

12. *Decides* to focus the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, 2 December 1996, on the problem of trafficking in human persons, especially women and children, and to devote one meeting of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly to the discussion of this problem;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, under the item entitled "Advancement of women", a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution, with due regard for possible measures to improve the reporting procedure.

99th plenary meeting
22 December 1995

50/168. Violence against women migrant workers

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/96 of 16 December 1992, 48/110 of 20 December 1993 and 49/165 of 23 December 1994, as well as Commission on the Status of Women resolution 38/7 of 18 March 1994,¹⁴³ and taking note of Commission on the Status of Women resolution 39/7 of 31 March 1995¹⁴⁴ and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/20 of 24 February 1995,¹⁴⁵

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,¹⁴⁶

Taking note with concern of the report of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on its twentieth session,¹⁴⁷ in particular its observations with respect to the treatment of migrant workers,

Acknowledging the preliminary report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and its consequences,¹⁴⁸

Stressing that the promotion of the human rights of women constitutes an integral part of human rights activities of the United Nations, as reaffirmed in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,³

Affirming the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,⁵⁹ which called upon all countries to take full measures to eliminate all forms of exploitation, abuse, harassment and violence against women,

Welcoming the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, adopted by the World Summit on 12 March 1995,⁶⁰ which declared that countries should take concrete measures against the exploitation of migrants,

Welcoming also the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women on 15 September 1995,¹²⁸ which recognized the vulnerability to violence and other forms of abuse of women migrants, including women migrant workers, whose legal status in the host country depends on employers who may exploit their situations,

Noting the large numbers of women from developing countries and from some countries with economies in transition who continue to venture forth to more affluent countries in search of a living for themselves and their families, as a consequence of poverty, unemployment and other socio-economic conditions, while acknowledging the primary duty of States to work for conditions that provide employment and security to their citizens,

Concerned by the continuing reports of grave abuses and acts of violence committed against the persons of women migrant workers by some employers in some host countries,

Encouraged by some measures adopted by some receiving countries to alleviate the plight of women migrant workers residing within their areas of jurisdiction,

Reiterating that acts of violence directed against women impair or nullify their enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

1. *Determines* to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls;

2. *Calls upon* States Members of the United Nations to adopt measures for the effective implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,¹³⁶ including applying them to women migrant workers, as well as all relevant measures emanating from recent world conferences;

3. *Encourages* Member States to enact and/or reinforce penal, civil, labour and administrative sanctions in domestic legislation to punish and redress the wrongs done to women and girls who are subjected to any form of violence, whether in the home, the workplace, the community or society;

4. *Also encourages* Member States to adopt and/or implement and periodically to review and analyse legislation to ensure its effectiveness in eliminating violence against women, emphasizing the prevention of violence and the prosecution of offenders, and to take measures to ensure the protection of women subjected to violence and that they have access to just and effective remedies, including compensation and indemnification and healing of victims, and for the rehabilitation of perpetrators;

5. *Reiterates* the need for States concerned, specifically the sending and receiving States of women migrant workers, to conduct regular consultations for the purpose of identifying problem areas in promoting and protecting the rights of women migrant workers and ensuring health, legal and social services for them, adopting specific measures to address these problems, setting up, as necessary, linguistically and culturally accessible services and mechanisms to implement these measures and, in general, creating conditions that foster greater harmony and tolerance between women migrant workers and the rest of the society in which they reside;

6. *Encourages* Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,⁹ as well as the Slavery Convention of 1926,¹⁴⁹

7. *Recommends* that the issue of violence against women migrant workers be included in the agenda of the

¹⁴³Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 7 (E/1994/27), chap. I, sect. C.

¹⁴⁴Ibid., 1995, Supplement No. 6 (E/1995/26), chap. I, sect. C.

¹⁴⁵Ibid., Supplement No. 3 and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr. I and 2), chap. II.

¹⁴⁶A/50/378.

¹⁴⁷E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/28 and Add. I

¹⁴⁸E/CN.4/1995/42.

¹⁴⁹United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 212, No. 2861.

inter-agency meeting that precedes the regular session of the Commission on the Status of Women;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene a meeting of an expert group, with the participation of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women and under the regular programme of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat, to submit recommendations for improving coordination of the various efforts of United Nations agencies on the issue of violence against women migrant workers and to develop concrete indicators as a basis for determining the situation of women migrant workers for submission, through normal channels, to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

9. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat and the Special Rapporteur, as well as all relevant bodies and programmes in the United Nations system, when addressing the issue of violence against women, to give particular attention to the issue of violence perpetrated against women migrant workers and to submit reports thereon to the General Assembly;

10. *Invites* trade unions to support the realization of the rights of women migrant workers by assisting them in organizing themselves so as to enable them better to assert their rights;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution, including on reports received from all authorities and bodies in the United Nations system, Member States, intergovernmental organizations and other concerned bodies, with due regard for possible measures to improve the reporting procedure.

*99th plenary meeting
22 December 1995*

50/169. International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming once more the permanent validity of the principles and norms set forth in the basic instruments regarding the international protection of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁵ the International Covenants on Human Rights,²² the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,⁶ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women¹⁵⁰ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁵⁰

Bearing in mind the principles and norms established within the framework of the International Labour Organization and the importance of the work done in connection with migrant workers and members of their families in other specialized agencies and in various organs of the United Nations,

Reiterating that, despite the existence of an already established body of principles and norms, there is a need to make further efforts to improve the situation and to guarantee respect for the human rights and dignity of all migrant workers and members of their families,

Aware of the situation of migrant workers and members of their families and the marked increase in migratory movements that has occurred, especially in certain parts of the world,

Considering that, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,³ all States are urged to guarantee the protection of the human rights of all migrant workers and members of their families,

Underlining the importance of the creation and promotion of conditions to foster greater harmony and tolerance between migrant workers and the rest of the society of the State in which they reside, with the aim of eliminating the growing manifestations of racism and xenophobia taking place in segments of many societies and perpetrated by individuals or groups against migrant workers,

Recalling its resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990, by which it adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,

Bearing in mind that, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, States are invited to consider the possibility of signing and ratifying the Convention at the earliest possible time,

Recalling that, in its resolution 49/175 of 23 December 1994, it requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fiftieth session a report on the status of the Convention,

1. *Expresses its deep concern* at the growing manifestations of racism, xenophobia and other forms of discrimination and inhuman or degrading treatment directed against migrant workers in different parts of the world;

2. *Welcomes* the signature or ratification of, or accession to, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families by some Member States;

3. *Calls upon* all Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority, and expresses the hope that it will enter into force at an early date;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to provide all facilities and assistance necessary for the promotion of the Convention through the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights and the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights;

5. *Invites* the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their efforts with a view to disseminating information on and promoting understanding of the Convention;

6. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,¹⁵¹ and requests him to submit to it at its fifty-first session an updated report on the status of the Convention;

7. *Decides* to consider the report of the Secretary-General at its fifty-first session under the sub-item entitled "Implementation of human rights instruments".

*99th plenary meeting
22 December 1995*

¹⁵⁰Resolution 38/180, annex.

¹⁵¹A/50/469.