

1998/26. Advancement of women: implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the role of operational activities in promoting, in particular, capacity-building and resource mobilization for enhancing the participation of women in development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its agreed conclusions 1997/2 of 18 July 1997, on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,⁴⁵ and General Assembly resolutions 50/120 of 20 December 1995, 52/100 of 12 December 1997 and 52/195 and 52/203 of 18 December 1997,

Recalling also that Governments have the primary responsibility for implementing the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,²

Reaffirming the importance of operational activities for development in assisting the developing countries in implementing the commitments of the Platform for Action,

Reaffirming also that operational activities for development within the United Nations system have a critical and unique role to play in enabling developing countries to take the lead in the management of their own development process and that the funds and programmes constitute important vehicles for advancing international development cooperation,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on advancement of women: implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the role of operational activities in promoting, in particular, capacity-building and resource mobilization for enhancing the participation of women in development,¹⁰⁴

Noting that coordinated and integrated follow-up to United Nations conferences has become a priority of the United Nations system and that all activities related to global conference follow-up should fully integrate a gender perspective,

Emphasizing the importance of data disaggregated on the basis of sex and age for the evaluation of gender mainstreaming,

Expressing serious concern at the persistent insufficiency of resources for operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in particular the decline in contributions to core resources,

Stressing that national plans and priorities constitute the only viable frame of reference for national programming of operational activities for development within the United Nations system and that programmes should be based on such development plans and priorities and thus should be country-driven,

Stressing also in that context the need to take into account the outcomes and commitments of relevant United Nations conferences, as well as the individual mandates and complementarities of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations development system, bearing in mind the need to avoid duplication,

1. *Welcomes* the activities within the United Nations system that are aimed at implementing the Beijing Declaration¹ and the Platform for Action² of the Fourth World Conference on Women, in particular for mainstreaming gender issues, and recognizes the need to integrate further a gender perspective, in particular into operational activities for development;

2. *Also welcomes* the opportunities that are presented by the reform process in the United Nations better to coordinate and mainstream gender issues as part of a strategic framework, and reaffirms that an active and visible policy of gender mainstreaming should be integrated into the ongoing pilot phase and review of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;³⁵

¹⁰⁴ E/1998/54 and Corr.1.

3. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to incorporate fully a gender perspective into the coordinated and integrated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits and to continue to strengthen its capacity to support and implement world conference commitments, in particular the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action;

4. *Calls upon* the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, within their poverty eradication activities, to target women and girls living in poverty and to ensure the availability of funding sources for such activities;

5. *Calls upon* Governments to implement specific programmes for the eradication of poverty and illiteracy, ensuring women's equal rights and access to basic social services, such as education and health, as well as productive resources, training, employment, credit, microfinance and the promotion of entrepreneurial activities in order to promote the advancement and empowerment of women in all countries, invites the international community to support national efforts in developing countries in this regard, and invites non-governmental organizations, in this regard, to integrate a gender perspective into their programmes;

6. *Recognizes* the need for the United Nations system to adopt a coordinated and coherent policy for gender mainstreaming, including the establishment and strengthening of the role of gender units and focal points, including guidelines and directives for mainstreaming a gender perspective in policies and programmes for achieving gender equality;

7. *Reiterates* that location, seniority level, resources and participation of gender units, gender advisers and focal points in all policy-making and programming processes are crucial for translating the gender mainstreaming mandate into practical reality;

8. *Reaffirms* that responsibility for translating gender mainstreaming into practice rests at the highest levels;

9. *Urges* all funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system to increase their efforts to incorporate fully a gender analysis and perspective into their operational activities, with a view to achieving time-bound measurable goals, and emphasizes that this process should be guided by the need for the United Nations system to extend assistance to developing countries in meeting their commitments under the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action;

10. *Requests* the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system to assist Governments in integrating data disaggregated by sex and age into their country programmes;

11. *Emphasizes* the role of the resident coordinators, within their mandate, to incorporate fully a gender perspective in the implementation of operational activities for development, in consultation with the host Government, and the need to provide regular gender training for resident coordinators and their staff;

12. *Recognizes* the need for accountability in the operational activities of the United Nations system in the implementation of gender mainstreaming activities, including

in the report on the triennial policy review and through the preparation of comprehensive reports on the use of resources allocated for gender mainstreaming, in accordance with the relevant decisions of the respective governing bodies;

13. *Requests* the governing bodies of the United Nations funds and programmes to monitor the implementation of gender mainstreaming in their programmes of work, including in the budgeting of their respective organizations;

14. *Also requests* the respective governing bodies to ensure the development of integrated monitoring and evaluation of gender mainstreaming activities to facilitate an early identification of problems and to develop effective responses thereto, and requests the United Nations funds and programmes to evaluate the impact of their gender mainstreaming activities, in cooperation with the national Governments concerned, and to report thereon;

15. *Requests* the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, within their mandates and the priorities set by their respective governing bodies, to establish internal funding targets for gender mainstreaming wherever they do not exist, and requests that, where they do exist, more determined efforts be made to reach their own targets and to report regularly to their respective governing bodies thereon;

16. *Encourages* the United Nations development funds and programmes, in mobilizing resources from all available sources, to provide for particular attention to allocating resources to gender mainstreaming activities and capacity-building;

17. *Welcomes* the work that the United Nations Development Fund for Women has undertaken to support inter-agency cooperation in gender mainstreaming, as well as its efforts to assist the advancement and empowerment of women at the country level, *inter alia*, by placing gender advisers and gender specialists, and recommends that States and agencies of the United Nations system consider increasing their contribution to and support for the work of the Fund;

18. *Reaffirms* that, in order to implement the Platform for Action, a reformulation of policies and reallocation of resources may be needed, but that some policy changes may not necessarily have financial implications;

19. *Also reaffirms* that, in order to implement the Platform for Action, adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources to the developing countries, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries, from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources for the advancement of women, will also be required;

20. *Welcomes* the work undertaken by the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality of the Administrative Committee on Coordination in implementing General Assembly resolution 52/100, and, in this regard, requests the funds and programmes to submit proposals for the implementation of paragraphs 12 and 40 of resolution 52/100 to their respective governing bodies;

21. *Requests* all funds, programmes and relevant agencies of the United Nations system to assist Governments,

upon their request, in their national efforts to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁴ including the reporting system;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in reporting to the preparatory committee for the high-level review in the year 2000 of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women³ and the Platform for Action, to be held as a special session of the General Assembly, to include information on the progress in gender mainstreaming in operational activities and on the implementation of the present resolution.

*44th plenary meeting
28 July 1998*