of the Year. 1/

8. Programmes and activities should be directed, as part of the total development effort, in particular towards:

### A. Equality

(a) Achieving full equality before the law in all fields where it does not yet exist;

(b) Meeting the health needs of girls and women equally with those of boys and men, which should be recognized as a prerequisite to the promotion of equality between them and to the full participation of both in the development effort;

(c) Promoting equality of economic rights, including the right to work and the right to equal pay for work of equal value, non-discrimination in employment opportunities; governmental as well as private, and security of employment after marriage;

(d) Promoting equality of rights and responsibilities in the family and home and creating awareness and recognition that men and women have equal rights and obligations towards themselves as individuals, towards their children as parents, and towards their societies as citizens.

(e) Ensuring that women as well as men participate fully and as equal partners in policy formulation and decision-making at the local, national and international levels, including development planning, educational programming and questions of foreign policy such as disarmament and the strengthening of friendly relations among States;

1/ For a list of relevant human rights instruments, see Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 4 (E/5451), annex V, appendix II.

B. Development

- (f) Improving the awareness of women in the developed countries through effective information and education, of the living conditions and problems of women in the developing areas in order to intensify the contribution of the former to international development co-operation;
- (g) Improving the living and working conditions as well as the status of both men and women throughout the community and expanding freedom of choice for all persons in planning life patterns that permit the development of their potential as individuals;
- (h) Improving the quality of rural life through the provision of cultural, educational and employment opportunities in the rural areas;
- (i) Improving the condition of rural women on an equal basis with men especially as regards training in co-operatives, modern agricultural and technical methods, vocational training, the use of modern labour-saving devices in homes and modern methods of child-rearing;
- (j) Eliminating illiteracy and ensuring equality of educational opportunities at all levels - including vocational training - and the same choice of curricula for male and female students, preferably in the same schools for boys and girls;
- (k) Actively encouraging women to train for and enter non-traditional occupations, providing proper guidance and counselling and expanding co-operative programmes among women of different countries that would contribute to international understanding through shared endeavours;
- (l) Providing training - including in-service training - for women in all fields, including citizenship and leadership, consumerism, management, and science and technology, keeping in mind the concomitant need to help find employment opportunities for women who complete the training period;
- (m) Providing social services - including health, family planning, child care, social and community services - and farm and home extension services;
- (n) Developing and extending a network of health services for the protection of maternity and of the health of the mother and child;
- (o) Seeking to improve the situation of women in prisons and other places of detention;
- (p) Recognizing the value, for the country's over-all development and advancement, of the untapped resources of women to contribute to the national culture, development and spiritual values through their work in voluntary activities as well as in the labour market and home management;
- (q) Combating exploitation of women and girls through illicit and clandestine trafficking;
- C. Peace
- (r) Promoting the peace efforts of women's groups and other national and international organizations and encouraging, on the part of all women of the world, the promotion of defente in the world, international peace and co-operation among States, through contributions to such measures as:
- (i) Combating colonialism, neo-colonialism, foreign domination and alien subjugation, apartheid and racial discrimination;

- (ii) The realization of the principle of the right of people to self-determination;
- (iii) Dissemination of information concerning the Charter of the United Nations and United Nations activities as well as the principles of international law;
- (s) Combating racism and racial discrimination whenever and wherever it manifests itself, and lending support to the victims of racism, apartheid and colonialism as well as supporting women and children in armed struggle, including the struggle for independence and self-determination;
- (t) Participation of women in safeguarding peace which would promote economic, social, cultural and political conditions that contribute to the advancement of the status of women and men;
- (u) Developing and implementing international standards, and other actions to encourage peaceful relations among States on the basis of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant United Nations resolutions as well as international law;
- (v) Facilitating the free flow of information and ideas among countries, having due regard for their sovereignty and non-intervention in their domestic affairs, on the contribution of women as well as men to the promotion of friendly relations among States and to peace, and promoting the exchange of visits by women of different countries to study common problems.

### III. ACTIVITIES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

#### A. Special acts of commemoration

9. An inaugural statement might launch the International Women's Year. In order to emphasize the importance of the Year, it should be proclaimed in each State by:
- (a) The highest official authority;
  - (b) Appropriate local officials;
  - (c) Men and women leaders in all fields.

#### B. National programmes, targets and priorities

10. Specific targets should be established, to be achieved by 1980 and 1985, for the attainment of the objectives of the Year set forth above. For this purpose the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and the objectives and targets set forth in the programme of concerted international action for the advancement of women (General Assembly resolutions 2626 (XXV) and 2716 (XXV)) should also be studied.
- (a) Machinery and procedures should be set up for the continuous review and evaluation of women's integration into all sectors of economic and social life at all levels.
- (b) Short-term and long-term programmes and priorities should be adopted with adequately funded programmes to achieve the targets and to improve the condition of women and ensure their integration in the total development effort. In particular it is recommended that each country should adopt at least one long-term constructive programme based on section B (Development) of part II (Objectives and goals) above.

