



B. Education and training of women

6. **Achievements:** There is an increased awareness that education is one of the most valuable means of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women. Progress was achieved in women's and girls education and training at all levels, especially where there was sufficient political commitment and resource allocation. Measures were taken in all regions to initiate alternative education and training systems to reach women and girls in indigenous communities and other disadvantaged and marginalized groups to encourage them to pursue all fields of study, in particular non-traditional fields of study, and to remove gender biases from education and training. **AGREED**

7. **Obstacles:** In some countries, efforts to eradicate illiteracy and strengthen literacy among women and girls and to increase their access to all levels and types of education were constrained by the lack of **[political will and]** resources to improve educational infrastructure and undertake educational reforms; persisting gender discrimination and bias, including in teacher training; gender-based occupational stereotyping in schools, institutions of further education and communities; lack of childcare facilities; persistent use of gender stereotypes in educational materials; and insufficient attention paid to the link between women's enrolment in higher educational institutions and labour market dynamics. The remote location of some communities and in some cases inadequate salaries and benefits make attracting and retaining teaching professionals difficult and can result in lower quality education. Additionally, in a number of countries, economic, social and infrastructural barriers, as well as traditional discriminatory practices, have contributed to a lower enrolment and retention rates for girls. Little progress has been made in eradicating illiteracy in some developing countries, aggravating women's inequality at economic, social and political levels. [In some **of these** countries, **the application of structural adjustment policies** has had a particularly severe impact on the education sector, since it has resulted in declining investment in the education infrastructure.]

C. Women and health

8. **Achievements:** Programmes have been implemented to create awareness among policy makers

and planners on the need for health programmes covering all aspects of women's health throughout their life cycle, which have contributed to an increase in life expectancy in many countries. There is increased attention to high mortality rates among women and girls as a result of malaria, tuberculosis, water-borne diseases, communicable and diarrhoeal diseases and malnutrition; [increased attention to sexual and reproductive health and **[sexual and]** reproductive **[rights]** of women][**as adopted in the report of the International Conference on Population and Development**] [The twenty-first special session of the General Assembly, held from 30 June to 2 July 1999, reviewed achievements and adopted key action in the field of women's health for further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development] increased knowledge and use of family planning [and/including] contraceptive methods [/family planning, including contraceptive methods, and methods to protect against sexually transmitted infections] as well as increased

continues to affect the capacity of many developing countries to provide and expand quality health care.] The predominant focus of health care systems on treating illness rather than maintaining optimal health also prevents a holistic approach. **[Some women continue to encounter barriers to their right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health.]** There is, in some countries, insufficient attention to the role of social and economic determinants of health; **[a lack of access to clean water, adequate nutrition and safe sanitation];** a lack of gender-specific health research and technology; insufficient gender sensitivity in the provision of health information and **[health care/services]**, including those related to environmental and occupational health hazards **[afuhea t[afs e**

domestic violence being recognized as a criminal act in a number of countries, with an increased focus on holding the perpetrator accountable.] [There is increased awareness and commitment to preventing and combating all forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, which violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, through, *inter alia*, improved legislation, policies and programmes.] Governments have initiated policy reforms and mechanisms such as inter-departmental committees, guidelines and protocols, national, multidisciplinary and coordinated programmes to address violence. Some Governments have also introduced or reformed laws to protect women and girls from all forms of violence and laws to prosecute the perpetrators. There is increasing recognition at all levels that all forms of violence against women seriously affect their health. Health care providers are seen to have a significant role to play in addressing this matter. Some progress has been made in the provision of services for abused women and children, including legal services, shelters, special health services and counselling, hot lines and police units with special training. Education on this subject is being promoted for law enforcement personnel, members of the judiciary, health care providers and welfare workers. Educational materials for women and public awareness campaigns have been developed and research on the root causes of violence is being carried out. There is increasing research and specialized studies being conducted on gender roles, in particular on the role of men and boys, and on all forms of violence against women, as well as on the situation of and impact on children growing up in families where violence occurs. **[Successful cooperation has been achieved between governmental and NGOs in the field of preventing violence against women.]** The active support of civil society, in particular women's organizations and NGOs, has had an important role, *inter alia*, in promoting awareness-raising campaigns and in the provision of support services to women victims of violence.

important.] Steps have been taken at the national and international levels to address abuses against women, including increased attention to ending impunity for crimes against women in situations of armed conflict.

