cooperate fully with the Committee in the presentation of their reports;

5. Urges States parties to the Convention to take appropriate measures so that acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention by a two-thirds majority of States parties can be reached as soon as possible in order for the amendment to enter into force;

6. Approves the request made by the Committee and supported by the States parties to the Convention for additional meeting time so as to allow the Committee to hold two sessions annually, each of three weeks' duration, preceded by a pre-session working group, for an interim period starting in 1997;


8. Decides to authorize the Open-ended Working Group to meet for ten working days, in parallel with the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-first session;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the status of the Convention and the implementation of the present resolution.

82nd plenary meeting 12 December 1996

51/69. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/42 of 8 December 1995 and 50/203 of 22 December 1995,


Reaffirming the importance of the outcome of the previous World Conferences on Women, held at Mexico City in 1975,66 at Copenhagen in 198067 and at Nairobi in 1985,68

Recognizing the significance of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women,69 held at Beijing in 1995, 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,70

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration71 and the Platform for Action,72 adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, 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 by 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 cooperation 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 by 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,

Reaffirming its decision that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with their respective mandates and with General Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and other relevant resolutions, will constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that will play the primary role in the overall policy-making and follow-up and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Platform for Action, and reaffirming the need for a coordinated

65 Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 6 (E/1996/26), annex III.
69 See A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1.
71 A/CONF.177/20, chap. 1, resolution 1, annex I.
72 Ibid., annex II.
follow-up to and implementation of the results of major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields,

Reaffirming that the Commission on the Status of Women has a central role as a functional commission assisting the Economic and Social Council in the monitoring, within the United Nations system, of the implementation of the Platform for Action and in advising the Council thereon and should therefore be strengthened,

Reaffirming also that the Economic and Social Council should continue to oversee system-wide coordination in the implementation of the Platform for Action and ensure overall coordination of the follow-up to and implementation of the results of all United Nations international conferences in the economic, social and related fields and report thereon to the General Assembly,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women;[7]

2. Takes note of initiatives and actions taken by Governments and the international community towards the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action adopted by the Conference;

3. Calls once again 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 appropriate, in order to ensure effective implementation of the Platform;

4. Welcomes the contribution of the report of the Secretary-General in translating the concept of mainstreaming into practical action, including the ongoing work to develop methodologies to facilitate the application of a gender perspective into all policies and programmes throughout the United Nations system;

5. Calls for intensified efforts at the international level to integrate the equal status and all human rights of women into the mainstream of United Nations system-wide activity and to address these issues regularly and systematically throughout the relevant United Nations bodies and mechanisms;

6. Stresses that Governments have the primary responsibility for implementing the Platform for Action, and reaffirms that Governments should continue to commit themselves at the highest political level to its implementation and should take a leading role in coordinating, monitoring and assessing progress in the advancement of women;

7. Calls upon States, with the assistance of non-governmental organizations, to continue to disseminate widely the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action;

8. Welcomes the progress made by Governments thus far towards meeting the commitment to developing, by 1996, comprehensive implementation strategies or plans of action, including time-bound targets and benchmarks for monitoring, and urges all Governments that have not yet done so to undertake efforts in this regard, in order to implement fully the Platform for Action;

9. Also welcomes the contribution made to the elaboration of guidelines for national strategies or plans of action by regional and subregional conferences on the implementation of the Platform for Action, such as the Outline of a Model National Action Plan by the Subregional Conference of Senior Governmental Experts held at Bucharest from 12 to 14 September 1996, which may assist other Governments, too, in meeting this commitment, and in this respect encourages the support of, inter alia, the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat;

10. Urges Governments that have not yet done so to establish or strengthen appropriate national machineries for the advancement of women at the highest political level, appropriate intra- and interministerial procedures and staffing and other institutions with the mandate and capacity to broaden women's participation and integrate gender analysis into policies and programmes, so as to ensure the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, and takes note of regional initiatives for strengthening national machineries;

11. Encourages non-governmental organizations to contribute to the design and implementation of these strategies or national plans of action in addition to their own programmes that complement government efforts;

