



**OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS**



**Integrating the human rights of women
throughout the United Nations system**

Human Rights Resolution 2005/42

The Commission on Human Rights,

Reaffirming that the equal rights of women and men are enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other international human rights instruments,

Recalling all previous resolutions on this subject, including General Assembly resolution 59/164 of 20 December 2004,

Recalling also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted in June 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights (A/CONF.157/23), which affirms that the human rights of women and of the girl child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights and calls for action to integrate the equal status and human rights of women into the mainstream of United Nations activity system-wide,

Welcoming the increased integration of a gender perspective into the work of all entities of the United Nations and the major United Nations conferences, special sessions and summits and their follow-up processes,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century” and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, which called upon the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as well as all relevant organs, bodies and agencies of the United Nations system to give full, equal and sustained attention to the enjoyment of human rights of women in the exercise of their respective mandates,

Welcoming the commitment of the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-ninth session to undertake further action to examine the full and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and of the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, emphasizing that their full and effective implementation is essential for the attainment of the internationally agreed upon development goals, including those contained in the United Nations

Millennium Declaration,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular its call for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable, and bearing in mind the review and appraisal process of the Millennium Declaration that will take place in September 2005,

Acknowledging the need for a comprehensive and integrated approach to the promotion and protection of the human rights of women and the need to integrate the gender perspective in a more systemic way into all aspects of the work of the United Nations system, including the treaty bodies, the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and all other subsidiary mechanisms,

Welcoming the review of the integration of women's enjoyment of human rights and the gender perspective in the reports of special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights between 1996 and 2003 undertaken by the Division for the Advancement of Women in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights,

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

Encouraging the process under way by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to develop a general comment on article 3 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights regarding the equal right of women and men to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights set forth in the Covenant,

Emphasizing the pivotal role of the Commission on the Status of Women in promoting equality between women and men and welcoming its agreed conclusions over the years on the human rights of women and on the other critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action,

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,

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

1. *Welcomes* the reports of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2004/64; E/CN.4/2005/68 and E/CN.4/2005/69);
2. *Emphasizes* that the goal of mainstreaming a gender perspective is to achieve gender equality and that this includes ensuring that all United Nations activities, including United Nations conferences, special sessions and summits, integrate the human rights of women;
3. *Recognizes* the importance of examining the intersection of multiple forms of discrimination and conditions of disadvantage, including their root causes, from a gender perspective, and their impact on the advancement of women and the enjoyment by women of

their 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;

4. *Takes note with satisfaction* that the Economic and Social Council devoted the coordination segment of its substantive session of 2004 to the review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system, welcomes the report of the Secretary-General (E/2004/59) to that session, and resolution 2004/4; adopted by the Council, which requests all entities of the United Nations system to enhance the effectiveness of gender mainstreaming and to promote cooperation and coordination;

5. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to continue to give attention to the implementation of its agreed conclusions 1998/2, related to the promotion of an integrated and coordinated implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, in particular the explicit incorporation of a gender perspective by the Commission when establishing or renewing mandates related to human rights;

6. *Stresses* the need for integrating a gender perspective into the outcome of future United Nations conferences, special sessions and summits, including the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in Tunis in November 2005;

7. *Welcomes* the continued cooperation between the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights, including through joint bureau meetings and the participation of the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women in the work of the Commission on Human Rights and, similarly, the participation of the Chair of the Commission on Human Rights in the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, and encourages the continuation of this reciprocal collaboration;

8. *Encourages* the continued commitment of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to integrating the issue of women's enjoyment of human rights throughout the United Nations system, including through continued cooperation with the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women, and encourages her to maintain her 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;

9. *Welcomes* the submission of reports by 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 in areas falling within the scope of their activities and the contribution of non-governmental organizations to the work of the Committee;

10. *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 systematic, increased and sustained attention to the recommendations of the Committee, in order to ensure that the recommendations are better utilized in their respective work, and encourages all relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue to assist States parties, upon the request of those States, in implementing the Convention;