11. Nation-wide initiatives from non-governmental groups - such as organizations in business, industry and civic life, professional organizations, labour unions, educational institutions, student associations and mass communication media - should be enlisted in order, for example:

- (a) To help to bring progress in the area of women's rights and responsibilities;
- (b) To increase participation in and support for the national and international women's movements;
- (c) To work towards promoting a full partnership between men and women.

C. National commissions or similar bodies

12. If a national commission, or similar body, if it does not already exist, could be established - and, where appropriate, local commissions or committees - with a mandate to review, evaluate and recommend measures and priorities to ensure equality between men and women and the full integration of women in all sectors of national life. Wherever possible such bodies should be composed of both men and women and include governmental and non-governmental representatives.

13. Under the commission, or similar body, sub-commissions or working groups could undertake fact-finding and comprehensive studies, paying special attention to the needs and problems of women in both rural and urban areas.

D. Special counselling offices

14. A network of special counselling offices could be established to advise women about their rights and obligations and their participation in development, with competence also to deal with complaints regarding infringements of women's rights and to make legal aid available when required.

E. Publicity and educational measures

15. Programmes of publicity and promotion should be conducted in both urban and rural areas, emphasizing the three objectives of the Year and the particular constructive programme adopted, by such means as:

- (a) Pamphlets, posters and paid advertising;
- (b) Commemorative postage stamps, calendars, first-day covers and cancellations;
- (c) Commemorative publications;
- (d) Spot statements on radio and television;
- (e) Revised textbooks replacing traditional stereotyped images of men and women by new concepts;
- (f) Radio and television talks and forums, including those focusing on the activities of women from all walks of life, whether or not they have achieved prominence;
- (g) Free time for United Nations programmes on national radio and television networks;

- (h) Films and film festivals;
- (i) Exhibitions featuring artistic and cultural works, especially by women;
- (j) Organization of contests - for example, essay and speech contests, painting and poster contests, quiz programmes and public debates;
- (k) Awards honouring achievements by women in specific fields;
- (l) Awards honouring outstanding contributions of women and men to the threefold objectives of the Year;
- (m) Sports events and competitions;
- (n) Mass distribution, in national and local languages, to schools and the general public of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and other related international instruments.
16. Schools, colleges and universities should be encouraged to establish programmes for teaching and research in questions related to the promotion of equality of men and women and the elimination of discrimination and prejudice against women, and the contributions of women to society should be stressed.
17. Material, including audio-visual material, 2/should be prepared, dealing with women's rights, responsibilities and the causes of prejudice and discrimination against women, together with ways of overcoming it, for use by:
- (a) Students and teachers in primary and secondary schools and institutions of higher learning; students might be encouraged to study the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in relation to local customs, traditions and practices, and to consider its application to them in their everyday lives;
- (b) Employers, workers and trade unionists;
- (c) Community groups and voluntary organizations.
18. Attention should be given to the establishment, where it is considered to be appropriate, of women's history centres, which would gather and make available records of the development of the status of women on a national and international basis and would preserve the papers and other records relating to this subject.
19. Educational programmes should be developed to inform women of their legal rights and of the means available for securing their enforcement.
20. Programmes should be developed to aid the upward mobility of women through education, to provide counselling and guidance on educational and employment opportunities, geared particularly to women who plan to resume their education or job-training after an absence of years from active participation, and to expand retraining programmes for women who wish to re-enter the labour force.
21. Other programmes should be developed:
- (a) To promote equal participation of women and men in the labour union movement and the access to positions of leadership for women within the unions;

2/ A list of relevant United Nations material and where it may be obtained was issued as document E/CN.6/590.

- (b) To provide seminars and workshops to prepare women for participation in politics at local, state, national and international levels
- (c) To offer executive leadership and management training opportunities for women.

F. Studies and surveys

22. Studies and surveys are needed on all aspects of the status of women, both in law and in practice, and on the changing roles of men and women in society and in the family. <sup>3/</sup>
23. The following broad areas merit special attention:
- (a) Inquiries into customs, traditions, practices and attitudes which impede or promote the exercise of equal rights of men and women, and which constrain or increase women's contribution to development
- (b) The assessment and evaluation of women's current and potential contribution to the various sectors in relation to the country's overall development plans and programmes
- (c) The interrelationship of the condition of women, population change, and over-all development
- (d) Extent of women's participation in the labour force and their position within it and in trade union organizations; special attention should also be given to the agricultural and service sectors of the economy and the question of co-operatives
- (e) Influence of scientific and technological developments on the position of women and their integration in the development effort.

