the recent initiatives taken by some specialized agencies to strengthen their participation in the internal coordination mechanisms, such as the United Nations Development Group and the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions;

24. Requests the Secretary General, in the context of the next triennial policy review, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the impact of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and progress in the implementation of the multi-year funding framework, as part of ongoing efforts to reverse the declining trend in core resources, and also on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of operational activities of the United Nations system, including recommendations for enhancing the impact of these processes, as well as for appropriate follow-up.

_44th plenary meeting_  
28 July 2000

2000/21. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

_The Economic and Social Council,_

_Taking note of Commission of Human Rights resolution 2000/14 of 17 April 2000, 3_ 

1. Approves the Commission's recommendation that the General Assembly, through the Council, request the Secretary-General to assign high priority to the activities of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and to earmark adequate resources to finance the activities of the Programme;

2. Endorses the Commission's decision to appoint an eleven-member Bureau for the two sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, comprising two representatives per regional group and a representative of the host country as an ex-officio member, in order to ensure continuity and the adequate representation of all Member States;

3. Approves the Commission's requests to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights:

(a) To continue and intensify, in her capacity as Secretary-General of the World Conference, the activities already initiated within the framework of the world information campaign with a view to mobilization and support for the objectives of the World Conference by all sectors of political, economic, social and cultural life, as well as other interested sectors;

(b) To undertake appropriate consultations with non-governmental organizations on the possibility that they might hold a forum before and partly during the World Conference and, insofar as possible, to provide them with technical assistance for that purpose;

4. Also approves the Commission's requests:

(a) To the Secretary-General, the United Nations specialized agencies and the regional economic commissions to provide financial and technical assistance for the organization of the regional preparatory meetings planned in the context of the World Conference;

(b) To the regional preparatory processes to identify trends, priorities and obstacles at the national and regional levels, to formulate specific recommendations for the action to be carried out in future to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and to submit to the Preparatory Committee, by its 2001 session at the latest, the conclusions of these regional preparatory processes;

(c) To the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of Commission resolution 2000/14 under the agenda item entitled “Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination”;

5. Further approves the Commission's recommendations that:

(a) The World Conference adopt a declaration and a programme of action containing concrete and practical recommendations to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(b) The particular situation of children receive special attention during the preparations for and during the World Conference, especially in its outcome;

(c) The importance of adopting systematically a gender-based approach through the preparations for and in the outcome of the World Conference be stressed.

_45th plenary meeting_  
28 July 2000


_The Economic and Social Council,_

_Recalling the provision contained in the final document of the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, according to which the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people within the United Nations system should be considered, 42_ 

_Recalling also that consideration of the establishment of a permanent forum is recognized as one of the important_

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42 See A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III, sect. II.B, para. 32.
objectives of the programme of activities for the International
Decade of the World’s Indigenous People. 83

Noting the two workshops on the subject held under the
auspices of the Commission on Human Rights in Copenhagen
from 26 to 28 June 1995 and in Santiago from 30 June to 2 July
1997,

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General entitled
“Review of the existing mechanisms, procedures and
programmes within the United Nations concerning indigenous
people”; 84 and noting in particular the striking absence of a
mechanism to ensure coordination and regular exchange of
information among interested parties— Governments, the
United Nations and indigenous people— on an ongoing basis,

Taking into account the deliberations of the open-ended
inter-sessional ad hoc working group on a permanent forum for
indigenous people 85 established pursuant to Commission on
Human Rights resolutions 1998/20 of 9 April 1998 86 and
1999/52 of 27 April 1999 87 to consider the establishment of a
permanent forum and to submit concrete proposals to that
effect, as well as the consideration given to the subject at the
fifty-sixth session of the Commission,

Wishing to finalize this project during the International
Decade of the World’s Indigenous People as one means of
furthering the objectives of the Decade in partnership between
Governments and indigenous people,

Stressing that the establishment of the permanent forum
should lead to careful consideration of the future of the Working
Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on the
Promotion and Protection of Human Rights,

Bearing in mind the common resolve to promote peace
and prosperity in accordance with the Charter of the United
Nations, and recalling the functions and powers of the Council
in that respect as contained in the Charter,