11. *Welcomes* the cooperation and coordination between the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights aimed at mainstreaming the human rights of women, including through their joint work plan, and, in this sense, encourages United Nations bodies and agencies to increase cooperation with other organizations in developing activities to address, within their respective mandates, violations of the human rights of women and to promote the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by women;

12. *Also welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the joint work plan for the year 2005 of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the High Commissioner (E/CN.4/2005/69-E/CN.6/2005/6), and in particular the continued cooperation to strengthen attention to the human rights of women and the mainstreaming of gender perspectives in all

human rights activities in the following major areas: support for human rights treaty bodies; support for intergovernmental bodies and special procedures; technical cooperation; advisory services and meetings; awareness-raising and outreach; and inter-agency cooperation;

13. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to ensure implementation of the joint work plan, to continue to elaborate this plan on an annual basis, reflecting all aspects of work under way and the lessons learned, to identify obstacles/impediments and areas for further collaboration, and to submit them to the Commission on Human Rights and to the Commission on the Status of Women on a regular basis;

14. *Urges* the relevant organs, bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, to bear in mind, including in the recruitment of staff, the need for expertise in and regular training on gender equality and gender mainstreaming in all activities of the United Nations for all United Nations personnel, including conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peace-building operations and humanitarian and human rights missions;

15. *Encourages* Member States to promote gender balance by, inter alia, regularly nominating more women candidates for election to the human rights treaty bodies and for appointment to United Nations bodies, including international courts and tribunals, the specialized agencies and other organs, and 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;

16. *Welcomes* the efforts made by some special procedures and other human rights mechanisms and requests all special procedures and other human rights mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights regularly and systematically to integrate a gender perspective into the implementation of their mandates and to include in their reports information on and qualitative analysis of human rights of women and girls, and encourages the strengthening of cooperation and coordination between these procedures and mechanisms;

17. *Encourages* the efforts of the treaty bodies to mainstream the human rights of women into their work, in particular, in their concluding observations and in the development of general comments and recommendations;

18. *Reiterates* the need for using gender-inclusive language in the formulation, interpretation and application of human rights instruments, as well as in reports, resolutions and/or decisions of the Commission, the Sub-Commission and the various human rights mechanisms, and requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to utilize gender-inclusive language in the preparation of all of its communications,

reports and publications, and to work with the United Nations conference services to ensure gender-inclusive language and interpretation in the proceedings of the Office;

19. *Encourages* all entities charged with the promotion and protection of human rights, especially United Nations human rights bodies and mechanisms, to identify, collect and use sex-disaggregated data and gender-specific information in their activities and to use the tools at their disposal for gender analysis in monitoring and reporting;

20. *Recalls* Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security, which, inter alia, calls on actors involved, when negotiating and implementing peace agreements, to adopt a gender perspective, including, inter alia, measures that ensure the protection of and respect for the human rights of women and girls, particularly as they relate to the constitution, the electoral system, the police and the judiciary, and welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security (S/2004/814);

21. *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, as well as through the integration of a gender perspective into those United Nations processes;

22. *Welcomes* the 2004 review of the 1999 Inter-Agency Standing Committee policy statement for the integration of a gender perspective in humanitarian assistance;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report, at its sixty-third session, on the implementation of the present resolution including analysing the degree to which the promotion and protection of human rights of women are being integrated into the United Nations system, the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, identifying obstacles and challenges to implementation of the resolution, to make concrete, comprehensive recommendations for action by States and/or by the United Nations system and to bring the report to the attention of the relevant organs, bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, including all human rights bodies;

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

25. *Decides* to integrate a gender perspective into all of its agenda items;
26. *Also decides* to continue its consideration of the question at its sixty-third session.

57th meeting

19 April 2005

[Adopted without a vote. See chap. XII, E/CN.4/2005/L.10/Add.12]