



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-fourth session

Agenda item 26

### Advancement of women

#### Report of the Third Committee

*Rapporteur:* Mr. Firas Hassan **Jabbar** (Iraq)

#### I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 20 September 2019, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-fourth session the item entitled “Advancement of women” and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee held a general discussion on the item at its 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 15th meetings, on 4, 7 and 11 October 2019, and considered proposals and took action on the item at its 49th and 51st meetings, on 18 and 19 November 2019. An account of the Committee’s discussion is contained in the relevant summary records.<sup>1</sup>

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its seventieth, seventy-first and seventy-second sessions ([A/74/38](#));

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement in the status of women in the United Nations system ([A/74/220](#));

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly ([A/74/222](#));

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas ([A/74/224](#));

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on violence against women migrant workers ([A/74/235](#));

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<sup>1</sup> [A/C.3/74/SR.7](#), [A/C.3/74/SR.8](#), [A/C.3/74/SR.9](#), [A/C.3/74/SR.10](#), [A/C.3/74/SR.15](#), [A/C.3/74/SR.49](#) and [A/C.3/74/SR.51](#).



(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences (A/74/137).

4. At the 7th meeting, on 4 October, the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) made an introductory statement and responded to the questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Japan, Colombia, Namibia, Guatemala and Liberia.

5. At the same meeting, the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women made an introductory statement and responded to the questions posed and comments made by the representatives of the European Union, Germany, Japan, Liberia, the Russian Federation, Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

6. Also at the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences made an introductory statement and responded to the questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Argentina, Switzerland, Brazil, Ireland, Mexico, Liechtenstein, Cuba, the European Union, Slovenia, South Africa, Morocco, New Zealand, Qatar, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Australia, the Netherlands, Norway, the Russian Federation, the United States of America and Canada.

7. At the 44th meeting, on 7 November, the representative of the United States of America made a statement with regard to the draft resolutions before the Committee.<sup>2</sup>

## II. Consideration of proposals

### A. Draft resolution A/C.3/74/L.20/Rev.1

8. At its 49th meeting, on 18 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas” (A/C.3/74/L.20/Rev.1), which was submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cabo Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Mongolia and Zimbabwe.

9. At the same meeting, the representative of Mongolia made a statement and orally revised the draft resolution by deleting the phrase “as appropriate” in operative paragraph 2 (a) and adding a new paragraph after operative paragraph 2 (b) and after operative paragraph 3.<sup>3</sup>

10. Subsequently, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, the Bahamas, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, the Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, the Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay,

<sup>2</sup> See A/C.3/74/SR.44.

<sup>3</sup> See A/C.3/74/SR.49.

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as orally revised.

11. At its 49th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/74/L.20/Rev.1](#), as orally revised (see para. 21, draft resolution I).
12. After the adoption, statements were made by the representatives of Argentina and the United States of America and the observer for the Holy See.

## **B. Draft resolution [A/C.3/74/L.22/Rev.1](#)**

13. At its 51st meeting, on 19 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Violence against women migrant workers” ([A/C.3/74/L.22/Rev.1](#)), which was submitted by Bangladesh, Côte d’Ivoire, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Indonesia, Paraguay, the Philippines and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Argentina, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, the Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, India, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Palau, Peru, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

14. At the same meeting, the representative of the Philippines made a statement.

15. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/74/L.22/Rev.1](#) (see para. 21, draft resolution II).

16. Before the adoption, statements were made by the representatives of Saudi Arabia, the United States of America and Libya. After the adoption, statements were made by the representatives of Tunisia, Brazil, Finland (on behalf of the European Union), the Russian Federation, Chile, Ireland (also on behalf of Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay), Italy, Hungary, Algeria and Guatemala.

## **C. Draft resolution [A/C.3/74/L.65](#)**

17. At its 51st meeting, on 19 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly” ([A/C.3/74/L.65](#)), submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations.

18. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Chair.

19. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/74/L.65](#) (see para. 21, draft resolution III).

20. After the adoption, the representative of the United States of America made a statement.

### III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

21. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

#### **Draft resolution I** **Improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions [56/129](#) of 19 December 2001, [58/146](#) of 22 December 2003, [60/138](#) of 16 December 2005, [62/136](#) of 18 December 2007, [64/140](#) of 18 December 2009, [66/129](#) of 19 December 2011, [68/139](#) of 18 December 2013, [70/132](#) of 17 December 2015 and [72/148](#) of 19 December 2017,

*Reaffirming* the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and also that all forms of discrimination, including discrimination against women and girls, are contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>1</sup> the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>2</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>2</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>3</sup> the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>4</sup> the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities<sup>5</sup> and other human rights instruments,

*Reaffirming also* the commitment made to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including those in rural areas, contained in the outcome documents of relevant international conferences and summits, in particular the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,<sup>6</sup> the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”<sup>7</sup> and the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples,<sup>8</sup> and recalling other instruments, as appropriate, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development,<sup>9</sup>

*Reaffirming further* the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,<sup>10</sup> and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>11</sup>

*Recalling* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development addresses the need to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, in order to ensure that no one is left behind, and that the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is crucial,

<sup>1</sup> Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

<sup>2</sup> See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>6</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>7</sup> Resolution [S-23/2](#), annex, and resolution [S-23/3](#), annex.

<sup>8</sup> Resolution [69/2](#).

<sup>9</sup> Resolution [41/128](#), annex.

<sup>10</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>11</sup> Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

*Recognizing* that the achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if one half of humanity continues to be denied its full human rights and opportunities,

*Taking note* of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment,

*Recalling* the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-second session<sup>12</sup> and its priority theme "Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls",

*Looking forward* to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in New York on 23 September 2020,

*Recognizing* that progress on the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, in particular in rural areas, has been held back owing to the persistence of historical and structural unequal power relations between women and men, poverty and inequalities and disadvantages in access to resources and opportunities that limit women's and girls' capabilities, and growing gaps in equality of opportunity, discriminatory laws, policies, social norms, attitudes, harmful customary and contemporary practices and gender stereotypes,

*Expressing its deep concern* that discrimination and violence against women and girls, including those in rural areas, continue to occur in all parts of the world and that all forms of violence and discrimination, including multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, that women and girls face are impediments to the development of their full potential as equal partners with men and boys in all aspects of life, as well as obstacles to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Expressing its deep concern also* that, while women contribute more than 50 per cent of the food produced worldwide, they account for 70 per cent of the world's hungry, and that women and girls are disproportionately affected by hunger, food insecurity and poverty, in part as a result of gender inequality and discrimination,

*Expressing concern* that many rural women continue to be economically and socially disadvantaged because of their limited access to economic resources and opportunities and their limited access or lack of access to quality education, health-care services, justice, land, sustainable and time- and labour-saving infrastructure and technology, water and sanitation and other resources, as well as to credit, extension services and agricultural inputs, and expressing concern also about their exclusion from planning and decision-making and their disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work,

*Emphasizing* that rural women's poverty is directly related to the absence of economic opportunities and autonomy and the lack of access to economic and productive resources, quality education and support services and of women's participation in the decision-making process, and recognizing that rural women's poverty and lack of empowerment as well as their exclusion from social and economic policies can place them at increased risk of violence that can impede their social and economic development, as well as the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recognizing* that, despite gains in providing access to quality education, rural girls are still more likely than rural boys to remain excluded from education and that among the gender-specific barriers to girls' equal enjoyment of their right to education are the feminization of poverty, child labour undertaken by girls, child, early and

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<sup>12</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2018, Supplement No. 7 (E/2018/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

forced marriage, female genital mutilation, early and repeat pregnancies, all forms of violence, including gender-based violence, abuse and harassment on the way to and from and at school, in their technology-mediated environment, the lack of safe and adequate sanitation facilities, including for menstrual hygiene management, the disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work performed by girls and gender stereotypes and negative social norms that lead families and communities to place less value on the education of girls than that of boys and may influence the decision of parents to allow girls to attend school,

*Recognizing* the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security<sup>13</sup> and the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems,<sup>14</sup> endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security, which embrace gender equality as one of the main guiding principles of implementation in order to help to address the ongoing disparities with regard to access to and control of land and other natural resources,

*Deeply concerned* that climate change poses a challenge to poverty eradication and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, threatens food security and increases the risks of famine and adversely impacts the health and well-being of rural women and their families, and that rural women and girls, especially in developing countries, are disproportionately affected by the impacts of desertification, deforestation, sand and dust storms, natural disasters, persistent drought, extreme weather events, sea level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification and often have limited capacities to adapt to climate change,

*Recognizing* that women and girls in rural areas may be particularly vulnerable to violence because of multidimensional poverty and lack of access to social care and protection services and, as applicable, employment opportunities, as well as negative social norms,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>15</sup>

2. *Urges* Member States, in collaboration with the organizations of the United Nations system and civil society, as appropriate, to continue their efforts to implement the outcome of and to ensure an integrated and coordinated follow-up to the relevant United Nations conferences and summits, including their reviews, and to attach greater importance to the improvement of the situation of rural women and girls in their national, regional and global development strategies by, inter alia:

(a) Creating an enabling environment for improving their situation and ensuring systematic attention to their needs, priorities and contributions, as well as gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including through enhanced cooperation and a gender perspective, and the full and equal participation of all women in the development, implementation and follow-up of macroeconomic policies, including development policies and programmes and poverty eradication strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist, aimed at implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;<sup>10</sup>

(b) Encouraging Member States to consider adopting and pursuing national financial inclusion strategies and gender-responsive strategies to end the structural barriers to women's equal access to economic resources and to expand peer learning, experience-sharing and capacity-building in rural areas;

<sup>13</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document CL 144/9 (C 2013/20), appendix D.

