

1989/38. Elderly women

The Economic and Social Council.

Aware that women constitute the majority of the older population and that in the years to come the number of elderly women will increase more rapidly in the developing countries than in the developed ones,

Recognizing the important contribution that these women have made, paid or unpaid, throughout their lives, in particular during their older years, to social, economic and cultural activities,

Concerned that, as they age, women are increasingly exposed to marginalization or to poverty,

Bearing in mind the need for the Commission on the Status of Women to give particular attention to the specific problems faced by elderly women,⁷²

1. *Recommends* that concerted efforts be undertaken or strengthened at the national, regional and international levels in order to enable women to meet the challenges they face during their lives, in particular during their older years;

2. *Recommends* that, within existing budgetary resources or, where necessary, with the help of extrabudgetary or voluntary resources, the organizations of the United Nations system concerned provide to the bodies responsible for the advancement of women information that would enable them to undertake a precise and in-depth analysis of the situation of elderly women, developing, if necessary, specific new methods for data collection;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to organize a seminar, within available budgetary resources, to study questions arising from the above-mentioned analysis and to transmit the results of the study to the Commission on the Status of Women;

4. *Encourages* Governments to ensure that women increase their participation in social and economic progress throughout their lives;

5. *Urges* Governments, in co-operation with the non-governmental organizations concerned, to strengthen activities for the benefit of elderly women, taking better account of their specific needs;

6. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women, in carrying out its review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,⁵⁹ to devote particular attention to the current and future situation of elderly women throughout the world.

*15th plenary meeting
24 May 1989*