UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thirty-second session
Agenda item 85

UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Report of the Third Committee

Reporter: Hr. Fadl M. AL-NIMAI (Oman)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 5th plenary meeting, on 23 September 1977, the General Assembly allocated to the Third Committee agenda item 85, entitled "United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace: reports of the Secretary-General".

2. The Committee considered this item at its 19th to 20th and 73rd to 75th meetings from 13 October to 9 December. The views expressed by representatives of Member States on this item are contained in the summary records of those meetings (A/C.3/32/39-39-28 and 73-75).

3. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly: 1/

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, prepared in accordance with paragraph 4 of its resolution 31/13 (A/32/174);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken to implement the World Plan of Action and the Programme for the United Nations Decade for Women, prepared in accordance with paragraph 8 of resolution 31/13 (A/32/175);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on women’s participation in the strengthening of international peace and security and in the struggle against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation and all forms of foreign domination, prepared in accordance with paragraph 6 of resolution 3519 (XXX) (A/32/211);


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(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the promotion of full equality of women and men in all spheres of life in accordance with international standards and the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, called for under paragraph 12 of resolution 3520 (XXX) (A/32/218 and Corr.1 and Add.1):

(f) Report of the Secretary-General concerning the Draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and containing the text of the draft Convention as well as general observations from Governments and the specialized agencies. The report had been prepared and transmitted to the General Assembly in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2036 (LXIV) of 12 May 1977 (A/32/218 and Add.1 and 2):

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on women in rural areas prepared in accordance with paragraph 5 of resolution 3523 (XXX) (A/32/269).

4. At the 19th meeting, on 13 October, the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the Officer-in-Charge of the Advancement of Women Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs made introductory statements.

II. PROPOSALS


5. At its 23rd meeting, on 19 October, the Committee decided to establish an open-ended Working Group to consider the draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women submitted by the Economic and Social Council (A/32/218, annex IV).

6. At its 33rd meeting, on 8 December, the Rapporteur of the Working Group introduced the report of the Group (A/C.3/32/L.59).

7. At the 44th meeting, on 9 December, the representative of Tunisia introduced draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.52 entitled: "Draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women", sponsored by Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Finland, the German Democratic Republic, Greece, Hungary, Iran, Italy, Korea, Mongolia, Norway, the Philippines, Sweden, Togo and Tunisia, subsequently joined by Benin, Costa Rica, Ghana, New Zealand, Portugal and Zambia.

8. At the 45th meeting, on 9 December, the sponsors orally revised operative paragraph 1 to insert the words "of the Working" between the words "of the report" and the words "of the Third Committee" in the first line of the paragraph, and to delete the words "prepared the Working Group" in the second line.

9. At the same meeting, the representative of Morocco orally proposed the deletion of the words "with satisfaction" in operative paragraph 1.

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10. At the same meeting, the Committee voted on the draft resolution as follows:

(a) By 89 votes to 6, with 22 abstentions, the Committee decided to retain the words "with satisfaction" (see para. 9 above);

(b) Operative paragraph 1, on which a separate vote was taken at the request of Mali, was adopted by 117 votes to none, with 4 abstentions;

(c) Draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.52, as a whole, was adopted without a vote (see para. 26 below, draft resolution 1).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.53

11. At the 74th meeting, on 9 December, the representative of Iran introduced draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.53 entitled "International research and training for the advancement of women", sponsored by Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Burundi, Egypt, India, Iran, Iraq, Italy, the Ivory Coast, Jordan, Kenya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, the Nijer, Pakistan, the Philippines, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey and Yugoslavia, subsequently joined by Benin, the Congo, Costa Rica, Ghana, Guinea, Senegal, the Sudan, the United States of America, the Upper Volta and Zambia.

12. At the 75th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.53 without a vote (see para. 26 below, draft resolution 1).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.54

13. At the 75th meeting, on 9 December, the representative of Tunisia introduced draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.54 entitled "Interagency programme for the United Nations Decade for Women" sponsored by Austria, Bangladesh, Burundi, France, Greece, India, Iran, Iraq, Italy, the Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, the Nijer, Norway, Panama, New Guinea, the Philippines, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey and Venezuela, subsequently joined by Benin, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Senegal, the Upper Volta and Zambia.

14. At the 76th meeting, on 9 December, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.54 without a vote (see para. 26 below, draft resolution 1).