<sup>14</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C 2015/20, appendix D.

<sup>15</sup> [A/74/224](#).

(c) Supporting the important role of civil society in promoting the realization and fulfilment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women, including rural women;

(d) Taking steps in the design, implementation and pursuit of fiscal policies and gender-responsive budgeting to promote gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls;

(e) Pursuing the political and socioeconomic empowerment of rural women and supporting their full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels, including through affirmative action, where appropriate, including by promoting and protecting the right to vote and to be elected and the right to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, and through support for women's and farmers' organizations in which subsistence and smallholder women farmers are members, labour unions, cooperatives or other associations and civil society groups promoting rural women's rights;

(f) Promoting consultation with and the participation of rural women and, as appropriate, girls, including those who are indigenous, those with disabilities and older women, through their organizations and networks, in the design, development and implementation of and follow-up to programmes and strategies for gender equality, the empowerment of women and rural development;

(g) Ensuring that the perspectives of rural women and girls are taken into account and that rural women fully, meaningfully and equally participate in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies and activities related to conflict prevention, the mitigation of post-conflict situations, peace mediation, the impacts of climate change and emergencies, including natural disasters, humanitarian assistance, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction, and taking appropriate measures to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against rural women and girls in this regard;

(h) Integrating a gender perspective into the design, implementation and evaluation of and follow-up to development policies, plans and programmes, including budget policies, where lacking, ensuring coordination between line ministries, gender policymakers, gender machineries and other relevant government organizations and institutions with gender expertise, and paying increased attention to the needs of rural women and girls to ensure that they benefit from policies and programmes adopted in all spheres and that the disproportionate number of rural women living in poverty is reduced;

(i) Mainstreaming a gender perspective in decision-making processes and the governance of natural resources, leveraging the participation and influence of women in managing the sustainable use of natural resources, and enhancing the capacities of Governments, civil society and development partners to better understand and address gender issues in the management and governance of natural resources;

(j) Implementing effective, high-impact, quality-assured, people-centred, gender- and disability-responsive and evidence-based interventions to meet the health needs of rural women and girls, particularly those in vulnerable situations, throughout their life course;

(k) Strengthening measures, including resource generation, to improve women's health, including maternal health, by addressing the specific health, nutrition and basic needs of rural women and taking concrete measures to enhance and provide access to the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health for women of all ages in rural areas, as well as quality, affordable and universally accessible primary health care and support services, including prenatal and postnatal health care, emergency obstetric care, family planning, information and education,

increasing knowledge, awareness and support for the elimination of harmful practices and the prevention, treatment and care of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,<sup>16</sup> the Beijing Platform for Action<sup>17</sup> and the outcome documents of their review conferences;

(l) Strengthening the prevention, treatment and care of infections, such as HIV, in rural areas, by providing accessible information, social care services and infrastructure;

(m) Taking appropriate measures to ensure that women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, as well as contributions to on-farm and off-farm production, is recognized, including by fully recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family, and to promote nationally appropriate policies and initiatives supporting the reconciliation of work and family life and the equal sharing of responsibilities between men and women with a view to reducing and equitably distributing such unpaid work, including through, inter alia, the provision of infrastructure, technology and public services, such as water and sanitation, renewable energy, transport and information and communications technology, as well as addressing the need for accessible, affordable and quality childcare and care facilities in rural areas;

(n) Promoting sustainable, gender-responsive, quality, reliable and resilient infrastructure, including by scaling up investment in health facilities in rural areas and by improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation, including through provisions for menstrual hygiene management, and safe cooking and heating practices to improve the health and nutrition of rural women and girls;

(o) Investing in and strengthening efforts to meet the basic needs of rural women, including needs relating to their food security and nutrition and that of their families, and to promote adequate standards of living for them, as well as decent conditions for work and improved access to local, regional and global markets through improved availability, access to and use of critical rural infrastructure, such as energy and transport, science and technology, local services, capacity-building and human resources development measures and the provision of a safe and reliable water supply and sanitation, nutritional programmes, affordable housing programmes, education and literacy programmes, social support measures and health care, including HIV prevention, treatment, care, including psychosocial aspects, and support services;

(p) Fully engaging men and boys, including community leaders, as strategic partners and allies in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against them, including by working to counteract attitudes by which women and girls are regarded as subordinate to men and boys;

(q) Eliminating all forms of violence against rural women and girls in public and private spaces through multisectoral and coordinated approaches to prevent and respond to violence against rural women and girls, to investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against rural women and girls and end impunity and to provide protection as well as equal access to comprehensive social, health and legal services for all victims and survivors to support their full recovery and

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<sup>16</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>17</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.



reintegration into society, including by providing access to psychosocial support and rehabilitation, and bearing in mind the importance of all women and girls living free from violence, such as gender-related killings, including femicide, and harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, as well as of addressing the structural and underlying causes of violence against women and girls through enhanced prevention measures, research and strengthened coordination and monitoring and evaluation, by, inter alia, encouraging awareness-raising activities;

(r) Designing and implementing national policies and legal frameworks that promote and protect the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by rural women and girls, and creating an environment that does not tolerate violations or abuses of their rights, including domestic violence, sexual violence, gender-based violence and discrimination, including multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination;

(s) Promoting safe public spaces for women and girls in rural areas and improving their security and safety, including in public transportation systems and infrastructure, preventing and eliminating violence and harassment against women on their journey to and from work, and protecting women and girls from being physically threatened or assaulted, including from sexual violence, while collecting household water and fuel and when accessing sanitation facilities outside their homes or practising open defecation;

(t) Ensuring that the rights of older women in rural areas are taken into account with regard to their equal access to basic social services, appropriate social protection and/or social security measures, equal access to and control of economic resources and their empowerment through access to financial and infrastructure services, with special focus on the provision of support to older women, including indigenous women, who often have access to few resources and are often more vulnerable;

(u) Valuing and supporting the critical role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women in rural areas, in the conservation and sustainable use of traditional crops and biodiversity for present and future generations as an essential contribution to food security and nutrition, recognizing that rural women are disproportionately affected by biodiversity loss and land degradation and should therefore be meaningfully engaged in efforts to address such matters;

(v) Promoting the rights of women and girls with disabilities in rural areas, including by ensuring access on an equal basis to productive employment and decent work, economic and financial resources and disability-sensitive infrastructure and services, in particular in relation to health and education, as well as by ensuring that their priorities and needs are fully incorporated into policies and programmes, through, inter alia, their participation in decision-making processes;

(w) Developing specific assistance programmes and advisory services to promote economic skills of rural women in banking, modern trading and financial procedures, including financial literacy and consumer protection, and providing microcredit and other financial and business services to a greater number of women in rural areas, in particular female heads of households, for their economic empowerment;

(x) Supporting women entrepreneurs and women smallholder farmers, including those in subsistence farming, by continuing to provide public investment and to encourage private investment in rural women to close the gender gap in agriculture, and facilitating their access to extension and financial services, agricultural inputs and land, water, sanitation and irrigation, markets and innovative technologies;

(y) Mobilizing resources, including at the national level and through official development assistance, for increasing women's access to existing savings and credit schemes, as well as targeted programmes that provide women with capital, knowledge and tools that enhance their economic capacities;

(z) Seeking to ensure and improve equal access for rural women to decent work in agricultural and non-agricultural sectors, supporting and promoting opportunities in small and medium-sized enterprises, sustainable social enterprises and cooperatives and improving working conditions;

