



## Economic and Social Council

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Economic and Social Council  
Official Records, 2003  
Supplement No. 7 (E/2003/27-E/CN.6/2003/12)

### Commission on the Status of Women Report on the forty-seventh session (3-14 and 25 March 2003)

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#### Chapter I

#### Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

##### A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

##### Draft resolution I

##### Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women\*

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Having considered* with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling* the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,<sup>2</sup> in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action<sup>3</sup> adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",<sup>4</sup>

*Recalling also* its resolution 2002/25 of 24 July 2002 and other relevant United Nations resolutions,

*Recalling further* the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women<sup>5</sup> as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

*Expressing* the urgent need for the resumption of negotiations within the Middle East peace process on its agreed basis and towards the speedy achievement of a final settlement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides,

*Concerned* about the grave deterioration of the situation of Palestinian women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and about the severe consequences of continuous illegal Israeli settlements activities as well as the harsh economic conditions and other severe consequences of the continuing Israeli attacks and sieges on Palestinian cities, towns, villages and refugee camps, which has resulted in the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families,

*Expressing its condemnation* of all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, especially the excessive use of force against Palestinian civilians, many of them women and children, resulting in injury and loss of human

life,

1. *Calls upon* the concerned parties, as well as the international community, to exert all the necessary efforts to ensure the immediate resumption of the peace process on its agreed basis, taking into account the common ground already gained, and calls for measures for tangible improvement of the difficult situation on the ground and the living conditions faced by Palestinian women and their families;

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,<sup>6</sup> the Regulations annexed to The Hague Convention IV of 18 October 1907<sup>7</sup> and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949,<sup>8</sup> in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

4. *Calls upon* Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties, in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

5. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to provide urgently needed assistance and services in an effort to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families and to help in the reconstruction of relevant Palestinian institutions;

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,<sup>2</sup> in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action<sup>3</sup> and the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”;<sup>4</sup>

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation and to assist Palestinian women by all available means, including those laid out in his report entitled “Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women”,<sup>9</sup> and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-eighth session a report, including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

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\*For the discussion, see chap. III.

<sup>1</sup> E/CN.6/2003/3.

<sup>2</sup> *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.

<sup>3</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>4</sup> See General Assembly resolutions S-23/2 and S-23/3.

<sup>5</sup> See General Assembly resolution 48/104.

<sup>6</sup> General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>7</sup> See Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).

<sup>8</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

<sup>9</sup> E/CN.6/2003/3.

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## Chapter III

### Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”

1. The Commission considered agenda item 3 at its 1st to 8th, 10th, 11th and 13th to 15th meetings, from 3 to 6 March, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 25 March 2003. It had before it the following documents:

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(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women ([E/CN.6/2003/3](#));

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9. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

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**Action taken by the Commission**  
**Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women**

32. At the 10th meeting, on 10 March, the observer for Morocco, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women” ( [E/CN.6/2003/L.1](#) ).

33. At the 14th meeting, on 14 March, the observer for Morocco orally revised the text of the draft resolution as follows:

- (a) In the sixth preambular paragraph, the words “the continuing Israeli assaults” were revised to read “the continuing Israeli attacks”;
- (b) The seventh preambular paragraph, which read:

“Expressing its condemnation of acts of violence, especially the excessive use of force against Palestinians, many of them women and children, resulting in injury of human life,”

was revised to read:

“Expressing its condemnation of all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, especially the excessive use of force against Palestinian civilians, many of them women, and children, resulting in injury and loss of human life,”;

- (c) In paragraph 5, the words “continue to” were inserted between the word “Calls upon the international community to” and “provide”;

(d) In paragraph 7, the words “including those laid out in his report entitled ‘Situation of and assistance to Palestinian Women’” were inserted after the words “all available means”.

34. At the same meeting, the Commission was advised that the revised draft resolution contained no programme implications.

35. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the draft resolution, as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 38 to 1 and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I). The voting was as follows:

*In favour :*

Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Croatia, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Korea, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Gabon, Germany, Guatemala, Guinea, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania.

*Against :*

United States of America.

36. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Brazil and the Russian Federation. A statement in explanation of vote after the vote was made by the representative of the United States.

37. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the observers for Israel; after the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the observer for Morocco.

38. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was also made by the observer for Palestine.

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The delegation of Benin subsequently indicated that, had it been present, it would have voted in favour of the draft resolution. The delegation of the Congo subsequently indicated that its vote had not been registered and should have been registered as in favour of the draft resolution.

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