The work of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda has been an important contribution to addressing violence against women in the context of armed conflict. **[The adoption of the Statute of the International Criminal Court, which includes gender-related crimes and crimes of sexual violence and affirms that rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization and other forms of sexual violence constitute, in defined circumstances, a crime against humanity and a war crime, has a significant importance.]**

Women's contribution in peace-building, peacemaking and conflict resolution is being increasingly recognized. Education and training on non-violent, conflict resolution have been introduced. Progress has been made on the dissemination and implementation of the guidelines for the protection of refugee **[and displaced]** women. Gender-based persecution has been

release of women taken hostages in armed conflict] international refugee law and human rights, including continued violation of women's human rights.]. There has also been an increase in [forced displacement, psychological, systematic campaigns of terror and intimidation and] [gender-based violence, including [systematic] rape, [and forced pregnancy] [which are defined as war crimes in section 7.1 of the Statute of the International Criminal Court,] [is an increasingly used strategy in armed conflicts.] and their consequences in terms of physical, physiological and mental trauma, as well as in continued sexual abuse and possible social exclusion.] [Girls are also recruited or abducted into situations of armed conflict including, *inter alia*, combatants, sexual slaves or providers of domestic services.]

[13 alternative: Peace is inextricably linked to equality and development. Armed and other kinds of conflicts, war of aggression, colonial or other alien domination and foreign occupation continue to cause serious obstacles to the advancement of women. The continuation, and in some cases the strengthening, of unilateral coercive measures adopted by some countries against others, not in accordance with international law and the Charter, also constitutes a serious obstacle to the advancement of women, since it impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of affected countries, in particular women and children. Continuous decline in international assistance to countries, especially developing countries hosting large refugee populations, has constrained the capacity to provide appropriate services to refugees, especially women and children. Economic sanctions against some countries continue to have negative impact on women and children and adversely affect the civilian population. In several countries, economic sanctions have adversely affected the civilian population, especially women and children.

In spite of the end of the cold war era, enormous amount of resources continue to be dedicated to the development of high technology armaments, including the maintenance of huge nuclear arsenals, military alliances and nuclear deterrence policies, which are not only causes of conflict, but also an obstacle for the possible allocation of additional funds, mainly affecting women and children,

depriving them of access to economic and social development.

The growing number of internally displaced persons and the provision of their needs, in particular women and children, continue to represent a double burden to the affected countries and their financial resources]

[However, the under-representation, of women in decision-making positions in peacekeeping, peacebuilding, post-conflict reconciliation and reconstruction as well as lack of gender awareness in these areas presents serious obstacles. Wide access to weapons, facilitated by the proliferation and illicit trade in arms, has also aggravated armed conflicts and has had negative impact on women and children.]

F. Women and the economy

14. **Achievements:** There is increased participation of women in the labour market and subsequent gain in economic autonomy. Some Governments have introduced a variety of measures that address women's economic and social rights, equal access to and control over economic resources and equality in employment. Other measures include ratification of international labour conventions as well as enacting or strengthening legislation to make it compatible with these conventions. There is increased awareness of the need to reconcile employment and family responsibilities and the positive effect of measures such as maternity [and paternity leave] [parental leave for sick children], and child and family care benefits [and services]. Some Governments have made provisions to address discriminatory and abusive behaviour in the workplace and to prevent unhealthaedreorkin7(c)-3(o)-11.ndi4(t)13(i)nh[hayfa6rng,ina6l2(gvsc(a6)5.8(f)10.2(e6)5.6(n1(fn)6.ic 4(a6)5.9(nd)12.t2es-26.4(n)-0.3t(y)11.9e es-26.7()12.2s(es-26.e(r))-s7(s)1r2(y)11.e(r)

subsistence producers and in the service sector with low levels of income and little job and social security. **[In some countries/Many]** Women with comparable skills and experience are confronted with a gender

institutional base acting as “catalysts” for promoting gender equality, gender mainstreaming and monitoring of the implementation of the Platform for Action **[and of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.]** In many countries, progress has been achieved in terms of the visibility, status, outreach and coordination of activities of these machineries. Gender mainstreaming has been widely acknowledged as a strategy to enhance the impact of policies to promote gender equality. The goal of the strategy is to incorporate a gender perspective in all legislation, policies, programmes and projects. These machineries, despite their limited financial resources, have made a significant contribution to the development of human resources in the field of gender studies and have also contributed to the growing efforts for the generation and dissemination of data disaggregated by sex and age, gender-sensitive research and documentation. Within the United Nations system, much progress has been made in the mainstreaming of a gender perspective, including through the development of tools and the creation of gender focal points.

