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,15

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,16 in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, and the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,4

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 Women17 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 19933 and of the Israeli–Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on 28 September 1995,18 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,19 the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention IV of 18 October 190720 and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949,21 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,4 in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women;4

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.
57 General Assembly resolution 48/104.
60 General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).