(aa) Investing in infrastructure and in time- and labour-saving technologies, including sustainable energy, safe drinking water and sanitation and information and communications technologies, especially in rural areas, benefiting women and girls by reducing their burden of domestic activities, affording the opportunity for girls to attend school and for women to engage in self-employment or to participate in the labour market;

(bb) Taking appropriate measures to raise public awareness among rural women and girls about the risks of trafficking in persons, including the factors that make rural women and girls vulnerable to trafficking, and eliminating the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation against them, including sexual exploitation and forced labour;

(cc) Supporting remunerative non-agricultural employment for rural women, including in the informal sector, including measures to improve working conditions, increase access to productive resources, invest in relevant infrastructure, public services and time- and labour-saving technologies, promote rural women's paid employment in the formal economy and address the structural and underlying causes of the difficult conditions faced by rural women;

(dd) Taking steps to build the capacities and skills of rural women and their enterprises and cooperatives and to design or develop and implement procurement policies and measures to enable rural women and their enterprises and cooperatives to benefit from public and private sector procurement processes, recognizing that the promotion of rural women's enterprises and cooperatives can sustainably contribute to the economic empowerment of rural women;

(ee) Promoting programmes and services to enable rural women and men to reconcile their work and family responsibilities and to encourage men throughout their life cycle to share, equally with women and girls, household, childcare and other care responsibilities;

(ff) Developing and adopting strategies to decrease women's and girls' vulnerability to environmental factors, including gender-responsive strategies on mitigation and adaptation to climate change, to support the resilience and adaptive capacities of women and girls to respond to the adverse effects of climate change, through, inter alia, the promotion of their health and well-being, as well as access to sustainable livelihoods, and the provision of adequate resources to ensure women's full participation in decision-making at all levels on environmental issues, in particular on strategies and policies related to the impacts of climate change, such as desertification, deforestation, sand and dust storms and natural disasters, persistent drought, extreme weather events, sea level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification and loss of biodiversity, on the lives of rural women and girls, and ensuring the integration of their specific needs into humanitarian responses to natural disasters, into the planning, delivery, implementation and monitoring of disaster risk reduction policies, in particular urban and rural infrastructure and land-use planning and resettlement and relocation planning during the aftermath of natural disasters, and into sustainable natural resources management;

(gg) Building the resilience of rural women and girls, in particular, women smallholder farmers, to climate change and environmental degradation (inter alia, deforestation, desertification and the loss of agricultural biodiversity) including by promoting appropriate use of relevant ancestral, indigenous and modern technological practices and knowledge and strengthening access to extension services, information and training;

(hh) Considering the adoption, where appropriate, of national legislation to protect the knowledge, innovations and practices of women in indigenous and local communities relating to traditional medicines, biodiversity and indigenous technologies;

(ii) Addressing the lack of quality, accessible, timely and reliable data disaggregated by sex and age and statistical information on disabilities, to help with the measurement of progress and to ensure that no one is left behind, including by intensifying efforts to include women's unpaid work in official statistics, and developing a systematic and comparative research base on rural women that will inform policy and programme decisions;

(jj) Strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and other relevant government institutions to collect, analyse and disseminate data, disaggregated by sex and age, and gender statistics on time use, unpaid work, land tenure, energy, water and sanitation, among other things, to support policies and actions to improve the situation of rural women and girls and to monitor and track the implementation of such policies and actions;

(kk) Guaranteeing the universal registration of births, including in rural areas, and ensuring the timely registration of all marriages for individuals living in rural areas, including by removing physical, administrative, procedural and any other barriers that impede access to registration and by providing, where lacking, mechanisms for the registration of customary and religious marriages, bearing in mind the vital importance of birth registration for the realization of the rights of individuals;

(ll) Designing, revising and implementing laws to ensure that rural women are accorded full and equal rights to own and lease land and other property, including through the equal rights to economic and productive resources, access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including banking and microfinancing, and undertaking administrative reforms and all necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, finance, appropriate technologies and vocational training, to improve access to markets and information and to ensure their equal access to justice and legal support;

(mm) Taking appropriate measures to adopt or develop legislation and policies that provide rural women with access to land and support women's cooperatives and agricultural programmes, including for subsistence agriculture, in order to contribute to school feeding programmes as a pull factor to keep children, in particular girl children, in school, noting that school meals and take-home rations attract and retain children in schools and recognizing that school feeding is an incentive to enhance enrolment and reduce absenteeism, especially for girls;

(nn) Supporting a gender-sensitive education system, including through approaches that attract and retain female students and teachers and that consider the specific needs of rural women and girls in order to eliminate gender stereotypes and discriminatory tendencies affecting them, including through community-based dialogue involving women and men and girls and boys;

(oo) Eliminating gender disparities in the realization of the right to education and ensuring full and equal participation in and completion of inclusive quality education (primary, secondary and tertiary education, including vocational and

technical education), as well as early childhood education, promoting lifelong learning opportunities for rural women and girls and the elimination of female illiteracy, including through eliminating the discriminatory policies of excluding pregnant and married girls from schools, quality teacher training, recruitment and retention of teachers in rural areas, especially women teachers where they are underrepresented, and building gender-sensitive education facilities that provide a safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environment for all and facilitate an effective transition from education or unemployment to decent work;

(pp) Promoting education, training and relevant information programmes for rural and farming women through the use of affordable and appropriate technologies and the mass media, and taking concrete measures to improve rural women's skills, productivity and employment opportunities through technical, agricultural and vocational education and training;

3. *Encourages* Member States, United Nations entities and all other relevant stakeholders to promote access to social protection for female-headed rural households;

4. *Encourages* Member States, appropriate United Nations entities and all other relevant stakeholders to promote the full and equal participation of rural women, including indigenous women as well as women farmers, fishers and agricultural workers, in sustainable agricultural and rural development;

5. *Requests* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular those dealing with issues of development, to address and support the empowerment of rural women and their specific needs in their programmes and strategies;

6. *Stresses* the need to identify the best practices for ensuring that rural women have access to and full and equal participation in the area of information and communications technology, to address the priorities and needs of rural women and girls as active users of information and to ensure their participation in developing and implementing global, regional and national information and communications technology strategies, taking appropriate educational measures to eliminate gender stereotypes regarding women in the field of technology;

7. *Encourages* Member States to consider the concluding observations and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights concerning their reports to those Committees when formulating policies and designing programmes focused on the improvement of the situation of rural women, including those to be developed and implemented in cooperation with relevant international organizations;

8. *Invites* Governments to promote the economic empowerment of rural women, including through entrepreneurship training, and to adopt gender-responsive and climate-sensitive rural development strategies and agricultural production, including budget frameworks and relevant assessment measures, as well as to ensure that the needs and priorities of rural women and girls are systematically addressed and that they can effectively contribute to poverty alleviation, hunger eradication and food security and nutrition;

9. *Invites* Governments, relevant international organizations, the specialized agencies and civil society organizations to continue to observe the International Day of Rural Women annually, on 15 October, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution [62/136](#);

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session a report on the improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas.

## Draft resolution II

### Violence against women migrant workers

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* all of its previous resolutions on violence against women migrant workers and those adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and also recalling the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,<sup>1</sup>

*Reaffirming* the provisions concerning women migrant workers contained in the outcome documents of the World Conference on Human Rights,<sup>2</sup> the International Conference on Population and Development,<sup>3</sup> the Fourth World Conference on Women<sup>4</sup> and the World Summit for Social Development<sup>5</sup> and their reviews,

*Reaffirming also* the provisions concerning women migrants contained in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,<sup>6</sup> and calling upon States to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants regardless of migratory status, especially those of women and children, and to encourage their active participation, as appropriate, in processes that contribute to decision-making, planning and implementation of policies and programmes for sustainable development at all levels,

*Reaffirming further* that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>7</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>8</sup> and the Optional Protocols thereto,<sup>9</sup> as well as other relevant conventions and treaties, provide an international legal framework and a comprehensive set of measures for the elimination and prevention of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls and for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women,

*Recalling* the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>10</sup> acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda covers the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls and the protection of labour rights and promotion of safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in informal employment, and also acknowledging the need, inter alia, to end all violence and discrimination against them,

*Reaffirming* the recognition in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development<sup>11</sup> that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and women's full and equal participation

<sup>1</sup> Resolution [48/104](#).

<sup>2</sup> [A/CONF.157/24 \(Part I\)](#), chap. III.

<sup>3</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>4</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>5</sup> *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>6</sup> Resolution [66/288](#), annex.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2131, No. 20378; and vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; and resolution [66/138](#), annex.

