



The report focuses on progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective by the Economic and Social Council during its substantive session of 2001, and of its functional commissions during their sessions held in 2002. It also reviews the work of the Inter-Agency Ne

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and economic development, including by assuring their participation in the political and economic life. Gender aspects were included in two of the nine sections of the Declaration, i.e., those dealing with the integration of peace and development, and with development of human capital. The United Nations system was called upon to support pro-poor and gender-sensitive economic and social policies, including employment and income-generating opportunities for poor people, women and youth through microfinance, community-based development and decentralization, enterprise development, food security plans, adequate nutrition and land tenure. In regard to human capital development, the Declaration assigned high importance to the achievement of universal primary education, the elimination of gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, and the achievement of gender equality in education by 2015, with a focus on ensuring girls' full and equal access to and achievement of a basic education of good quality through initiatives such as the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative.

B. Coordination segment

9. The agreed conclusions of the segment (2001/1) noted the role of information and communication technologies in contributing to the empowerment of women and the reduction of gender inequalities.³

C. Humanitarian affairs segment

10. The Council considered the question of special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance. The Vice-President's summary of the segment noted that gender aspects were raised in several areas. During the general debate, delegations welcomed the engagement of the Security Council in considering humanitarian issues and the effect of conflict on women and children, and expressed strong support for incorporating the gender perspective into all activities. They highlighted the role of women in contributing to the promotion of peace, security and human rights and requested more support for women's groups engaged in these activities. Particular concern was expressed about children in conflict, including the increasing numbers of child soldiers and sexual violence against girls.

11. During the panel discussion on natural disaster preparedness and response measures, delegations

stressed the importance of government partnerships with those concerned, particularly with women at the local level as they usually bore the brunt of the impact of disasters. Gender analysis was considered to be a basis for appropriate humanitarian action. At the panel discussion on emergency assistance to groups with special needs, the Security Council's landmark resolution on women, peace and security, resolution 1325 (2000), was welcomed.

D. Operational activities segment

12. During its operational activities segment, the Council prepared for the General Assembly's triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. In its resolution 56/201 on this topic, the Assembly welcomed efforts to improve the gender balance in the resident coordinator system, and dealt with "gender" as one of its sections.

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14. The Commission on the Status of Women held its forty-sixth session from 4 to 15 March and on 25 March 2002. The Commission, in implementing its mandate, also plays a catalytic role in support of gender mainstreaming. To that end, it submits its agreed conclusions as an input to other intergovernmental bodies and processes, as appropriate. In 2002, for example, its agreed conclusions were transmitted to the World Assembly on Ageing and to the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Some of the Commission's resolutions are subsequently reflected in the work of other commissions. Elements of its draft resolution on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan were integrated into a resolution of the Commission on Human Rights dealing with Afghanistan. The Commission also provided input for information to the Council for its high-level segment of 2002. Other action taken by the Commission also aimed at strengthening attention to gender perspectives. For example, the Secretary-General was invited to take a gender perspective into account in his reports on HIV/AIDS. In an effort to develop opportunities for increased attention to gender perspectives in sectoral areas, the Commission was briefed by Secretariat officials of the Population Division and the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

A. Agreed conclusions on eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle in a globalizing world

15. In its agreed conclusions on this topic, the Commission defined, for the first time, the empowerment of women as the "process by which women take control over their lives, acquiring the ability to make strategic choices". The Commission recognized that globalization brought opportunities and challenges and noted that many women had been marginalized and deprived of the benefits of this process. It called for special attention to the situation of women and children, who often bore the greatest burden of extreme poverty.

16. The Commission agreed on a series of actions addressed to Governments and, as appropriate, the relevant funds and programmes, organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the

international financial institutions, civil society, including the private sector and NGOs, and other stakeholders, aimed at eradicating poverty among women, primarily through their empowerment.