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.55/Rev.1

15. At the 76th meeting, on 9 December, the representative of Morocco introduced draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.55/Rev.1 entitled "Fighting Conference for the United Nations Decade for Women", sponsored by Austria, Bangladesh, Burundi, Guinea, Iran, Iraq, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, the Nijer, the Philippines, Togo, Tunisia and Turkey, subsequently joined by Benin, Ghana, Senegal and the Upper Volta.
16. At the same meeting, the Committee heard a statement on the financial implications of the draft resolution.

17. At the 75th meeting, on 9 December, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.55/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 26 below, draft resolution IV).

E. Draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.56

18. At the 74th meeting, on 9 December, the representative of Egypt introduced draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.56 entitled "World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women", sponsored by Austria, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Burundi, Egypt, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, the Ivory Coast, Jordan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, the Nigers, Norway, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Venezuela and Yugoslavia, subsequently joined by the Congo, Ghana, Jamaica, Mali, Senegal, the Upper Volta and Zambia.

19. At the same meeting, the Committee heard a statement on the financial implication of the draft resolution.

20. At the 75th meeting, on 9 December, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.56 without a vote (see para. 26 below, draft resolution V).

F. Draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.57

21. At the 74th meeting, on 9 December, the representative of the United States of America introduced draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.57 entitled "Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women", sponsored by Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, India, Iran, Iraq, Italy, the Ivory Coast, Jordan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Mozambique, New Zealand, the Nigers, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Venezuela, subsequently joined by Costa Rica, Ghana, Mali, the Netherlands and Zambia.

22. At the 75th meeting, on 9 December, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.57 without a vote (see para. 26 below, draft resolution VI).

G. Draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.66

23. At the 74th meeting, on 9 December, the representative of the German Democratic Republic introduced draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.66 entitled "Women's participation in the strengthening of international peace and security and in the struggle against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, aggression, occupation and all forms of foreign domination", sponsored by Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary and Mongolia, subsequently joined by Cuba, Ethiopia and Madagascar.

...
24. The sponsors of the draft resolution revised the second preambular paragraph of the draft by replacing the words “are inconceivable without” by “require”.

25. At the 75th meeting, on 9 December, the Committee adopted the revised draft resolution by a roll-call vote of 53 to 19, with 52 abstentions (see para. 26 below, draft resolution VII). The voting was as follows:


Against: Austria, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Honduras, Ireland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Burundi, Central African Empire, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Indonesia, Iran, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Rwanda, Senegal, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zaire.

The representative of Albania stated that he had not participated in the vote.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

26. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 31/196 of 16 December 1976, in which the General Assembly, inter alia, approved the Programme for the United Nations Decade for Women,
which entails the adoption by the Assembly of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and its entry into force during the first half of the decade, between 1976 and 1980.

Convinced that the adoption of that Convention and its entry into force will contribute to the implementation of the principal objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, and to the realization of the principles of equality between men and women,

Noting the work done in 1976 by the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-sixth session with a view to the elaboration of the draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 3058 (LXII) of 12 May 1977, in which the Council requested the General Assembly to take up consideration of the draft Convention as a matter of urgency at the outset of its thirty-second session with a view to its adoption at that session,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Working Group of the Third Committee on the draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; 2/

2. Recommends that a working group should be established at the beginning of the thirty-third session to continue consideration of the articles which have not been completed during the current session;

3. Expresses the hope that the draft Convention will be adopted during the thirty-third session of the General Assembly;

4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-third session, as a matter of high priority, an item entitled "Draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women".

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

International Research and Training Institute
for the Advancement of Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 31/135 of 16 December 1976, by which it decided to establish an International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1998 (LX) of 15 May 1976 concerning the same question.

Recalling further the reports of the Secretary-General on the progress achieved towards the establishment of the Institute, submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session \(^1\) and to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-sixth and sixty-second sessions, \(^2\)

Convinced that the early establishment of the Institute will contribute substantially to the realization of the objectives of the World Plan of Action and the Programme for the United Nations Decade for Women, \(^2\)

Noting the preparations already undertaken by the Secretary-General for the establishment of the Institute,

Considering that those preparations should be actively continued and that a preliminary draft document describing the structure and composition of the Institute should be prepared not later than April 1978,

1. Notes the efforts made thus far by the Secretary-General with a view to the establishment of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to continue those efforts and to prepare, in consultation with the competent bodies of the host country, the competent organs and institutions of the United Nations system and the regional commissions concerned, a draft document describing the structure, composition, responsibilities, and programme of the Institute, as well as the coordination of the activities of the Institute with those of the organizations concerned, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, the regional commissions and the regional research centres for the advancement of women, having regard to the recommendations of the Group of Experts set forth in the report submitted by the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-sixth session.

3. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-fourth session on the progress achieved towards the establishment of the Institute, including substantive and administrative preparations, and to submit to it for consideration and adoption the draft document referred to in paragraph 2 above.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Interview programme for the United Nations Decade for Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, in which it proclaimed the period from 1976 to 1985 United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development

\(^1\) A/31/310,

\(^2\) E/5792 and E/5926.

\(^3\) Report of the World Conference on the International Women's Year (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. II, sect. A.
and Peace, to be devoted to effective and sustained national, regional and international action to implement the World Plan of Action and related resolutions of the World Conference of the International Women’s Year.

Recalling further that at its thirty-first session, in its resolution 31/137 of 16 December 1976, it approved the Programme for the Decade, which focused on the first half of the Decade, 1976 to 1980,

Noting that the joint interagency programme for the integration of women in development, whose establishment was called for in paragraph 5 (b) of General Assembly resolution 32/20 (XXX), has become an interagency programme for the United Nations Decade for Women based on the implementation of the World Plan of Action, for the formulation of which the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs serves as focal point,

Noting further that this programme was drawn up in July 1977 in the context of the conceptual framework and the co-ordination of ongoing activities and planned activities of the agencies concerned,

Noting further that this programme, which should be brought up to date every two years, is currently the subject of a study which is to be considered by the special interagency meeting on the United Nations Decade for Women to be held in July 1978 with a view to preparing for the World Conference,

1. Notes the measures already taken by the Secretary-General for the implementation of the Programme for the United Nations Decade for Women;

2. Emphasizes that constant and increasing efforts must be made at the national, regional and international levels to attain the objectives of the Decade;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with all the participating agencies and organizations of the United Nations, to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, the study of the interagency programme accompanied by the observations formulated by the Council with regard to it;

4. Further requests the Secretary-General to transmit to Governments every two years the study of the interagency programme for the Decade;

5. Urges the participating agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to identify and undertake as quickly as possible projects to be executed jointly.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

Pledging conference for the United Nations Decade for Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 31/137 of 16 December 1976, in which it requested the Secretary-General to convene during the thirty-second session of the General
Assembly a pledging conference for contributions to be made to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women and to the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,

Expressing with satisfaction the results of the First Pledging Conference for the United Nations Decade for Women, held at the Headquarters of the United Nations on 6 November 1977,

Convinced that the Programme for the United Nations Decade for Women, if it is to be fully effective, must be translated into the greatest possible number of projects and programmes at the national, regional and interregional levels,

Also convinced that the speedy establishment of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women will contribute substantially to the attainment of the research and training objectives of the World Plan of Action,

1. Expresses its thanks to the Secretary-General for having convened the first Pledging Conference for the United Nations Decade for Women;

2. Expresses its warm thanks to those countries which have already contributed, those which have pledged contributions and those which have expressed their intention of contributing to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women and/or to the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to convene during the thirty-third session of the General Assembly a second pledging conference for voluntary contributions for the purpose of financing:

(a) The Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women;

(b) The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women;

4. Further requests the Secretary-General to organize an information campaign with a view to stimulating the interest of Governments, organizations and individuals likely to contribute to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.

DRAFT RESOLUTION V

World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 33/XXXI of 15 December 1977, in paragraph 20 of which it decided to convene at the mid-term of the United Nations Decade for Women a world conference to review and evaluate the progress made in implementing the...
objectives of the International Women’s Year as recommended by the World Conference of the International Women’s Year and, where necessary, to readjust existing programmes in the light of new data and research available.

Recalling further that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1996 (XL) of 12 May 1976, requested the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-sixth session to consider different aspects of the preparatory work for the World Conference of the Decade, including its agenda, and also decided to consider at its sixty-fourth session, in the spring of 1978, the preparatory work for the Conference,

Recalling also that, in accordance with the request of the Council, the Commission on the Status of Women has considered various aspects of the material preparations and the organization of the Conference as well as the implications of the Conference for the programme budget, bearing in mind a note by the Secretary-General, 6/.