<sup>10</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>11</sup> Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

and leadership in the economy are vital to the achievement of sustainable development and significantly enhance economic growth and productivity,

*Recalling* the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, held on 19 September 2016,<sup>12</sup>

*Recalling also* the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, adopted at the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, in Marrakech, Morocco, on 10 and 11 December 2018, and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution [73/195](#) of 19 December 2018,

*Recalling further* that the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is based on the following set of cross-cutting and interdependent principles: people-centred, international cooperation, national sovereignty, rule of law and due process, sustainable development, human rights, gender-responsive, child-sensitive, whole-of-government approach and whole-of-society approach,

*Acknowledging* the role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), including in supporting national efforts, to increase women's access to economic opportunities, including for women migrant workers, and to end violence against them, in the light of the UN-Women strategic plan, 2018–2021,<sup>13</sup>

*Acknowledging also* the need to facilitate opportunities for safe, orderly and regular migration in order to promote a safe environment for migrant workers in all sectors, including women migrant workers in informal employment,

*Emphasizing* that violence against women and girls is a major impediment to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and that it violates and impairs or nullifies their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Stressing* that laws addressing violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment, are often of limited scope, that those addressing sexual harassment do not cover many workplaces, such as those of domestic workers, including migrant domestic workers, and that gaps need to be addressed,

*Reaffirming* the outcomes of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,<sup>4</sup> and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,<sup>14</sup> and their reviews,

*Taking note* of the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-third session,<sup>15</sup> expressing concern that many migrant women, particularly those engaged in informal employment and in less skilled work, are especially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, underlining in this regard the obligation of States to protect the human rights of migrants so as to prevent and address abuse and exploitation,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-seventh session,<sup>16</sup> and taking note, in

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<sup>12</sup> Resolution [71/1](#).

<sup>13</sup> [UNW/2017/6/Rev.1](#).

<sup>14</sup> Resolution [S-23/2](#), annex, and resolution [S-23/3](#), annex.

<sup>15</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2019, Supplement No. 7 (E/2019/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, 2013, *Supplement No. 7 (E/2013/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

particular, of the commitment, as appropriate, to further adopt and implement measures to ensure the social and legal inclusion and protection of women migrants, including women migrant workers in countries of origin, transit and destination, promote and protect the full realization of their human rights and their protection against violence and exploitation, implement gender-sensitive policies and programmes for women migrant workers and provide safe and legal channels that recognize their skills and education, provide fair labour conditions and, as appropriate, facilitate their productive employment and decent work as well as their integration into the labour force,

*Underlining* the importance of taking into account the root causes and consequences of migration, and acknowledging that poverty, in particular the feminization of poverty, underdevelopment, lack of opportunity, poor governance and environmental factors are among the drivers of migration,

*Recalling* the establishment of the International Migration Review Forum as an intergovernmental global platform for Member States to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all aspects of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration,

*Recalling also* that the declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development of 2013<sup>17</sup> recognized that women and girls account for almost half of all international migrants at the global level and the need to address the special situation and vulnerability of migrant women and girls by, inter alia, incorporating a gender perspective into policies and strengthening national laws, institutions and programmes to combat gender-based violence, including trafficking in persons and discrimination against them, and emphasized in this regard the need to establish appropriate measures for the protection of women migrant workers in all sectors, including those involved in care and domestic work,

*Taking note* of the adoption by the International Labour Conference of the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189),<sup>18</sup> the Domestic Workers Recommendation, 2011 (No. 201) and the Violence and Harassment Convention 2019 (No. 190), encouraging States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to take note of and consider general recommendation No. 26 (2008) on women migrant workers, adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in November 2008,<sup>19</sup> and encouraging States parties to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families<sup>20</sup> to take note of and consider general comment No. 1 on migrant domestic workers, adopted by the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in December 2010,<sup>21</sup> acknowledging that they are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

*Recognizing* the urgency of combating trafficking in persons in all its forms, including for the purposes of forced or compulsory labour, particularly of women migrant workers, and in this regard taking note of the adoption by the International Labour Conference on 11 June 2014, at its 103rd session, of the Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), and of Recommendation No. 203 on supplementary

<sup>17</sup> Resolution [68/4](#).

<sup>18</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2955, No. 51379.

<sup>19</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/64/38)*, part one, annex I, decision 42/I.

<sup>20</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

<sup>21</sup> [CMW/C/GC/1](#).

measures for the effective suppression of forced labour, of the International Labour Organization,

*Recognizing also* the increasing participation of women of all skill levels in international migration, driven in large part by socioeconomic factors, and that this feminization of migration requires greater gender sensitivity in all policies and efforts related to the subject of international migration,

*Recognizing further* that the demand for migrant care work appears to be rising, where the failure to resolve care deficits and secure public provision of care has increased the demand for care work, particularly in the private sphere, and that some migrant workers engaged in informal care work, particularly women, face serious human rights abuses owing to the invisible nature of their workplace, while many benefit from the economic opportunities offered by care work,

*Recognizing* the roles and responsibilities of and need for cooperation among all stakeholders, in particular countries of origin, transit and destination, relevant regional and international organizations, workers' and employers' organizations, the private sector and civil society, in promoting an environment that prevents and addresses violence against women migrant workers, including in the context of discrimination, through targeted measures, and in this regard recognizing the importance of joint and collaborative approaches and strategies at the national, bilateral, regional and international levels,

*Recognizing also* that the positive contribution of women migrant workers has the potential to foster inclusive growth and sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination, underlining the value and dignity of their labour, in all sectors, including in care and domestic work, and encouraging efforts to improve public perceptions of migrants and migration,

*Recognizing further* the contribution of women migrant workers to the development of their families, inter alia, through the delivery of remittances,

*Recognizing* the particular vulnerability and needs of women and their children at all stages of the migration process, extending from the moment of deciding to migrate, and including transit, engagement in formal and informal employment and integration into the host society, as well as during their return to and reintegration in their countries of origin,

*Expressing deep concern* at the continuing reports of grave abuses and violence committed against migrant women and girls, including gender-based violence, sexual violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, domestic violence, gender-related killing of women and girls, including femicide, racist and xenophobic acts and expressions, discrimination, abusive labour practices, exploitative conditions of work and trafficking in persons, including forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, while taking into account the particular difficulties in accessing justice that may be faced by women migrant workers,

*Recognizing* that one of the key causes of the labour exploitation suffered by migrants, including women migrant workers, is linked to the unscrupulous practices of some recruitment agencies and informal brokers that charge high recruitment costs and related fees, and noting with concern the reports of abuse committed by some recruitment agencies and employers,

*Recognizing also* that violence against women and girls, in particular migrant women, is rooted in historical and structural inequality in power relations between women and men, which further reinforces gender stereotypes and barriers to the full enjoyment by women and girls of their human rights,



*Recognizing further* that the intersection of, inter alia, age, class, race, disability and gender-based and ethnic discrimination and stereotypes can compound the discrimination faced by women migrant workers, and that gender-based violence is a form of discrimination,

*Reaffirming* the commitment to respect, protect and promote the human rights of all women, including, without discrimination, indigenous women who migrate for work, and in this regard noting the attention paid in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples<sup>22</sup> to the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination against indigenous women, as appropriate,

*Stressing* the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that may be faced by indigenous migrant women, who suffer at a disproportionately high rate from domestic violence and sexual abuse, and as victims of trafficking in persons,

*Concerned* that many migrant women who are employed in the informal economy and in less skilled work are especially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, underlining in this regard the obligation of States to protect the human rights of migrants so as to prevent and address abuse and exploitation, observing with concern that many women migrant workers take on jobs for which they may be overqualified and in which, at the same time, they may be more vulnerable because of poor pay and inadequate social protection, and in this regard taking note of the adoption by the International Labour Conference on 12 June 2015, at its 104th session, of Recommendation No. 204 concerning the transition from the informal to the formal economy,

*Concerned also* that migrant women in informal employment may benefit from only limited legal protection of their labour rights, increasing the risk of exploitation,

*Emphasizing* the need for objective, comprehensive and broad-based information, including sex- and age-disaggregated data and statistics, indicators for research and analysis, and a wide exchange of experience and lessons learned by individual Member States and civil society in the formulation of targeted policies and concrete strategies to specifically address violence against women migrant workers, including in the context of discrimination,

*Realizing* that the movement of a significant number of women migrant workers may be facilitated and made possible by means of fraudulent or irregular documentation and sham marriages with the object of migration, that this may be facilitated through, inter alia, the Internet and that those women migrant workers are more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation,

