

between Governments and non-governmental organizations in the field of human rights,

Noting that the activities envisaged in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action add further to the workload and the responsibilities of the United Nations human rights system and that so far only initial steps have been taken towards bridging the gap between resources and the mandated outputs,

Recalling the request of the Conference to the Secretary-General and the General Assembly to take immediate steps to increase substantially the resources for the human rights programme from within the existing and future regular budgets of the United Nations,

Welcoming the fact that the call of the Conference for a United Nations system-wide approach to human rights issues has been reflected in the recommendations of major international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, in particular in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, held at Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994,⁵⁹ the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,⁶⁰ held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995 and the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women,⁶¹ held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995,

Noting the ongoing efforts to ensure a coordinated follow-up to major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields,

Recognizing that the interdependence of democracy, development and respect for human rights, as stated in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, requires a comprehensive and integrated approach to the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling that in its resolution 48/141 the General Assembly decided to create the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as the United Nations official with principal responsibility for United Nations human rights activities, including coordination of the human rights promotion and protection activities throughout the United Nations system,

Noting that at the first regular session of 1994 of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, in April 1994, the executive heads of all United Nations agencies discussed the implications of the results of the Conference for their respective programmes and committed themselves to supporting the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the coordination of the United Nations organs, bodies and the specialized agencies whose activities deal with human rights, as set out in resolution 48/141,

Noting also that the High Commissioner has established a permanent dialogue with the United Nations programmes and agencies whose activities deal with human rights in order to maintain systematic exchanges of information, experience and expertise,

Having considered the report of the High Commissioner,¹⁹⁴

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

2. *Endorses* the reaffirmation in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the importance of the promotion of universal respect for, and observance and

protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

3. *Reaffirms* the views of the World Conference on Human Rights on the urgency of eliminating denials and violations of human rights;

4. *Recognizes* that the international community should devise ways and means to remove current obstacles and meet the challenges to the full realization of all human rights and to prevent the continuation of human rights violations resulting therefrom throughout the world;

5. *Calls upon* all States to take further action with a view to the full realization of all human rights in the light of the recommendations of the Conference;

6. *Urges* all States to continue to give widespread publicity to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action in order to promote increased awareness of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

7. *Reiterates* the request of the Conference that immediate steps be taken to increase substantially the resources for the human rights programme from within existing and future regular budgets of the United Nations;

8. *Welcomes with appreciation* the work of the High Commissioner accomplished thus far, and expresses its commitment to continue to cooperate with and support the High Commissioner in the discharge of his mandate, as set out in resolution 48/141;

9. *Requests* the High Commissioner, the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and other organs and bodies of the United Nations system related to human rights to take further action with a view to the full implementation of all the recommendations of the Conference;

10. *Also requests* the High Commissioner to continue to coordinate the human rights promotion and protection activities throughout the United Nations system, as set out in resolution 48/141, including through a permanent dialogue with the United Nations agencies and programmes whose activities deal with human rights;

11. *Invites* the Administrative Committee on Coordination to continue to discuss the implications of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action for the United Nations system;

12. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue to report on the measures taken and the progress achieved in the comprehensive implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

13. *Decides* to consider this question at its fifty-first session under the sub-item "Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action".

*99th plenary meeting
22 December 1995*

50/202. Amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/164 of 23 December 1994 on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁴⁹ and its decision 49/448

of 23 December 1994 on the consideration of the request for the revision of article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention,

Noting the decision of the States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of 22 May 1995²²⁹ to amend article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention,

Welcoming the call for broad ratification of this amendment in the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women,¹⁰² held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995,

Reiterating the importance of the Convention as well as the contribution of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to the efforts of the United Nations to eliminate discrimination against women,

1. *Takes note with approval* of the resolution regarding the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the States parties to the Convention on 22 May 1995;

2. *Urges* States parties to the Convention to take appropriate measures so that acceptance by a two-thirds majority of States parties can be reached as soon as possible in order for the amendment to enter into force.

99th plenary meeting
22 December 1995

50/203. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/129 of 14 December 1990, 46/98 of 16 December 1991 and 47/95 of 16 December 1992, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/12 of 24 May 1990 and Council decision 1992/272 of 30 July 1992, recommending that a world conference on women be held in 1995,

Reaffirming the importance of the outcome of the previous World Conferences on Women, held at Mexico City in 1975,²³⁰ at Copenhagen in 1980²³¹ and at Nairobi in 1985,²³²

Building on the consensus reached and the progress made at previous United Nations conferences and summits, for children in New York in 1990,⁵² on environment and development at Rio de Janeiro in 1992,⁵³ on human rights at Vienna in 1993,²³³ on population and development at Cairo in 1994⁴⁶ and on social development at Copenhagen in 1995,⁴⁷ towards achieving equality, development and peace,

Expressing its satisfaction that the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and

Peace reached a successful conclusion and adopted the Beijing Declaration²³⁴ and the Platform for Action,¹⁰²

Expressing its profound gratitude to the Government of the People's Republic of China for having made it possible for the Conference to be held at Beijing and for the excellent facilities, staff and services so graciously placed at the disposal of the Conference,

Recognizing the significance of the outcome of the Conference to make a real change for the empowerment of women and thus to the fulfilment of the goals adopted in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,¹²⁷

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action are important contributions to the advancement of women worldwide and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned, as well as non-governmental organizations,

Recognizing that the implementation of the Platform for Action rests primarily at the national level, that Governments, non-governmental organizations and public and private institutions should be involved in the implementation process and that national mechanisms also have an important role to play,

Bearing in mind that promotion of international co-operation is essential for the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action,

Recognizing that the implementation of the Platform for Action requires commitment from Governments and the international community,

Recognizing also the important role played by States, the United Nations, the regional commissions and other international organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the preparatory process of the Conference and the importance of their involvement in the implementation of the Platform for Action,

Taking into account the fact that the follow-up to the Conference should be undertaken on the basis of an integrated approach to the advancement of women within the framework of a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of the major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields, as well as the overall responsibilities of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind its resolution 50/42 of 8 December 1995,

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General, the Secretary-General of the Conference and the staff of the Secretariat for the effective preparations and services provided for the Conference,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Fourth World Conference on Women,²³⁵ as adopted on 15 September 1995;

2. *Endorses* the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action as adopted by the Conference;

3. *Calls upon* States, the United Nations system and all other actors to implement the Platform for Action, in particular by promoting an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective at all levels, including in the design, monitoring and evaluation of all policies, as

²²⁹CEDAW/SP/1995/2, annex.

²³⁰See *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).

²³¹See *Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Copenhagen, 14-30 July 1980* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.IV.3 and corrigendum).

²³²See *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10).

²³³See A/CONF.157/24 (Part I).

²³⁴A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1, chap. I, resolution 1, annex 1.

²³⁵A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1.