1. Decides to establish as a subsidiary organ of the
Council a permanent forum on indigenous issues, consisting of
sixteen members, eight members to be nominated by
Governments and elected by the Council, and eight members to
be appointed by the President of the Council following formal
consultation with the Bureau and the regional groups through
their coordinators, on the basis of broad consultations with
indigenous organizations, taking into account the diversity and
geographical distribution of the indigenous people of the world
as well as the principles of transparency, representativity and
equal opportunity for all indigenous people, including internal
processes, when appropriate, and local indigenous consultation
processes, with all members serving in their personal capacity
as independent experts on indigenous issues for a period of
three years with the possibility of re-election or reappointment
for one further period; States, United Nations bodies and organs,
targeted governmental organizations and non-governmental
organizations in consultative status with the Council may
participate as observers; organizations of indigenous people
may equally participate as observers in accordance with the
procedures which have been applied in the Working Group on
Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on the
Promotion and Protection of Human Rights;

2. Also decides that the Permanent Forum on
Indigenous Issues shall serve as an advisory body to the Council
with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues within the mandate
of the Council relating to economic and social development,
culture, the environment, education, health and human rights; in
so doing the Permanent Forum shall:

(a) Provide expert advice and recommendations on
indigenous issues to the Council, as well as to programmes,
funds and agencies of the United Nations, through the Council;

(b) Raise awareness and promote the integration and
coordination of activities relating to indigenous issues within the
United Nations system;

(c) Prepare and disseminate information on indigenous
issues;

3. Further decides that the Permanent Forum shall
apply the rules of procedure established for subsidiary organs of
the Council as applicable, unless otherwise decided by the
Council; the principle of consensus shall govern the work of the
Permanent Forum;

4. Decides that the Permanent Forum shall hold an
annual session of ten working days at the United Nations Office
at Geneva or at United Nations Headquarters or at such other
place as the Permanent Forum may decide in accordance with
existing financial rules and regulations of the United Nations;

5. Also decides that the Permanent Forum shall submit
an annual report to the Council on its activities, including any
recommendations for approval; the report shall be distributed to
the relevant United Nations organs, funds, programmes and
agencies as a means, inter alia, of furthering the dialogue on
indigenous issues within the United Nations system;

6. Further decides that the financing of the Permanent
Forum shall be provided from within existing resources through
the regular budget of the United Nations and its specialized
agencies and through such voluntary contributions as may be
donated;

7. Decides that, five years after its establishment, an
evaluation of the functioning of the Permanent Forum.
including the method for selection of its members, shall be carried out by the Council in the light of the experience gained;

8. Also decides, once the Permanent Forum has been established and has held its 1st annual session, to review, without prejudging any outcome, all existing mechanisms, procedures and programmes within the United Nations concerning indigenous issues, including the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, with a view to rationalizing activities, avoiding duplication and overlap and promoting effectiveness.

45th plenary meeting
28 July 2000

2000/23. Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered with appreciation the section concerning the situation of Palestinian women and assistance provided by organizations of the United Nations system of the report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, and the Beijing Platform for Action,

Recalling also its resolution 1999/15 of 28 July 1999 and other relevant United Nations resolutions,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

Stressing the need for full implementation of the Memorandum signed at Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on 4 September 1999 and full compliance with the existing agreements, as well as the need for the conclusion of the final settlement by the agreed time of September 2000,

Concerned about the continuing difficult situation of Palestinian women in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and about the severe consequences of continuous illegal Israeli settlement activities, as well as the harsh economic conditions and other consequences for the situation of Palestinian women and their families resulting from the frequent closures and isolation of the occupied territory.

1. Calls upon the concerned parties, as well as the entire international community, to exert all the necessary efforts to ensure the continuity and success of the peace process and its conclusion by the agreed time of September 2000 and the achievement of tangible progress in the improvement of the situation of Palestinian women and their families;

2. Reaffirms that the Israeli occupation remains a major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development planning of their society;

3. Demands that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Regulations annexed to The Hague Convention IV, of 18 October 1907, and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

4. Calls upon Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties, in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

5. Urges Member States, financial organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and other relevant institutions to intensify their efforts to provide financial and technical assistance to Palestinian women, especially during the transitional period;

6. Requests the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, and the Beijing Platform for Action;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation and to assist Palestinian women by all available means, and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-fifth session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

45th plenary meeting
28 July 2000

2000/24. Revitalization and strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1979/11 of 9 May 1979, in which it recommended that the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women be revitalized;

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1979/11 of 9 May 1979, in which it recommended that the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women be revitalized;