*Recognizing* the importance of exploring the link between migration and trafficking in persons in order to further efforts towards protecting women migrant workers from violence, discrimination, exploitation and abuse and to provide appropriate care, assistance and services for trafficking victims, regardless of migratory status,

*Recognizing also* that the vulnerabilities documented for women migrant workers highlight increasingly complex migration contexts and channels, where migrant workers may find themselves in life-threatening situations when entering other countries,

*Highlighting* measures adopted by some countries of destination to alleviate the plight of women migrant workers residing in their areas of jurisdiction and to promote access to justice, including through the establishment of gender-sensitive protection mechanisms for women migrant workers, by facilitating their access to mechanisms

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<sup>22</sup> Resolution [61/295](#), annex.

for reporting complaints or providing assistance during legal proceedings and by promoting actions to protect migrant women who are victims of violence,

*Underlining* the important role of relevant United Nations treaty bodies in monitoring the implementation of human rights conventions and of the relevant special procedures, as well as of the supervisory mechanisms of the International Labour Organization, in monitoring the implementation of international labour standards, within their respective mandates, in addressing the problem of violence against women migrant workers and in protecting and promoting their human rights and welfare,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>23</sup>
2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,<sup>24</sup> which highlights, inter alia, that overall progress in the implementation of the Platform for Action has been particularly slow for women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and that marginalized groups of women, including migrant women, are at particular risk of discrimination and violence;
3. *Invites* Member States to consider ratifying relevant International Labour Organization conventions, including the Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97),<sup>25</sup> the Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143),<sup>26</sup> the Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181)<sup>27</sup> and the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189),<sup>18</sup> and 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,<sup>20</sup> the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,<sup>28</sup> the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,<sup>29</sup> the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons<sup>30</sup> and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,<sup>31</sup> as well as all other human rights treaties that contribute to the protection of the rights of women migrant workers, calls upon States parties to comply with their relevant obligations under international law, and encourages Member States to implement the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons;<sup>32</sup>
4. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the human rights of migrants submitted to the Council at its forty-first session, entitled “The impact of migration on migrant women and girls: a gender perspective”;<sup>33</sup>
5. *Recalls* the adoption of the New Urban Agenda at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in

<sup>23</sup> [A/74/235](#).

<sup>24</sup> [E/CN.6/2015/3](#).

<sup>25</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 120, No. 1616.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1120, No. 17426.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2115, No. 36794.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2241, No. 39574.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 360, No. 5158.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 989, No. 14458.

<sup>32</sup> Resolution [64/293](#).

<sup>33</sup> [A/HRC/41/38](#).

Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,<sup>34</sup> in which Member States committed to recognizing the contribution of the working poor in the informal economy, particularly women migrant workers, to the urban economies;

6. *Encourages* all United Nations agencies and special rapporteurs on human rights whose mandates touch on the issues of violence against women migrant workers to improve the collection of information on and analysis of those areas within their mandates relating to the current challenges facing women migrant workers, including in supply chains, and also encourages Governments to cooperate with the agencies and special rapporteurs in this regard;

7. *Calls upon* all Governments to incorporate a human rights, gender-responsive and people-centred perspective in legislation, policies and programmes on international migration and on labour and employment, consistent with their human rights obligations and commitments under human rights instruments, for the prevention of and protection of migrant women against violence and discrimination, trafficking in persons, exploitation and abuse, to take effective measures to ensure that such migration and labour policies do not reinforce discrimination, and, where necessary, to conduct impact assessment studies of such legislation, policies and programmes, and to take into account the need for effective and meaningful participation of women migrant workers and relevant civil society organizations, as appropriate, in the formulation of such policies and programmes;

8. *Calls upon* Governments to adopt or strengthen measures to protect the human rights of women migrant workers, including domestic workers, regardless of their migratory status, including in policies that regulate the recruitment and deployment of women migrant workers, to consider expanding dialogue among States on devising innovative methods to promote legal channels of migration in order to deter irregular migration, to consider incorporating a gender perspective into immigration laws in order to prevent discrimination and violence against women, including in independent, circular and temporary migration, and to consider permitting, in accordance with national legislation, women migrant workers who are victims of violence, trafficking in persons or other forms of exploitation or abuse to apply for residency permits independently of abusive employers or spouses, and to eliminate abusive sponsorship systems;

9. *Encourages* Governments to adapt options and pathways for regular migration in a manner that facilitates labour mobility and decent work reflecting demographic and labour market realities, optimizes education opportunities, upholds the right to family life and responds to the needs of migrants in a situation of vulnerability, with a view to expanding and diversifying availability of pathways for safe, orderly and regular migration;

10. *Encourages* Governments engaged in the International Migration Review Forum to ensure that the implementation, review and follow-up of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration<sup>35</sup> take into account relevant provisions regarding women migrant workers;

11. *Encourages* Governments to consider adopting measures to reduce the cost of labour migration and promote ethical recruitment policies and practices between sending and receiving countries;

12. *Urges* States to adopt or develop and implement legislation and policies, in accordance with their commitments and obligations under international law, to prevent and respond to gender-related killing of women and girls, including femicide,

<sup>34</sup> Resolution 71/256, annex.

<sup>35</sup> Resolution 73/195, annex.

while taking into account the particular difficulties faced by women migrant workers in accessing justice;

13. *Encourages* Governments to seek to address the push and pull factors surrounding women's irregular migration, including the need to resolve care deficits in labour-importing countries and to regulate, formalize, professionalize and protect the terms and conditions of employment in care work, in line with national law and applicable obligations under international law;

14. *Urges* Governments to enhance bilateral, regional, interregional and international cooperation to address violence against women migrant workers, fully respecting international law, including international human rights law, as well as to strengthen efforts to reduce the vulnerability of women migrant workers by promoting decent work, by, inter alia, adopting minimum wage policies and employment contracts in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, facilitating effective access to justice and effective action in the areas of law enforcement, prosecution, prevention, capacity-building and victim protection and support, exchanging information and good practices in combating violence and discrimination against women migrant workers and fostering sustainable development alternatives to migration in countries of origin;

15. *Also urges* Governments to take into account the best interests of the child by adopting or strengthening measures to respect, promote and protect the human rights of migrant children, especially girls, including unaccompanied girls, regardless of their migratory status, so as to prevent trafficking in persons, labour and economic exploitation, discrimination, all forms of sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, violence and sexual abuse of migrant children, including in online and digital contexts;

16. *Further urges* Governments to strongly encourage all stakeholders, especially the private sector, including employment agencies involved in recruiting women migrant workers, to strengthen the focus on and funding support for the prevention of violence against women migrant workers, in particular by promoting the access of women to meaningful and gender-sensitive information and education on, inter alia, the costs and benefits of migration, rights and benefits to which they are entitled in the countries of origin and employment, overall conditions in countries of employment and procedures for legal migration, as well as to ensure that laws and policies governing recruiters, employers and intermediaries promote adherence to and respect for the human rights and, where applicable, labour rights of migrant workers, particularly women;

17. *Encourages* all States to remove obstacles that may prevent the transparent, safe, unrestricted and expeditious transfer of remittances of migrants to their countries of origin or to any other countries, including, where appropriate, by reducing transaction costs and implementing woman-friendly remittance transfer, savings and investment schemes, including diaspora investment schemes, in conformity with applicable national legislation, and to consider, as appropriate, measures to solve other problems that may impede women migrant workers' access to and management of their economic resources;

18. *Encourages* States to consider designing and implementing financial literacy training programmes for women migrant workers and, where appropriate, their families, and other programmes that may contribute to the full development impact of migration;

19. *Encourages* Governments to consider increasing the labour participation of and employment opportunities for women migrant workers, including those in domestic work, through the recognition of their skills, qualifications and

competences, which will enhance their ability to transition from one job or employer to another, and, where appropriate, in order to facilitate their entry into the formal sector;

20. *Calls upon* States to address the structural and underlying causes of violence against women migrant workers, including through education and dissemination of information and by raising awareness of gender-equality issues, promoting their economic empowerment and access to decent work and, where relevant, their integration into the formal economy, in particular in economic decision-making, and promoting their participation in public life, as appropriate;

21. *Calls upon* Governments to promote access to adequate, quality and affordable health-care services and quality education for women migrant workers and their accompanying children;

22. *Also calls upon* Governments to recognize the right of women migrant workers and their accompanying children, regardless of their migratory status, to have access without discrimination to emergency health care, including in times of humanitarian crises, natural disasters and other emergency situations, and in this regard to ensure that women migrant workers are not discriminated against on the grounds of pregnancy and childbirth and, in accordance with national legislation, to address the vulnerabilities to HIV experienced by migrant populations and support their access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support;