17. Such actions were to include increased efforts to mainstream gender perspectives and the empowerment of women through the whole policy process, from identification to formulation, implementation, evaluation and follow-up. Other actions focused on the role of official development assistance (ODA) and of external debt solutions in relation to women's empowerment; the need for gender perspectives in fiscal policies, particularly taxation policies; in national budget policies and resource allocations; and the promotion of women's full and equal participation in development.

of climate change, natural hazards, disasters and related environmental vulnerability; collection of data disaggregated by sex and age; transfer of environmentally sound technologies; and development and implementation of gender-sensitive laws, policies and programmes to prevent and mitigate damage.

20. Further policy recommendations focused on women's and girls' enjoyment of their human rights, including in disaster reduction, response and recovery, their equal access to information and education on disaster reduction, and on women as full and equal partners in the development of safer communities and in determining priorities for disaster reduction.

21. The agreed conclusions also highlighted the need to integrate a gender perspective in the implementation

restoration of degraded lands and the promotion of natural and planted forests.

26. During each session of the United Nations Forum on Forests a multi-stakeholder dialogue takes place with respect to which gender balance of delegations is encouraged. This year's dialogue highlighted the need to include women in decision-making processes. In his summary of this dialogue, the Chairperson noted a need for those affected by and those implementing forestry policies to be more actively involved in both the planning and decision-making processes. In this context, he recognized the contribution and role of women as practitioners and "family managers".

C. Statistical Commission

27. The thirty-third session of the Statistical Commission was held from 5 to 8 March 2002. It dealt with areas including demographic, social, economic, natural resources and environment statistics, as well as statistical capacity-building. In accordance with the Statistical Commission's multi-year programme of work, gender statistics were not part of this year's agenda.

28. Several reports before the Statistical Commission referred to data disaggregated on the basis of sex. They highlighted, in particular, inadequate coverage, lack of indicators, and the resulting gaps in analysis.

29. In their report assessing the statistical indicators derived from United Nations summit meetings (E/CN.3/2002/26), the Friends of the Chair noted that a number of indicators called for separate analysis by sex. They recommended that such analysis should be provided for all indicators, to the extent that the data source supported an analysis by sex. In reviewing the resource implications of new statistical outputs, the Friends of the Chair noted that analysis by sex would commonly be a question of analysing existing data in a different manner in order to provide the required output. In such cases, the resource requirements (assuming the availability of professional skills) would be small. With regard to the rather small number of indicators on distributional issues, the Friends of the Chair concluded that analysis by subgroups (e.g., by sex, region, age group, income groups, ethnic or social classifications), where feasible, would allow for clearer analysis of the issues. One of the shortcomings identified by the Friends of the Chair was the lack of

indicators for female participation in professional and senior administrative levels of the labour force that would be comparable to the existing indicators for female participation and gender equality in political participation.

30. The Commission endorsed the recommendations made by the Friends of the Chair. It also endorsed the recommendations on establishing a standing committee for indicators, so as to enable statistics systems to remain engaged in a dialogue on future developments of new indicators.

31. The Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme (see E/CN.3/2002/27) sought the Statistical Commission's advice concerning the situation of inadequate coverage

illicit drug crops and on alternative development (E/CN.7/2002/6) and on activities of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) (E/CN.7/2002/8 and Corr.1). Noting

and aimed at establishing a specific institution for the detention of girls in conflict with the law.

43. Effective community-based crime prevention (E/CN.15/2002/4) was the topic of an Expert Group Meeting. One of its recommendations called on Governments and civil society to analyse and address the links between transnational organized crime and national and local crime problems, and to design crime prevention strategies that would protect socially marginalized groups, especially women and children, who were vulnerable to the action of organized criminal groups, including those engaged in trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. A separate report (E/CN.15/2002/7) pointed out that the same groups that were trafficking in endangered species also engaged in trafficking in women for commercial sex.

44. A number of suggestions from various actors concerning the main theme, agenda items and workshop topics of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice were before the Commission (E/CN.15/2002/12). These included the needs and concerns of women migrant workers; trafficking in women and children across international borders for forced labour; violence against women in all its forms, including prevention, penalization and victim support services; and the role of women as offenders, victims and decision makers in criminal justice.

