

1997/16. Palestinian women

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General concerning the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women,⁵⁵

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,⁵⁶ in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, and the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,⁶

Recalling also its resolution 1996/5 of 22 July 1996 and other relevant United Nations resolutions,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women⁵⁷ as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

Aware of the signing by the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Government of Israel, in Washington, D.C., of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements on 13 September 1993⁵⁸ and of the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on 28 September 1995,⁵⁹ within the framework of the Middle East peace process,

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

1. *Stresses* its support for the Middle East peace process and the need for full implementation of the agreements already reached between the parties;

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

3. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁶⁰ the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention IV of 18 October 1907⁶¹ and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949,⁶² in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

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

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

6. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,⁵⁶ in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women,⁶

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

*36th plenary meeting
21 July 1997*

⁵⁵ E/CN.6/1997/2, sect. II.A.

⁵⁶ *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15–26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

⁵⁷ General Assembly resolution 48/104.

⁵⁸ A/48/486–S/26560, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560.

⁵⁹ A/51/889–S/1997/357, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-second Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1997*, document S/1997/357.

⁶⁰ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

⁶¹ See Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).

⁶² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.