

into the mainstream of society, and in preventing delinquency,

Mindful further of the social aspects of domestic violence and of the great importance of emphasizing and developing appropriate methods of conflict resolution between the parties involved,

Recognizing that abuse and battery in the family are critical problems that have serious physical and psychological effects on individual family members, especially the young, and jeopardize the health and survival of the family unit,

Recognizing further the adverse effects of exposure to domestic violence, especially at an early stage of human development, and the incalculable harm thereof,

Convinced that the problem of domestic violence is a multifaceted one which should be examined from the perspective of crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of socio-economic circumstances,

Convinced also of the necessity to improve the situation of the victims of domestic violence,

Concerned that the abuse of alcohol, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances may be an exacerbating factor in domestic violence and that the effects thereof should be further examined,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of women as victims of crime;⁸⁰

2. *Invites* Member States concerned to take specific action urgently in order to prevent domestic violence and to render the appropriate assistance to the victims thereof;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to intensify research on domestic violence from a criminological perspective to formulate distinct action-oriented strategies that could serve as a basis for policy formulation and to report thereon to the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders;

4. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to invite the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control to examine the problem of domestic violence;

5. *Urges* all relevant United Nations bodies, agencies and institutes to collaborate with the Secretary-General in ensuring a concerted and sustained effort to combat this problem;

6. *Invites* the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders to consider the problem of domestic violence under a separate agenda item dealing with domestic violence;

7. *Invites* Member States to adopt specific measures with a view to making the criminal and civil justice system more sensitive in its response to domestic violence, including the following:

(a) To introduce, if not already in existence, civil and criminal legislation in order to deal with particular problems of domestic violence, and to enact and enforce such laws in order to protect battered family members and punish the offender and to offer alternative ways of treatment for offenders, according to the type of violence;

(b) To respect, in all instances of the criminal proceeding, starting with the police investigation, the special and sometimes delicate position of the victim, in particular in the manner in which the victim is treated;

(c) To initiate preventive measures, such as providing support and counselling to families, in order to improve their ability to create a non-violent environment, emphasizing principles of education, equality of rights and equal-

ity of responsibilities between women and men, their partnership and the peaceful resolution of conflicts;

(d) To inform the public, as necessary, through all available channels, about serious acts of violence perpetrated against children, in order to create public awareness of this problem;

(e) To deliver appropriate, specialized assistance to victims of domestic violence, as an integral part of social policy;

(f) To provide, as a temporary solution, shelters and other facilities and services for the safety of victims of domestic violence;

(g) To provide specialized training and units for those who deal in some capacity with victims of domestic violence;

(h) To initiate or intensify research and collect data on the background, extent and types of domestic violence;

(i) To make legal remedies to domestic violence more accessible and, in view of the criminogenic effects of the phenomenon, in particular on young victims, to give due consideration to the interests of society by maintaining a balance between intervention and the protection of privacy;

(j) To ensure that social welfare and health administration systems are engaged more intensely in providing assistance to victims of familial violence and abuses, and to make all efforts to co-ordinate social welfare and criminal justice measures.

*96th plenary meeting
29 November 1985*

40/37. Expression of appreciation to the Government and people of Italy on the occasion of the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

The General Assembly,

Taking into account the significance and the results of the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Milan, Italy, from 26 August to 6 September 1985,⁵⁷

Expresses its deep appreciation to the Government and people of Italy for acting as host to the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

*96th plenary meeting
29 November 1985*

40/38. International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/56 of 3 December 1982, 38/104 of 16 December 1983 and 39/122 of 14 December 1984, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/45 of 31 May 1985,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its activities,⁸¹

Taking note with interest of the Institute's mode of operation, through the use of networks, in carrying out its functions at the international, regional and national levels,

⁸⁰ A/CONF.121/16.

⁸¹ A/40/707, annex.

Recognizing the importance of research, training and information activities for the increased participation of women in the development process at all levels,

Recognizing also the importance of research, training and information activities for the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,⁷⁹

1. Requests the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women to strengthen its activities in research and training for the formulation of policy analysis, planning and programming relevant to the increased participation of women in development, especially its activities in statistics, indicators and data relevant to women, in particular in the developing countries, at the national and regional levels;

2. Also requests the Institute to give particular emphasis in its programme of activities to innovative methodological approaches related to women and development in research, training and information programmes;

3. Calls upon competent institutions and organizations within and outside the United Nations system to continue their collaboration with the Institute by strengthening the network of co-operative arrangements related to programmes concerning women and development;

4. Invites States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, in view of the long-term projection for the work of the Institute;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-second session a report on the activities of the Institute;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-second session the item entitled "International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women".

96th plenary meeting
29 November 1985

40/39. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as stated in Articles 1 and 55 of the Charter, is to promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind, including distinction as to sex,

Reaffirming that women and men should participate equally in social, economic and political development, should contribute equally to such development and should share equally in improved conditions of life,

Recalling its resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979, by which it adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Recalling also its resolutions 35/140 of 11 December 1980, 36/131 of 14 December 1981, 37/64 of 3 December 1982, 38/109 of 16 December 1983 and 39/130 of 14 December 1984,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention,⁸²

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the work of its fourth session,⁸³

1. Notes with appreciation the increasing number of Member States that have ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

2. Urges all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so as soon as possible, taking into account the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held at Nairobi from 15 to 26 July 1985;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit annually to the General Assembly a report on the status of the Convention;

4. Takes note of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the work of its fourth session;

5. Emphasizes the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties with their obligations under the Convention;

6. Urges States parties to make all possible efforts to submit their initial implementation reports in accordance with article 18 of the Convention and the guidelines of the Committee, and requests the Committee, in organizing its work, to ensure that the reports of States parties are adequately reviewed within the quadrennial cycle envisaged in the Convention;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to make all efforts to ensure adequate servicing for the effective functioning of the Committee as a treaty body of the United Nations;

8. Takes note once again of the discussion in the Committee, at its third session,⁸⁴ concerning the inclusion in the agenda of a future session of an item on ways and means of implementing article 21 of the Convention, which provides that the Committee may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to the Commission on the Status of Women, for information.

96th plenary meeting
29 November 1985

40/98. Improvement of the role of the United Nations in the field of social development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration on Social Progress and Development based on the Charter of the United Nations and solemnly proclaimed on 11 December 1969,⁸⁵

Recalling also its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 33/48 of 14 December 1978 on world social development and 35/56 of 5 December 1980, the annex to which contains the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

Bearing in mind the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, adopted by the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Devel-

⁸² A/40/623.

⁸³ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 45 (A/40/45).

⁸⁴ Ibid., Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 45 (A/39/45), vol. II, para. 360.

⁸⁵ See resolution 2542 (XXIV).