12. Calls upon Governments to invite and encourage the active support and participation of a broad and diverse range of other institutional actors, including legislative bodies, academic and research institutions, professional associations, trade unions, local community groups and the media, as well as financial and non-profit organizations, for the implementation of the Platform for Action;

13. Recognizes the importance attached to the regional monitoring of the global and regional platforms for action by regional commissions and other subregional or regional structures, within their mandates, in consultation with Governments, and the necessity of promoting cooperation among Governments of the same region in this respect;

14. Invites the Economic and Social Council, in order to facilitate the regional implementation, monitoring and evaluation process, to consider reviewing the institutional capacity of the United Nations regional commissions, in accordance with paragraph 302 of the Platform for Action, and to consider, in this context, how best to integrate the inputs by the regional commissions into the overall monitoring and follow-up to the Platform for Action;

15. Calls upon States to take action to fulfil the commitments made at the Conference for the advancement of women and for the strengthening of international cooperation, and reaffirms that adequate financial resources should be committed at the international level for the implementation of the Platform for Action in the developing countries, in particular in Africa, and in the least developed countries;

16. Invites the Secretary-General, in the implementation of the United Nations system-wide initiative on Africa, to pay special attention to the needs and role of women as actors and beneficiaries in the development process;

17. Recognizes that implementation of the Platform for Action in the countries with economies in transition requires continued international cooperation and assistance, as indicated in the Platform for Action;

18. Calls upon Member States to allocate sufficient resources for undertaking gender impact analyses in order to develop successful national implementation strategies for the Platform for Action;

19. Stresses that full and effective implementation of the Platform for Action will require a political commitment to make available human and financial resources for the empowerment of women, the integration of a gender perspective in budgetary decisions on policies and programmes, as well as adequate financing of specific programmes for securing equality between women and men;

20. Welcomes the input of the Commission on the Status of Women to the discussion on the eradication of poverty in the coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council, inter alia, in relation to mainstreaming a gender perspective in poverty eradication activities and the use of available funding sources and mechanisms, with a view to contributing to the goals of poverty eradication and targeting women living in poverty;

21. Urges Governments, the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to empower women through concrete actions, policies and programmes, including integration of gender perspectives;

22. Requests Governments and the international community to implement specific programmes for the eradication of poverty and illiteracy, ensuring women’s equal access to education, training, employment and the promotion of entrepreneurial activities, and strongly urges the international community to support national efforts towards the advancement of women in the developing countries, particularly in Africa, and in the least developed countries;

23. Reaffirms that, in order to implement the Platform for Action, a reformulation of policies and reallocation of resources may be needed, but that some policy changes may not necessarily have financial implications;

24. Reaffirms also that, in order to implement the Platform for Action, adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources to the developing countries, in particular in Africa, and the least developed countries, from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources for the advancement of women, will also be required;

25. Calls upon those States committed to the 20:20 initiative to integrate a gender perspective fully into its implementation, as referred to in paragraph 358 of the Platform for Action;

26. Recognizes that the creation of an enabling environment, at the national and international levels, is necessary to ensure the full participation of women in economic activities, and calls upon States to remove obstacles for the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action;

27. Calls upon Member States to commit themselves to gender balance, inter alia, through the creation of special mechanisms, in all government-appointed committees, boards and other relevant official bodies, as appropriate, as well as in all international bodies, institutions and organizations, notably by presenting and promoting more women candidates;

28. Also calls upon Member States to aim at and support gender balance in the composition of delegations to the United Nations and other international forums;

29. Reaffirms that the implementation of the Platform for Action will require immediate and concerted action by all to create a peaceful, just and humane world based on all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the principle of equality for all people of all ages and from all walks of life, and to this end, recognizes that broad-based and sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development is necessary to sustain social development and social justice;

30. Stresses, in relation to the United Nations, that the Platform for Action needs to be implemented through the work of all the bodies and organizations of the system during the period 1995-2000, specifically and as an integral part of wider programming;