23. *Encourages* Governments to ensure the appropriate use of voluntary and confidential HIV testing and pregnancy testing to prevent unwarranted barriers prior to and during migration;

24. *Encourages* States to protect women migrant workers, including domestic workers, from becoming victims of trafficking in persons, through the implementation of programmes and policies that prevent victimization and through the provision of protection and access to justice, as well as medical and psychological assistance, where appropriate;

25. *Urges* States to recognize the significant contributions and leadership of women in migrant communities and to take appropriate steps to promote their full, equal and meaningful participation in the development of local solutions and opportunities, and to recognize the importance of protecting labour rights and a safe environment for women migrant workers in all sectors, including those in informal employment, including through fair and ethical recruitment and the prevention of exploitation, and to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration, as well as labour mobility;

26. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to adopt and implement legislation and policies that protect all women migrant workers, including those in domestic work, to include therein, and improve where necessary, relevant monitoring and inspection measures, in line with applicable International Labour Organization conventions and other instruments to ensure compliance with international obligations and to grant women migrant workers in domestic service access to gender-sensitive, transparent mechanisms for bringing complaints against recruitment agencies and employers, including terminating their contracts in the event of labour and economic exploitation, discrimination, sexual harassment, violence and sexual abuse in the workplace, while stressing that such instruments should not punish women migrant workers, and calls upon States to promptly investigate and punish all violations of their rights;

27. *Encourages* States to consider ensuring that all women migrant workers, regardless of their migration status, can exercise their human rights through safe access to basic services, notwithstanding that nationals and regular migrants may be

entitled to more comprehensive service provision, while ensuring that any differential treatment must be based on law, be proportionate and pursue a legitimate aim, in accordance with international human rights law;

28. *Urges* Governments to support enhanced reception and reintegration assistance for those who return, with particular attention to the needs of victims of trafficking in persons and of migrants in vulnerable situations, inter alia, children, older women and women with disabilities;

29. *Urges* States to adopt national gender-responsive migration policies and legislation, in line with relevant obligations under international law, to protect the human rights of all migrant women and girls, regardless of migration status; recognize the skills and education of women migrant workers to promote their economic empowerment in all sectors and, as appropriate, facilitate their productive employment, decent work and integration into the labour force, including in the fields of education and science and technology; recognize the importance of protecting labour rights and a safe environment for women migrant workers and those in precarious employment, including preventing and addressing abuse and exploitation, protecting women migrant workers in all sectors and promoting labour mobility; provide newly arrived migrant women with targeted, gender-responsive, child-sensitive, accessible and comprehensive information and legal guidance on their rights and obligations, including on compliance with national and local laws, obtaining work and resident permits, status adjustments, registration with authorities, access to justice to file complaints about rights violations, as well as access to basic services; encourage cooperation among various stakeholders, including countries of origin, transit and destination, in ensuring that migrant women and girls have adequate identification and the provision of relevant documents to facilitate access to social protection mechanisms; and facilitate the sustainable reintegration of returning migrant women and girls by providing them with equal access to social protection and services;

30. *Encourages* States to review existing recruitment mechanisms to guarantee that they are fair and ethical, to enhance the abilities of labour inspectors and other authorities to better monitor recruiters, employers and service providers in all sectors and to protect all migrant workers against all forms of exploitation and abuse in order to guarantee decent work and maximize the socioeconomic contributions of migrants in both their countries of origin and destination;

31. *Calls upon* Governments, in cooperation with international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders, to provide women migrant workers who are victims of violence, irrespective of their migratory status, in line with domestic legislation, access to the full range of emergency assistance and protection and, to the extent possible, with gender-sensitive services that are culturally and linguistically appropriate, which includes the provision of information on the rights of women migrant workers, hotlines, dispute resolution mechanisms, legal aid, victim advocacy, services for children, safety planning, psychological support and trauma counselling, social services, women-only spaces and access to women's shelters, where these exist, in accordance with relevant international human rights instruments and applicable conventions;

32. *Encourages* States, as appropriate, to address practical barriers, including language barriers, that women migrant workers may encounter in countries of destination, and provide them with adequate information about their rights, including to consular assistance, prior to their departure from their countries of origin;

33. *Calls upon* Governments to ensure that legislative provisions and judicial processes are in place to provide women migrant workers access to justice, to enhance, develop or maintain legal frameworks and specific gender-responsive

policies to explicitly meet their needs and rights and, where necessary, to take appropriate steps to reform existing legislation and policies to capture their needs and protect their rights;

34. *Also calls upon* Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, to put in place penal and criminal sanctions, in order to punish perpetrators of violence against women migrant workers and intermediaries, and gender-sensitive redress and justice mechanisms that victims can access effectively and that allow their views and concerns to be presented and considered at appropriate stages of proceedings, including other measures that will allow victims to be present during the judicial process, when possible, and to protect women migrant workers who are victims of violence from revictimization, including by authorities;

35. *Urges* all States to adopt and implement effective measures to put an end to the arbitrary arrest and detention of women migrant workers and to take action to prevent and punish any form of illegal deprivation of the liberty of women migrant workers by individuals or groups;

36. *Encourages* Governments to formulate, implement and refine training programmes for their law enforcement officials, immigration officers and border officials, diplomatic and consular officials, judiciary, prosecutors, public sector medical staff and other service providers, with a view to sensitizing those public sector workers to the issue of violence against women migrant workers and imparting to them the necessary skills and attitude to ensure the delivery of proper, professional and gender-sensitive interventions, including for those in detention facilities;

37. *Also encourages* Governments to promote coherence between migration, labour and anti-trafficking policies and programmes concerning women migrant workers, based on a human rights, gender-responsive and people-centred perspective, to ensure that the human rights of women migrant workers are protected throughout the migration process and to enhance efforts and increase action to prevent violence against women migrant workers, prosecute perpetrators and protect and support victims and their families;

38. *Calls upon* States, in accordance with the provisions of article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations,<sup>36</sup> to ensure that, if a woman migrant worker is arrested or committed to prison or custody pending trial, or is detained in any other manner, the competent authorities respect her freedom to communicate with and have access to the consular officials of the country of her nationality and, in this regard, to inform without delay, if that woman migrant worker so requests, the consular post of her State of nationality;

39. *Invites* the United Nations system and other concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to cooperate with Governments, within existing resources, towards a better understanding of the issues concerning women and international migration, and to improve the collection, dissemination and analysis of sex- and age-disaggregated data and information in order to assist in the formulation of migration and labour policies that are, inter alia, gender-responsive and that protect human rights, as well as to aid in policy assessment and to continue to support national efforts to address violence against women migrant workers in a coordinated way that ensures effective implementation, enhances their impact and strengthens positive outcomes for women migrant workers;

40. *Encourages* Governments, in accordance with their applicable legal obligations, to formulate national policies concerning women migrant workers that are based on up-to-date, relevant sex-disaggregated data and analysis, in close

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<sup>36</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 596, No. 8638.

consultation with women migrant workers and relevant stakeholders throughout the policy process, and also encourages Governments to ensure that this process is adequately resourced and that the resulting policies have measurable targets and indicators, timetables and monitoring and accountability measures, in particular for employment agencies, employers and public officials, and provide for impact assessments and ensure multi-sector coordination within and between countries of origin, transit and destination through appropriate mechanisms;

41. *Encourages* concerned Governments, in particular those of countries of origin, transit and destination, to avail themselves of the expertise of the United Nations, including the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to develop and enhance appropriate sex-disaggregated national data collection, analysis and dissemination methodologies that will generate comparable data, and tracking and reporting systems on violence against women migrant workers and, wherever possible, on violations of their rights at all stages of the migration process, and:

(a) To further study the costs of violence against women, including migrant workers, to the women themselves, their families and their communities;

(b) To analyse the opportunities available to women migrant workers and their impact on development;

(c) To further assess and measure recruitment costs and fees through the provision of appropriate sex-disaggregated data and analysis, where available;

(d) To support the improvement of macrodata on migration costs and on remittances, for appropriate policy formulation and implementation;

42. *Encourages* the United Nations system and related entities to continue and step up their efforts and promote partnerships with all stakeholders, including civil society organizations, and to coordinate their work in support, as appropriate, of effective implementation of relevant international and regional instruments in order to enhance their impact through concrete positive outcomes for the advancement of the rights of women migrant workers;

43. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide a comprehensive, analytical and thematic report to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session on the problem of violence against women migrant workers, especially domestic workers, and on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account updated information from Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Development Programme, UN-Women and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as the reports of special rapporteurs that refer to the situation of women migrant workers and other relevant sources, including non-governmental organizations.



