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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Sixth session
Agenda item 8

**FOLLOW-UP TO AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VIENNA
DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION**

**Albania*, Andorra*, Armenia*, Australia*, Austria*, Belarus*, Belgium*,
Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria*, Burkina Faso*, Cameroon, Canada, Chile*,
Colombia, Congo*, Croatia*, Cyprus*, Czech Republic, Ecuador*,
Estonia*, Finland*, Greece*, Guatemala, Hungary*, Italy, Kenya*,
Liechtenstein*, Luxembourg*, Malta*, Mexico, New Zealand*, Nicaragua,
Norway*, Panama*, Peru, Portugal*, Republic of Korea, San Marino*,
Slovakia*, Slovenia, Spain*, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav
Republic of Macedonia*, Timor-Leste*, Turkey*, United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania* and
Uruguay: draft resolution**

**6/... Integrating the human rights of women throughout
the United Nations system**

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming the equal rights of women and men enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other international human rights instruments,

* Non-members of the Human Rights Council.

Reaffirming the need to implement fully human rights law and international humanitarian law in order to protect the human rights of women and girls,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, 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”, and the declaration adopted at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming international commitments on gender equality and the human rights of women embodied in the outcome documents of the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance; those made in their review processes, as well as those of the outcome document of the 2005 World Summit and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Recalling Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, and welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security (S/2007/567),

Underscoring that the principle of equality between women and men is essential for the enjoyment of each of the specific rights enumerated in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as recognized by the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Recalling all previous resolutions, including those adopted by the Commission on Human Rights and those of the Economic and Social Council, regarding the integration of the human rights of women and of gender mainstreaming into all policies and programmes throughout the United Nations system,

Acknowledging the need for a comprehensive approach to the promotion and protection of the human rights of women and the need to integrate a gender perspective in a more systemic way into all aspects of the work of the United Nations system, including the treaty bodies, and the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms,

Noting with appreciation the Secretary-General's report on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (E/2006/65) and on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system (E/2007/64),

Recognizing the important work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and of the Commission on the Status of Women in promoting equality between women and men and in fighting discrimination against women,

Recognizing the importance of the participation of women at all levels of decision-making throughout the United Nations system for the achievement of gender equality and the realization of the human rights of women,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 61/143 of 19 December 2006 and its invitation to the Human Rights Council to discuss, by 2008, the question of violence against women in all its forms and manifestations, and to set priorities for addressing this issue in its future efforts and work programmes,

Reaffirming the important role that women's groups, human rights defenders and non-governmental organizations play in promoting and protecting the human rights of women,

Methodology

1. *Recognizes* the importance of examining, from a gender perspective, the intersection of multiple forms of discrimination and conditions of disadvantage, their root causes and consequences, and their impact on the advancement of women and the enjoyment by women of all human rights, in order to develop and implement strategies, policies and programmes aimed at the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and to increase the role that women play in the design, implementation and monitoring of gender-sensitive anti-discrimination policies;

2. *Encourages* Member States to promote gender balance by, inter alia taking all the necessary measures, including budgetary and institutional measures, to guarantee the full

participation of women in medium- and high-level ranks, regularly nominating more women candidates for election and appointment to the human rights treaty bodies and mechanisms, international courts and tribunals, the specialized agencies and other organs, including the Human Rights Council subsidiary bodies;

3. *Calls upon* all relevant actors to implement General Assembly resolution 59/164 of 20 December 2004 on improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system, in order to realize significant progress towards the goal of fifty/fifty gender distribution in the very near future and to guarantee the full participation of women in higher levels of decision-making in the Organization;

4. *Reiterates* the need for integrating a gender perspective through using gender-inclusive language in the formulation, interpretation and implementation of human rights instruments, as well as in reports, resolutions and/or decisions of the Human Rights Council and its various mechanisms and of other human rights mechanisms;

5. *Encourages* United Nations bodies, agencies and mechanisms to identify, collect and use, including through acceptable and standardized methodology, appropriate data disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant factors, and gender-specific information in their activities and to use the tools at their disposal for gender analysis in monitoring and reporting;

United Nations system

6. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system (A/HRC/4/104) and encourages organs, bodies, mechanisms and agencies of the United Nations system to work to actively integrate the human rights of all women and a gender perspective throughout its work, including through exchange of information, lessons learned and best practices in this regard;