19. **Obstacles:** A lack of **[strong political will,]** adequate financial and human resources are the main obstacle confronting national machineries. This is further exacerbated by insufficient understanding of gender equality and gender mainstreaming among government structures, as well as prevailing gender stereotypes, discriminatory attitudes, competing government priorities and, in some countries, unclear mandates and a marginalized location within the national government structures, **[lack of data disaggregated by sex and age in many areas and insufficiently applied methods for assessing progress]** in addition to paucity of authority and insufficient links to civil society. The activities of the national machineries were also hindered by structural and communication problems within and among government agencies.

H. Human rights [of women]

20. **Achievements:** Legal reforms have been undertaken and discriminatory provisions have been eliminated in civil, penal and personal status law governing marriage and family relations, all forms of violence, women’s property and ownership rights and women’s political, work and employment rights. **[In a**

growing number of countries legal measures have been taken to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.] Steps have been taken to realize women’s de facto enjoyment of their human rights through the creation of an enabling environment, including the adoption of policy measures, the improvement of enforcement and monitoring mechanisms and the implementation of legal literacy and awareness campaigns **[at the national and international levels/at all levels].**

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women has been ratified or acceded to by 165 countries, and its full implementation has been promoted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. The fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly adopted the Optional Protocol of the Convention **[allowing women to submit claims of violations of the rights protected under the Convention to the Committee]** **[which up to today has been signed by 37 States.]**

Progress has also been made to integrate the human rights of women and mainstream a gender perspective into the United Nations system, including into the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights **[and in the Commission on Human Rights]** **[Women’s NGOs have contributed to heightening awareness that women’s rights are human rights [and to generate support for the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Statute of the International Criminal Court.]**

21. **Obstacles:** **[Gender and all forms of discrimination, in particular related to]** racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia **[and intolerance,]** **[ethnic cleansing, armed conflict and foreign occupation]** continue to cause threat to the enjoyment of women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. Even though a number of countries have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the goal of universal ratification by 2000 has not been achieved. **[There continues to be a large number of reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, some of which are against the object and purpose of the Convention or otherwise incompatible with international treaty law.]** **[While there is an increasing acceptance of gender equality, many**

countries have not yet fully implemented the provisions of the Convention. There is a continued gap between existing legal standards and their application. Discriminatory legislation as well as harmful traditional and stereotyped attitudes still exist and family, civil and penal codes as well as labour laws still have not fully integrated a gender perspective.][There is an increased acceptance of gender equality, yet many countries still have difficulties in implementing provisions contained in the Convention]/[There is a continued gap between existing legal standards and their application in practice.]/[The persistence of traditional and stereotyped attitudes, has favoured that] Discriminatory legislation still exists and family, civil and penal codes, [as well as labour laws,] [are still not fully gender sensitive] [still have not fully integrated a gender perspective.]

[In some countries, gender discrimination has even been enforced by law.] Legislative and regulatory gaps persist, perpetuating [as well as lack of implementation and enforcement, perpetuate] *de jure*

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knowledge of indigenous women,] in the management of natural resources, and preservation of biodiversity.

persistence of poverty and lack of finance, which often prevent her 034 Tw

25. **Obstacles:** [There is [still] a lack of public awareness about environmental risks faced by women and of the benefits of gender equality for promoting environmental protection.] [Women's limited access to technical skills, resources and information, in particular in developing countries, [foreign occupation], have impeded sustainable environmental decision-making, including at the international level. Research, action, targeted strategies and public awareness remain limited regarding the differential impacts and implications of environmental problems for women and men. Real solutions to environmental problems need to address the root causes of these problems.] Environmental policies and programmes lack a gender perspective and fail to take into account women's roles and contributions to environmental sustainability

K. The girl child

26. **Achievements:** Some progress was made in primary and, to a lesser extent, in secondary and tertiary education for girls, owing to the creation of a more gender-sensitive school environment, improved educational infrastructure, increased enrolment and retention, [**support mechanisms for pregnant girls [adolescents] and teenage mothers/pregnancy and motherhood support mechanisms**], increased non-formal education opportunities and enhanced attendance at science and technology classes. Increased attention was given to the health of the girl child, [**including the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents**]. An increasing number of countries introduced legislation to ban female genital mutilation and imposed heavier penalties on those involved in sexual abuse, trafficking, and all other forms of exploitation of the girl child, including for commercial ends. A recent achievement has been the adoption of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography by the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

27. **Obstacles:** [**Discriminatory attitudes towards women and girls, stereotypical roles and inadequate awareness of the specific situation of the girl child, child labour, including domestic child labour, the**