### **Draft resolution III**

## **Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution [72/147](#) of 19 December 2017, and recalling also the section of resolution [64/289](#) of 2 July 2010 entitled “Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women”,

*Deeply convinced* that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action<sup>1</sup> and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,<sup>2</sup> are important contributions to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned,

*Reaffirming* the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit,<sup>3</sup> the 2005 World Summit,<sup>4</sup> the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,<sup>5</sup> the special event of the General Assembly to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,<sup>6</sup> the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda<sup>7</sup> and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming also that their full, effective and accelerated implementation is integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Reaffirming also* the commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus<sup>8</sup> and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>9</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution [71/243](#) of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in which it called upon all entities of the United Nations development system to continue to promote women’s empowerment and gender equality by enhancing gender mainstreaming through the full implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, developed under the leadership of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women),

<sup>1</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>2</sup> Resolution [S-23/2](#), annex, and resolution [S-23/3](#), annex.

<sup>3</sup> See resolution [55/2](#).

<sup>4</sup> See resolution [60/1](#).

<sup>5</sup> See resolution [65/1](#).

<sup>6</sup> See resolution [68/6](#).

<sup>7</sup> See resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>8</sup> Resolution [63/239](#), annex.

<sup>9</sup> Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

*Reaffirming* the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS<sup>10</sup> and the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030, adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, held in New York from 8 to 10 June 2016,<sup>11</sup> which, inter alia, addressed the pursuit of transformative AIDS responses to contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and reaffirming also the political declaration on the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, adopted at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly held in New York on 27 and 28 September 2017,<sup>12</sup>

*Welcoming* progress made towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, but stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

*Noting with appreciation* that 2020 will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, noting with appreciation also, in this regard, the review activities already undertaken by Governments, and noting the contributions of all other relevant stakeholders to these review activities,

*Recalling* Security Council resolutions [1325 \(2000\)](#) of 31 October 2000, [1820 \(2008\)](#) of 19 June 2008, [1888 \(2009\)](#) of 30 September 2009, [1889 \(2009\)](#) of 5 October 2009, [1960 \(2010\)](#) of 16 December 2010, [2106 \(2013\)](#) of 24 June 2013, [2122 \(2013\)](#) of 18 October 2013, [2242 \(2015\)](#) of 13 October 2015, [2467 \(2019\)](#) of 23 April 2019 and [2493 \(2019\)](#) of 29 October 2019 on women and peace and security and resolutions [1882 \(2009\)](#) of 4 August 2009, [2225 \(2015\)](#) of 18 June 2015 and [2427 \(2018\)](#) of 9 July 2018 on children and armed conflict,

*Reaffirming* the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, stressing the need for their participation therein, including at decision-making levels, and noting in this regard that 2020 will mark the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security,

*Recalling* the Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: A Commitment to Action, held in New York on 27 September 2015, and the pledges and commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls made by Governments at that meeting,

*Taking note* of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment,

*Recognizing* that the responsibility for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session rests primarily at the national level and that strengthened efforts are necessary in this respect, and reiterating that enhanced international cooperation is essential for full, effective and accelerated implementation,

*Recognizing also* the primary role of the Commission on the Status of Women in the follow-up to the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, in which the work of the Commission is grounded, and stressing that it is critical to address and integrate gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls throughout national, regional and global reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

<sup>10</sup> Resolution [S-26/2](#), annex.

<sup>11</sup> Resolution [70/266](#), annex.

<sup>12</sup> Resolution [72/1](#).

Development<sup>7</sup> and to ensure synergies between the follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action and the gender-responsive follow-up to the 2030 Agenda,

*Welcoming* the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in reviewing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, taking note with appreciation of all its agreed conclusions, and acknowledging the need for their implementation,

*Recalling* its resolutions [73/294](#) of 22 May 2019 and [73/340](#) of 12 September 2019, in which it decided to convene a one-day high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, on 23 September 2020,

*Welcoming* the strengthening of the capacity of UN-Women and its experience in achieving its mandate,

*Commending* UN-Women for the continued support provided to intergovernmental processes, including on the linkages between sustainable development, financing for development, migration, climate change and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls,

*Recalling* its resolution [64/289](#), in which it decided that the resources required to service the normative intergovernmental processes should be funded from the regular budget,

*Taking note* of the ongoing work of the fund for gender equality and the United Nations trust fund in support of actions to eliminate violence against women,

*Recognizing* that the participation and contribution of civil society, in particular women's groups and organizations and other non-governmental organizations, are important to the successful implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, as well as to the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Reaffirming* that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting the empowerment of women and achieving gender equality by transforming structures of inequality, which is relevant to all issues considered by its Main Committees and subsidiary bodies, including in resolutions dealing with issues beyond social, humanitarian, cultural, economic and financial matters,

*Reaffirming also* the commitment to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, as well as the commitment to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender equality,

*Bearing in mind* the challenges and obstacles to changing discriminatory attitudes and gender stereotypes, which perpetuate discrimination against women and girls and stereotypical roles of girls and boys and women and men, and stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of international standards and norms to address inequality between women and men,

*Recognizing* the importance of fully engaging men and boys, as agents and beneficiaries of change, in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and as allies in the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, as well as in the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Expressing serious concern* that the urgent goal of 50/50 gender balance in the United Nations system, especially at higher professional grade levels and in

non-Headquarters locations, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, remains unmet, that the representation of women decreases progressively at higher professional grade levels and that the gap in representation is greatest and the rate of change slowest at non-Headquarters locations, including in peacekeeping missions, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on improvement in the status of women in the United Nations system,<sup>13</sup>

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly<sup>14</sup> and of the report of the Secretary-General on improvement in the status of women in the United Nations system;<sup>13</sup>

2. *Reaffirms* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women<sup>1</sup> and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,<sup>2</sup> also reaffirms the political declaration on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-ninth session,<sup>15</sup> and affirms its commitment to their full, effective and accelerated implementation;

3. *Also reaffirms* the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the catalytic role of the Commission on the Status of Women, in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, based on the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and in promoting and monitoring gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system, and encourages the Commission to contribute to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>7</sup> in order to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

4. *Calls upon* Governments and all other stakeholders to systematically mainstream a gender perspective into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in order to, inter alia, contribute to the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and stresses in this regard the importance of ensuring synergies between the follow-up to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the gender-responsive follow-up to the 2030 Agenda;

5. *Reiterates* that the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session is essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

6. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations of States parties under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>16</sup> are mutually reinforcing in respect of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and welcomes in this regard the contributions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to promoting the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

7. *Calls upon* States parties to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and

<sup>13</sup> [A/74/220](#).

<sup>14</sup> [A/74/222](#).

<sup>15</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2015, Supplement No. 7 (E/2015/27)*, chap. I, sect. C, resolution 59/1, annex.

<sup>16</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

the Optional Protocol thereto<sup>17</sup> and to take into consideration the concluding observations as well as the general recommendations of the Committee, urges States parties to consider limiting the extent of any reservations that they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any reservations as precisely and narrowly as possible and to regularly review such reservations with a view to withdrawing them so as to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, urges all Member States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to consider doing so, and calls upon those Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

8. *Reaffirms* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and girls, provide protection to the victims and investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, calls upon Governments to elaborate and implement laws and strategies to eliminate violence against women and girls, encourages and supports men and boys to take an active part in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence, encourages increased understanding among men and boys of how violence harms girls, boys, women and men and undermines gender equality, encourages all actors to speak out against any form of violence against women, and in this regard encourages Member States to continue to support the Secretary-General's ongoing campaign, "UNiTE to End Violence against Women", its social mobilization and advocacy platform, "Orange the World: End Violence against Women", and the "HeforShe" campaign of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), as well as to support the Secretary-General's voluntary compact on preventing and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse;

9. *Reiterates* the importance and value of the mandate of UN-Women, and welcomes the Entity's leadership in providing a strong voice for women and girls at all levels and its efforts to support intergovernmental processes so that they fully contribute to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and the realization of their human rights;

10. *Notes with concern* that UN-Women continues to draw on voluntary contributions in order to enable it to carry out its mandate of servicing normative intergovernmental processes, and emphasizes the need for the full implementation of resolution 64/289 in this regard;

11. *Reaffirms* the important role of UN-Women in leading, coordinating and promoting accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women;