7. *Stresses* the need for integrating a gender perspective and the human rights of women into all United Nations activities, including conferences, special sessions and summits, and their outcome documents and follow-up;

8. *Recognizes* the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution, and urges the United Nations system and Governments to make further efforts to ensure and support the full participation of women at all levels of decision-making and implementation in development activities and peace processes, including conflict prevention and resolution, post-conflict reconstruction, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace-building;

Human rights treaty bodies, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

9. *Encourages* the efforts of all the treaty bodies to integrate the human rights of women and a gender perspective into their work, in particular, in their concluding observations, general comments and recommendations;

10. *Urges* all States to implement their treaty obligations addressing the human rights of all women and girls, to withdraw reservations to treaties which are incompatible with the object and purpose of the specific treaties, and further encourages States to consider ratifying or acceding to all human rights treaties, including, as a matter of priority, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto;

11. *Encourages* all entities of the United Nations system, as well as Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in particular women's organizations, as appropriate, to pay full and systematic attention to the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and other treaty bodies, and encourages all relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue to assist States parties, upon the request of those States, in implementing their international human rights obligations;

12. *Welcomes* the submission of reports by United Nations specialized agencies, at the invitation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the contribution of non-governmental organizations to the work of the Committee;

Cooperation between United Nations agencies

13. *Welcomes* cooperation between the Commission on the Status of Women and the Human Rights Council, and the cooperation and coordination between the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Adviser on Gender Issues,

14. *Welcomes* the work on the advancement of human rights of women and gender mainstreaming conducted by the recently established Women's Rights and Gender Unit within the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the continued commitment of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to integrating the issue of women's enjoyment of human rights throughout the United Nations system, and also encourages her ongoing commitment to raise awareness and promote the universal ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol and further welcomes cooperation in the implementation of this resolution;

The Human Rights Council

15. *Reaffirms* its commitment to effectively integrate the human rights of women as well as a gender perspective, in its work and that of its mechanism in a systematic and transparent manner including in all phases of the universal periodic review, the Advisory Committee and the review of mandates;

Universal periodic review

16. *Urges* all stakeholders to take into full account both the rights of women and a gender perspective in the universal periodic review, including in the preparation of information submitted for the review, during the review dialogue, in the review outcome and in the review follow-up;

17. *Encourages* States to prepare the information described in paragraph 15 (a) of Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 through broad consultation at the national level with all relevant stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations active in addressing gender issues and the human rights of women and girls;

Special procedures and Advisory Committee

18. *Requests* all special procedures and other human rights mechanisms of the Human Rights Council and the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee regularly and systematically to integrate a gender perspective into the implementation of their mandate including when examining the intersection of multiple forms of discrimination against women and to include in their reports information on and qualitative analysis of human rights of women and girls, and welcomes the efforts made by most special procedures and other human rights mechanisms in that regard;

19. *Encourages* the strengthening of cooperation and coordination between the special procedures and other human rights mechanisms for the integration of human rights of women and a gender perspective in their work;

Programme of work

20. *Decides* to incorporate into its programme of work sufficient and adequate time, at minimum an annual full-day meeting, to discuss the human rights of women, including measures that can be adopted by States and other stakeholders, to address human rights violations experienced by women;

21. *Also decides* that the first such meeting should take place in the first half of 2008 and that it should include a discussion on violence against women, as mandated by the General Assembly in resolution 61/143 of 19 December 2006, inviting the Human Rights Council to discuss, by 2008, the question of violence against women in all its forms and manifestations, and to set priorities for addressing this issue in its future efforts and work programme;

22. *Welcomes* the panel discussion on the integration of a gender perspective in the work of the Human Rights Council, held on 20 and 21 September 2007, and decides to incorporate into its programme of work an annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout its work and that of its mechanisms, including the evaluation of progress made and challenges experienced;

Follow-up

23. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to report in 2008 on the obstacles and challenges to the implementation of this resolution by the Human Rights Council and to make concrete recommendations for action to address such obstacles and challenges;

24. *Encourages* States to cooperate with and support the United Nations system in its efforts to integrate the human rights of women and a gender perspective to take into full consideration the content of the present resolution;

25. *Decides* to continue its consideration of both the rights of women and the integration of a gender perspective in accordance with the programme of work of the Human Rights Council.
