

1999/15. Palestinian women

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered with appreciation the section concerning the situation of Palestinian women and assistance provided by organizations of the United Nations system of the report of the Secretary-General²⁹ on follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration²⁰ and the Platform for Action²¹ adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,³⁰ in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, and the Beijing Platform for Action,

Recalling also its resolution 1998/10 of 28 July 1998 and other relevant United Nations resolutions,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women³¹ as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

Gravely concerned at the suspension, on 20 December 1998, by the Government of Israel of the implementation of the Wye River Memorandum, signed in Washington, D.C., on 23 October 1998, including the negotiations on the final settlement which were to have been concluded by May 1999,

Concerned about the continuing difficult situation of Palestinian women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and about the severe consequences of continuous illegal Israeli 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 closures and isolation of the occupied territory,

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

2. *Affirms* that in spite of the actual deterioration of the Middle East peace process as a result of the lack of compliance by the Government of Israel with the existing agreements, increased efforts must be exerted to bring the peace process back on track towards the achievement of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region and the

achievement of tangible results towards the improvement of the situation of Palestinian women and their families;

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

4. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹⁷ the Regulations annexed to The Hague Convention IV, of 18 October 1907³² and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,²⁷ in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

5. *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;

6. *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;

7. *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,³⁰ in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, and the Beijing Platform for Action,²¹

8. *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-fourth session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*43rd plenary meeting
28 July 1999*

²⁹ E/CN.6/1999/2, sect. IV.A.

³⁰ *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.

³¹ See General Assembly resolution 48/104.

³² See Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).