Recalling further that the Council, at its sixty-second session, adopted resolution 2062 (XXVI) of 12 May 1976, in which it

(a) Requested the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-seventh session to give the highest priority to the consideration of the preparatory work for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women.

(b) Requested the Secretary-General to prepare for the consideration of the Council at its twenty-seventh session a report outlining a programme of concrete actions for the second half of the Decade;

(c) Decided to establish, not later than June 1978, a preparatory committee to make recommendations concerning the substantive and organizational arrangements for the Conference;

(d) Invited the regional commissions to consider ways and means of contributing effectively to the Conference,

Noting that preliminary exchanges of views on the preparatory work for the Conference have also taken place in the Administrative Committee on Coordination at the two special interagency meetings held in September 1976 and July 1977, which were brought to the attention of the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-sixth session and will be brought to its attention at its twenty-seventh session,

1. Accepts the offer of the Government of Iran to act as host to the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women,

2. Notes that the Conference will in principle be held at Teheran in May 1980 and will cover a period of two weeks.
3. Decides that the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, the establishment of which is called for in Economic and Social Council resolution 2062 (XXII), shall be held at Headquarters of the United Nations in June 1978;

4. Also notes the efforts made thus far by the Secretary-General and the Commission on the Status of Women with a view to undertaking the preparatory work for the Conference;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the work of the Preparatory Committee during its first session.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VI

Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision to extend the activities of the Voluntary Fund for the International Women’s Year, established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1850 (LIX) of 16 May 1974, to cover the period of the United Nations Decade for Women, 1/

Recalling also its resolution 31/133 of 16 December 1976 containing the criteria and arrangements for the management of the Fund,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the management of the Fund submitted to it at its thirty-second session, 2/

1. Notes with satisfaction the decisions taken by the Consultative Committee on the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women at its first two sessions, held in March and June 1977; 2/

2. Expresses the hope that the projects which the Consultative Committee has already approved will be implemented as soon as possible;

3. Urge the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies concerned, including the United Nations Development Programme, to assist the regional commissions in formulating projects drawn up in connection with the United Nations Decade for Women, with a view to submitting them to the Consultative Committee;


2/ A/32/114.

/...
4. Also urges the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies concerned, including the United Nations Development Programme, to co-operate closely with the Consultative Committee with a view to developing programmes which will contribute to the advancement of women;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to report annually on the management of the Fund and:

(a) To include in such report a summary of the projects selected by the Consultative Committee for financing by the Fund;

(b) To submit periodically to the General Assembly progress reports on the execution of such projects.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VII

Women's participation in the strengthening of international peace and security and in the struggle against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, aggression, occupation and all forms of foreign domination.

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3519 (XXX), 3520 (XXX) and 3521 (XXX) of 15 December 1975 and 31/126 of 16 December 1976,

Taking into account that secure peace and social progress, the establishment of the new international economic order as well as the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms require the active participation of women, their equality and development,

Appreciating the contribution of women to the strengthening of international peace and security and to the struggle against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, aggression, occupation and all forms of foreign domination,

Emphasizing its grave concern that in some regions of the world colonialism, apartheid, racial discrimination and aggression continue to exist and territories are still occupied, which represents a most serious infringement of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of human rights of both women and men, and of the peoples' right to self-determination,

Reaffirming the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women, the Declaration of Mexico, 1975, and the World Plan of Action,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of its resolution 3519 (XXX); 10/
2. Calls upon all States to continue to make their contribution to creating favourable conditions for the elimination of discrimination against women and for their full and equal participation in the social development process and to encourage broad participation of women in the effort to strengthen international peace, extend the process of international détente, curb the arms race and take measures for disarmament;

3. Seizes the occasion of the International Anti-Apartheid Year to be observed in 1970 to invite all States fully to support women exposed to colonialism, racism and apartheid in their just struggle against the racist regimes in southern Africa;

4. Invites all States to proclaim, in accordance with their historical and national traditions and customs, any day of the year as United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace and to inform the Secretary-General thereon;

5. Requests the Commission on the Status of Women to consider, as a contribution to the preparation of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held in 1980, the elaboration of a draft declaration on the participation of women in the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security and against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, aggression, occupation and all forms of foreign domination and to report therein to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-fourth session;

6. Invites the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session a progress report on the implementation of resolution 3519 (XXX).