12. *Notes with appreciation* the important and extensive work of UN-Women for more effective and coherent gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system, and calls upon UN-Women to continue to support gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system as an integral part of its work and of its efforts to accelerate action across the United Nations system;

13. *Welcomes* the commitment of UN-Women to support Member States in their efforts to develop and strengthen norms, policies and standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as to integrate gender perspectives into sectoral policy and normative frameworks, in line with its mandate, encourages the Entity to continue to promote the need to mainstream and strengthen a gender perspective in the work of intergovernmental bodies and processes, to raise awareness of the opportunities therein and to provide policy analysis and information in support

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<sup>17</sup> Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378.

of intergovernmental deliberations in order to provide technical assistance, at the request of Member States, in strengthening a gender perspective in resolutions and other outcomes, and in this regard recognizes the need to continue to strengthen the capacity of UN-Women to carry out its normative support function;

14. *Recognizes* the important role of UN-Women in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and the central role that it plays in supporting Member States, in coordinating the United Nations system and in mobilizing civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, at all levels, in support of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and calls upon UN-Women and the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to continue to support the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the international, regional, national and local levels, including through systematic gender mainstreaming, the mobilization of resources to deliver results and the monitoring of progress with data and robust accountability systems;

15. *Urges* Member States to increase funding for the budget of UN-Women by providing, when legislative and budgetary provisions allow, core, multi-year, predictable, stable and sustainable voluntary contributions, recognizing the importance of adequate funding in enabling UN-Women to implement its strategic plan promptly and effectively, and that the mobilization of financial resources for achieving its goals still remains a challenge;

16. *Also urges* Member States to take further concrete action to ensure the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including through strengthened implementation of laws, policies, strategies and programme activities for all women and girls; strengthened and increased support for institutional mechanisms for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at all levels; the transformation of discriminatory norms and gender stereotypes and the promotion of social norms and practices that recognize the positive role and contribution of women and eliminate discrimination against women and girls; significantly increased investment to close resource gaps, including through the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including domestic resource mobilization and allocation and increased priority on gender equality and the empowerment of women in official development assistance to build on progress achieved and ensure that official development assistance is used effectively to contribute to the implementation of the Platform for Action; strengthened accountability for the implementation of existing commitments; and enhanced capacity-building, data collection, monitoring and evaluation, and access to and use of information and communications technologies;

17. *Calls upon* Governments and the organs, relevant funds and programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, other international and regional organizations, including financial institutions, and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to intensify and accelerate action to achieve the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and of the outcome of the twenty-third special session, including by contributing to the celebrations of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as appropriate;

18. *Looks forward* to the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in 2020, when the Commission will undertake a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and also to the

Generation Equality Forum, convened by UN-Women and co-chaired by France and Mexico, in partnership with civil society;

19. *Encourages* all actors, including Governments, the United Nations system, other international organizations and civil society, to continue to support the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in fulfilling its central role in the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and, as applicable, to carry out the recommendations of the Commission, welcomes in this regard the Commission's continued sharing of experiences, lessons learned and good practices in overcoming challenges to the full implementation at the national and international levels and the evaluation of progress in the implementation of priority themes, and encourages the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system, as appropriate, to incorporate the outcomes of the Commission into their work;

20. *Requests* the entities of the United Nations system to systematically and strategically incorporate the outcomes of the Commission on the Status of Women into their work, within their mandates, and, inter alia, to ensure effective support for the efforts of Member States towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and in this regard encourages UN-Women to continue to use concrete results-based reporting mechanisms and to ensure coherence, consistency and coordination between the normative and operational aspects of its work;

21. *Encourages* States and all stakeholders to strengthen the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all sectors and in all areas of development;

22. *Reiterates its call upon* the United Nations system, including the main organs, their main committees and subsidiary bodies, through forums such as the high-level political forum on sustainable development and functions such as the annual ministerial review and the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council and the funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, to increase efforts to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all issues under their consideration and within their mandates, as well as into all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and their follow-up processes;

23. *Calls upon* States to ensure that intergovernmental processes consistently address gender perspectives in their preparatory processes and outcomes;

24. *Encourages* its Main Committees and subsidiary bodies, as well as the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, particularly in the light of the analysis contained in the report of the Secretary-General<sup>13</sup> and of the cross-cutting nature of gender equality and the empowerment of women, to intensify their efforts to make further progress in the integration of a gender perspective into their work, including, as appropriate, into their resolutions within the respective mandates of the General Assembly and each of its Main Committees and subsidiary bodies and the Economic and Social Council and each of its functional commissions, and invites the Bureaux, as appropriate, to encourage such efforts;

25. *Strongly encourages* Governments to continue to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and in the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

26. *Calls upon* Governments and the United Nations system to encourage women's groups and other non-governmental organizations specializing in gender

equality and the empowerment of women to participate in intergovernmental processes, including through increased outreach, funding and capacity-building;

27. *Calls upon* the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system to systematically request the inclusion of a gender perspective in reports of the Secretary-General and other inputs to intergovernmental processes;

28. *Requests* that reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies continue to systematically address gender perspectives through gender-sensitive analysis, the provision of data disaggregated by sex and age, the reflection of the impact of proposed policies and programmes on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and that conclusions and recommendations for further action address the different situations and needs of women and men and girls and boys in order to facilitate gender-responsive policy development, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to convey the importance of reflecting a gender perspective to all stakeholders who provide input to his reports;

29. *Encourages* Member States, with the support of, as appropriate, United Nations entities, including UN-Women, international and regional organizations and other relevant actors, to prioritize the strengthening of national data collection and monitoring capacities with regard to statistics disaggregated by sex and age, as well as national tracking indicators for gender equality and the empowerment of women, through multisectoral efforts and partnerships;

30. *Calls upon* all parts of the United Nations system to continue to play an active role in ensuring the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session through, inter alia, the maintenance of gender specialists in all entities of the United Nations system, as well as by ensuring that all personnel, especially those in the field, receive training and appropriate follow-up, including tools, guidance and support, for accelerated gender mainstreaming, and reaffirms the need to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender;

31. *Commends* the Secretary-General for his leadership and efforts towards creating an enabling environment for and accelerating progress towards the goal of 50/50 gender balance at all levels throughout the United Nations system, including the goal of reaching parity at the highest levels by 2021 and at all levels throughout the United Nations system by 2028, as set out in his system-wide strategy on gender parity launched in September 2017, and in this regard commends the Secretary-General for the recent achievements towards this goal among resident coordinators, Under-Secretaries-General and Assistant Secretaries-General;

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further accelerate his efforts to achieve the goal of 50/50 gender balance at all levels throughout the United Nations system, including in the field and in peacekeeping missions, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, considering, in particular, women from the developing and the least developed countries, countries with economies in transition and unrepresented or largely underrepresented Member States, and to ensure the implementation of measures with clear targets and timelines, including temporary special measures, as well as the strengthening of the implementation of policies and measures related to creating an enabling environment, including for work-life balance, and to prevent and address discrimination, harassment, including sexual harassment, and abuse of authority in the workplace, so as to accelerate progress, and managerial and departmental accountability with respect to attaining gender parity within the shortest feasible period;



33. *Calls upon* the entities of the United Nations system to significantly increase their efforts towards achieving the goal of 50/50 gender balance through a comprehensive range of actions, inter alia as outlined in the Secretary-General's system-wide strategy on gender parity and supplementary guidance in support of the system-wide strategy, as well as the recommendations contained in the Enabling Environment Guidelines for the United Nations System, to continue to collaborate with UN-Women and with the active support of gender focal points and focal points for women and to annually provide up-to-date statistics, including on the number and percentage of women and their functions and nationalities throughout the United Nations system, as well as information on the responsibility and accountability of the offices of human resources management and the secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for promoting gender balance;

34. *Strongly encourages* Member States to identify and regularly submit more women candidates for appointment to positions in the United Nations system, especially at more senior, decision-making and policymaking levels, including in peacekeeping operations;

35. *Encourages* increased efforts by Governments and the United Nations system to enhance accountability for the implementation of commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women at the international, regional, national and local levels, including through improved monitoring and reporting on progress in relation to policies, strategies, resource allocations and programmes and by achieving gender balance;

36. *Reaffirms* that Governments bear the primary responsibility for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries in progressing towards the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

37. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the United Nations system the findings of his reports in order to strengthen follow-up on these findings and to accelerate the implementation of the present resolution;

38. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions and to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session on the improvement in the status of women in the United Nations system and on progress made and obstacles encountered in achieving gender balance, under the item entitled "Advancement of women";

39. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session, under the item entitled "Advancement of women", on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session.