

2000/26. The role of employment and work in poverty eradication: empowerment and advancement of women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the ministerial communiqué on the theme “The role of employment and work in poverty eradication: empowerment and advancement of women”, adopted on 7 July 1999 at the high-level segment of its substantive session of 1999,⁹⁸

Acknowledging the important outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,⁸⁰ and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world”,⁸¹

Recognizing the progress achieved in placing poverty eradication at the centre of national and international policy agendas and in formulating poverty eradication policies and strategies,

Recognizing also that considerable progress has been made in increasing recognition of gender dimensions of poverty and in the recognition that gender equality is one of the factors of specific importance for eradicating poverty, in particular in relation to the feminization of poverty,

Recognizing further that there has been increased attention to the goal of full employment and to policies aimed at employment growth,

Noting with concern the persistent problems in addressing the challenges of poverty eradication, gender inequalities, empowerment and advancement of women and employment, as reflected in the outcome documents of the recent five-year reviews of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development,

1. *Reaffirms* the commitments and recommendations contained in its 1999 ministerial communiqué,⁹⁸ and welcomes the outcome documents of the twenty-third⁸⁰ and twenty-fourth⁸¹ special sessions of the General Assembly;

2. *Strongly encourages* Governments to pursue and strengthen their efforts to work towards achieving the goals of poverty eradication, full and productive employment and the empowerment and advancement of women by implementing the recommendations of the communiqué and the commitments that they undertook at the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and their five-year reviews, and the other major conferences and summits of the 1990s, as well as at the World Education Forum;

3. *Reiterates* the call for the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and the international community to take consistent, coherent, coordinated and joint action in support of national efforts to eradicate poverty, with particular attention to employment creation and work and the empowerment and advancement of women;

4. *Welcomes* the commitment undertaken by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session on the five-year review of the World Summit for Social Development to place poverty eradication at the centre of economic and social development and build consensus with all relevant actors at all levels on policies and strategies to reduce the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by one half by the year 2015, with a view to eradicating poverty;

5. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments and the international community, in the context of their efforts to achieve the empowerment and advancement of women, to address, as a matter of urgency, the challenges of poverty eradication and employment creation in a holistic manner, which includes alleviation of the negative effects on women associated with structural adjustment programmes and trade liberalization and of the disproportionate burden borne by women living in poverty, as well as the identification and implementation of development-oriented and durable solutions which integrate a gender perspective with regard to external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries, including least developed countries;

6. *Urges* all Member States to take measures, at the national and international levels, to promote the effective mobilization of resources in order to facilitate the full implementation of the recommendations of the 1999 ministerial communiqué and the outcomes of the twenty-third and twenty-fourth special sessions of the General Assembly, and urges donor countries to strive to fulfil the internationally agreed target, yet to be attained, of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance as soon as possible, and in this regard welcomes the efforts made by those donors that have reached and surpassed such targets;

7. *Urges* all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women³⁴ to do so as soon as possible, urges all States parties to fulfil their obligations under the Convention, and invites all States to promote universal ratification and implementation of International Labour Organization Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, and to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;⁹⁹

8. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol thereto;¹⁰⁰

9. *Encourages* Governments, international organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in particular women’s organizations, the media and the private sector to interact further and establish partnerships within and across countries aimed at contributing to poverty eradication and the empowerment of women.

*45th plenary meeting
28 July 2000*

⁹⁸ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/54/3/Rev.1)*, chap. III, para. 23.

⁹⁹ General Assembly resolution 45/158, annex.

¹⁰⁰ General Assembly resolution 54/4, annex.