G. National conferences and other meetings

24. National governmental and non-governmental conferences, seminars, leading courses and other types of meetings should be convened during the Year to discuss the attainment of the three main objectives or particular aspects of these objectives and establish short-term and long-term programmes. Governments should place a greater number of qualified women on national delegations to international conferences, invited national sessions and meetings, and other international meetings dealing with problems of major national concern. The Secretary-General should request Governments of the need for steadily increasing such participation by women.

H. Exchange programmes

25. Exchange programmes - for example, visits, fellowships, lecture tours and discussion groups - for both men and women should be organized to study common problems. In particular, the number of scholarships granted to women and girls should be increased in 1975 and women should be appointed as guest members in numbers of delegations to seminars, congresses and other meetings, at both the international and the national levels.

<sup>3/</sup> For a list of suggested fields of study, see Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-sixth session, Supplement No. 1 (1975), annex V, appendix 1.



26. The activities of women's organizations for improving the conditions of life and future prospects for women, and for contributing to the development of friendly relations and co-operation among nations and to peace should be developed and strengthened by increasing co-operation and exchange between them, and giving their efforts and achievements wider publicity and support by Governments and the general public.

I. Ratification and implementation of international instruments

27. Every effort should be made by Governments which have not already done so to ratify all existing international instruments relating to women's rights during the Year, and to implement fully their provisions.

IV. ACTIVITIES AT THE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

28. Proclamations and/or statements inaugurating the International Women's Year should be issued by:

- (a) The Secretary-General and the executive heads of the specialized agencies;
- (b) The resident representatives of the United Nations Development Programme;
- (c) The executive heads of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

29. As a focal point of the international observance of the Year, an international conference should be organized.

30. An appeal should be made to Governments of countries in the different regions to establish regional commissions on the status of women and to organize, within existing intergovernmental and other similar organizations, programmes for women, aimed at their full integration in national and regional development, which would:

- (a) Place special emphasis on relieving the burdens and increasing the economic output of rural women engaged in agriculture, on providing facilities for food preservation and processing, on child care and also on providing co-operative education;
- (b) Co-operate with interested United Nations bodies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, particularly with the Commission on the Status of Women;
- (c) Provide in industrialized areas advice and services aimed at improving working conditions, family life and participation in all aspects of regional development.

31. Regional meetings could be organized by the United Nations and the specialized agencies, wherever possible in conjunction with the regional economic commissions.

32. A question entitled "Status and role of women in society, with special reference to the need to achieve equal rights for women and to women's contribution to the attainment of the goals of the Second United Nations Development Decade, to the struggle against colonialism, racism and racial discrimination and to the strengthening of international peace and of co-operation between States" should be included in the agenda of the General Assembly at its thirtieth session as a separate agenda item. Items relating to the three main objectives of the Year should be included in the Agenda of the general conferences, assemblies or similar meetings of the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies.

33. All organs responsible for the mid-term review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, which is to take place in 1975, should be requested to pay special attention to the integration of women in the total development effort.

34. The regional intergovernmental organizations and regional intergovernmental commissions should consider the possibility of establishing appropriate programmes designed to promote the achievement of equality of men and women and the integration of women in development. The action taken by the Economic Commission for Africa might provide an example useful for other regions.

35. Every effort should be made to further during the Year the elaboration of a new international convention dealing with the elimination of discrimination against women.

36. All necessary measures should be taken to adopt a declaration on the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence.

37. Publicity and educational measures, studies and surveys, conferences and other meetings and exchange programmes similar to those proposed on the national level could be developed regionally and internationally.

38. The Office of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat should produce material about the life and problems of women in developing countries - to be used for information in the developed countries - and about the ways and means of action, which have proved to be useful in promoting the status of women.

39. Particular attention should be given to:

- (a) The issue of an international symbol for the Year;
- (b) Preparation, in advance of the Year, of pamphlets, posters and publications;
- (c) Issuance of a United Nations stamp, first-day cover and cancellations;
- (d) Radio and television programmes to be given simultaneously in the capitals of Member States;
- (e) Films and film festivals;
- (f) International exhibitions featuring artistic and cultural works especially by women;
- (g) International awards honouring achievements by women in specific fields;
- (h) Mass distribution in all available languages, through the United Nations Information Centres, of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against women, and related international instruments.

Secretariats of the organizations in the United Nations system

40. Organizations in the United Nations system should set an example by:

- (a) Eliminating from their own staff regulations and administrative procedures any provisions or practices which may be discriminatory against women;
- (b) Organizing more extensive training and refresher courses for staff members;

(c) Associating interested staff members in the implementation of the International Women's Year programmes;

(d) Preparing a report for consideration by Governments on what has been done by the United Nations Secretariat and the specialized agencies to improve the status of women since the establishment of the Commission on the Status of Women in 1946.

41. Every effort should be made to render assistance and give support at the regional and international levels to national programmes and activities organized as part of the observance of the Year.

42. A report should be prepared for consideration by the Commission on the Status of Women describing and evaluating activities undertaken during the Year by Governments, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.