31. Also stresses that the means of implementation of the Platform for Action should include mainstreaming a gender perspective in the context of preparation of the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999;

32. Welcomes the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council of the revised system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001 and its decision to undertake, in 1998, a comprehensive mid-term review of the implementation of the revised plan as a basis for future programming and coordination of activities for the advancement and empowerment of women by the United Nations system, including a review of the progress made in mainstreaming a gender perspective in all activities of the United Nations system;

33. Requests the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination,
to formulate a new system-wide medium-term plan for the 
advancement of women to cover the period 2002-2005, to 
submit a new draft plan to the Economic and Social Council 
at its substantive session of 2000 in order to provide guidance 
for the medium-term plans of the individual organizations of the 
United Nations system and to submit the draft plan to the 
Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-fourth session 
for comments;

34. Reiterates the need for an enhanced framework for 
international cooperation for gender-related issues in the 
integrated and comprehensive implementation, follow-up and 
assessment of the Platform for Action, taking into account the 
results of global United Nations summits and conferences;

35. Welcomes the decision of the Economic and Social 
Council to devote its 1997 coordination segment to 
mainstreaming a gender perspective, and reiterates its 
invitation to the Council to consider devoting one high-level 
segment and one operational segment to the advancement of 
women and the implementation of the Platform for Action, 
before the year 2000, taking into account the multi-year 
programme of work of the Commission on the Status of 
Women and all other functional commissions of the Council 
and the need for a system-wide approach to the 
implementation of the Platform for Action;

36. Also welcomes the establishment of the Inter-
Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, and notes 
the work done by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General 
on Gender Issues for the system-wide implementation of the 
Platform for Action;

37. Further welcomes the fact that the Inter-Agency 
Committee on Women and Gender Equality will serve as a 
forum for information exchange and the promotion of 
programme coordination and collaborative arrangements 
among organizations of the system and will be responsible for 
addressing, on a comprehensive system-wide basis, all aspects 
of the implementation of the Platform for Action and gender-
related recommendations emanating from other recent 
international conferences within the purview of the United 
Nations system;

38. Welcomes developments in coordination at the inter-
agency level, including work done by the Inter-Agency 
Committee on Women and Gender Equality which is expected 
to move forward the conceptual discussion of mainstreaming, 
and stresses the need for further work to mainstream a gender 
perspective into the day-to-day work of United Nations staff 
throughout the system and in intergovernmental action beyond 
the social sectors and operational activities;

39. Also welcomes Economic and Social Council 
resolution 1996/6, in which the Council strengthened the 
mandate and the terms of reference of the Commission on the 
Status of Women and endorsed the Commission's multi-year 
work programme for the period 1996-2000, and also welcomes 
the agreed conclusions 1996/1 of the Commission on the 
Status of Women of March 1996 on the Commission's methods 
of work for dealing with the implementation of the Platform 
for Action;\footnotetext{15}{Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, 
Supplement No. 6 (E/1996/26), chap. I sect. C. 1.}

40. Invites once again all other functional commissions 
of the Economic and Social Council, within their mandates, to 
take due account of the Platform for Action and to ensure the 
integration of gender aspects in their respective work;

41. Welcomes the measures taken by the Secretary-
General to date to ensure coordination of policy within the 
United Nations for the implementation of the Platform for Action 
and the mainstreaming of a system-wide gender 
perspective in all activities of the United Nations system, 
including training, in accordance with paragraph 326 of the 
Platform for Action;

42. Requests the Secretary-General to present action-
oriented recommendations to the Economic and Social Council 
at its coordination segment on means to enhance system-wide 
coordination on gender issues and to mainstream a gender 
perspective throughout the United Nations system;

43. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue to 
disseminate the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for 
Action as widely as possible, including to the competent 
organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies;

44. Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to 
ensure that the Division for the Advancement of Women can 
effectively carry out all the tasks foreseen for it in the Platform 
for Action by, inter alia, providing sufficient human and 
financial resources within the regular budget of the United 
Nations;

45. Requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with 
the Administrator of the United Nations Development 
Programme, to ensure that the resident coordinators fully 
corporate a gender perspective in integrating the follow-up to 
the Fourth World Conference on Women into the 
coordinated follow-up to recent global United Nations 
conferences;

46. Welcomes the decision of the Committee on the 
Elimination of Discrimination against Women to amend its 
reporting guidelines in line with the recommendations of 
paragraph 323 of the Platform for Action to enable it to 
consider reports submitted by States parties, and invites States 
parties to include information on measures taken to implement 
the Platform for Action in their reports;

47. Notes the importance of the activities undertaken by 
the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the 
International Research and Training Institute for the 
Advancement of Women in the implementation of the 
Platform for Action;

48. Commends the work of the International Research 
and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on the 
issues addressing, inter alia, the process of the economic and
political empowerment of women, statistics and indicators in
gender issues, and requests the Institute to incorporate in its
biennial work programme appropriate actions in order to carry
out research and training components relevant to the twelve
critical areas of concern and the implementation of the Platform
for Action, within its area of expertise;

49. Also commends the work of the United Nations
Development Fund for Women in providing a strategic and
focused response to the follow-up and implementation of the
Platform for Action through its advocacy and operational
activities in support of women's economic and political
empowerment, and encourages the Fund to provide technical
support to operationalize the Platform for Action at the
national level through, inter alia, the resident coordinator
system and taking into account decision 1996/43 of 13
September 1996 of the Executive Board of the United Nations
Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund; 56

50. Encourages the International Research and Training
Institute for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations
Development Fund for Women and the Division for the
Advancement of Women to strengthen their cooperation and
coordination;

51. Encourages international financial institutions to
review and revise policies, procedures and staffing to ensure
that investments and programmes benefit women and thus
contribute to sustainable development;

52. Invites the World Trade Organization to consider
how it might contribute to the implementation of the Platform
for Action, including activities in cooperation with the United
Nations system;

53. Decides to appraise the progress on an annual basis
and to retain in the agenda of its forthcoming sessions the item
entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World
Conference on Women", with a view to assessing, in the year
2000, the progress achieved in the implementation of the
Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of
Women and the Platform for Action in an appropriate forum;

54. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the
General Assembly at its fifty-second session and thereafter
annually, through the Commission on the Status of Women
and the Economic and Social Council, on ways to enhance the
capacity of the Organization and of the United Nations system
to support the ongoing follow-up to the Conference in the most
integrated and effective way, including human and financial
requirements and measures taken and progress achieved in the
implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for
Action.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/70. Follow-up to the Regional Conference to
Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced
Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary
Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of
the Commonwealth of Independent States and
Relevant Neighbouring States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/113 of 20 December 1993,
49/173 of 23 December 1994 and, in particular, 50/151 of 21
December 1995,

Taking note with satisfaction of the successful conclusion
of the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of
Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary
Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the
Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant
Neighbouring States, held at Geneva on 30 and 31 May 1996,

Aware that involuntary, mass displacement, in addition
to the human suffering involved, imposes significant economic
and social burdens and may affect security and stability at the
regional level,

Reaffirming the view of the Conference that, while the
primary responsibility for tackling population displacement
problems lies with the affected countries themselves, the
serious challenges cannot be met by the limited resources and
experience of the countries of the Commonwealth of
Independent States individually,

Recalling that the protection and promotion of human
rights and the strengthening of democratic institutions are
essential to prevent mass population displacement,

Mindful that effective implementation of the
recommendations contained in the Programme of Action
adopted by the Conference 77 should be facilitated and can be
ensured only through cooperation and coordinated activities
undertaken in this respect by all interested States,
intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and
other actors,

Welcoming the spirit of international solidarity and
cooporation that made the preparatory process of the
Conference and the Conference itself a success,

Reaffirming the importance of the 1951 Convention
relating to the Status of Refugees 78 and its 1967 Protocol, 79

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General; 80

2. Expresses its gratitude to the Government of
Switzerland and other host States that made it possible to
convene the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of
Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary

77 A/51/341, appendix.
79 Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.
80 A/51/341.