45. The priorities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention in technical cooperation activities (E/CN.15/2002/2) included fostering international cooperation and strengthening national capacity-building to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children; and violence against women. One project would address trafficking in minors and young women. The United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) had produced a video clip on trafficking in women.

46. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice took action towards the endorsement of guidelines for the prevention of crime. These guidelines would emphasize that effective crime prevention required attention to the different needs of men and women, and the special needs of vulnerable members of society. The Commission also reiterated that plans of action for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice should consider the special needs of women in the criminal

justice system. The Commission proposed as the main theme for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice "Synergies and responses: strategic alliances in crime prevention and criminal justice".

G Commission on Human Rights

47. ~~The Commission on Human Rights held its fifty~~ eighth session from 18 March to 26 April 2002. The Chairpersons of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women addressed the Commission on Human Rights. Attention to particular concerns of women is now an established part of the Commission's annual session, and gender perspectives are addressed in many of the areas dealt with by the Commission. As in past years, the agenda included an item entitled "Integration of the human rights of women and the gender perspective", with violence against women as a sub-item.

48. The Commission on Human Rights adopted five resolutions addressing women's human rights, i.e., women's equal ownership, access to and control over land and the equal rights to own property and to adequate housing (2002/49); elimination of violence against women (2002/52); violence against women migrant workers (2002/58); traffic in women and girls (2002/51); and integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system (2002/50). In resolution 2002/49, the Commission decided to consider at its fifty-ninth session under the agenda item on economic, -soc TD86 99 Tc 02e6 99 Tcr against1re 5721

sexual violence (see resolutions 2002/14 on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2002/19 on Afghanistan, 2002/20 on Sierra Leone, and 2002/67 on Myanmar), and female genital mutilation (resolution 2002/16 on the Sudan). Several resolutions stressed the importance of equal participation of women in decision-making processes (resolution 2002/12 on Burundi, 2002/14 on the Democratic Republic of the Congo and 2002/19 on Afghanistan).

52. The resolution on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan (2002/19) highlighted the need to integrate a gender perspective into all United Nations operations. It also emphasized the need to provide specific programmes for all Afghan women and girls to address their special needs and promote their human rights.

2. Issue-specific resolutions

53. The Commission on Human Rights encouraged several Special Rapporteurs to mainstream or to continue to mainstream a gender perspective in the fulfilment of their mandate (resolutions 2002/25 on the right to food, 2002/36 on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, 2002/40 on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance and 2002/65 on human rights and indigenous issues). The Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression was invited, in cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, to continue to pay particular attention to the situation of women and the relationship between the effective promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and incidents of discrimination based on sex (2002/48). The Commission appointed a new Special Rapporteur on the right to health, inviting the Special Rapporteur to apply a gender perspective in her or his work.

54. The Commission highlighted the need to apply a gender perspective in work concerning torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (2002/38), enforced or involuntary disappearances (2002/41), the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities (2002/57), and mine-awareness programmes (see resolution 2002/61). The Commission also urged States parties to international human rights instruments to make use of data disaggregated by sex in their reports, and stressed the importance of taking fully into account a gender perspective in the implementation of the International Covenants on Human Rights at the

national level (2002/78). Governments were urged to address gender-based manifestations when taking effective measures to prevent and combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance (2002/68), and torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (2002/38).

55. Special attention was drawn to the needs of women in a number of areas, including detention (see resolution 2002/47), extreme poverty (2002/30), the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief (2002/40), internally displaced persons (2002/56), migrants and their families (2002/59), disabilities (2002/61), indigenous issues (2002/65), economic, social and cultural rights (2002/24), the right to freedom of opinion and expression (2002/48), and human rights defenders (2002/70). Women's and girls' equal rights were also addressed in the context

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58. The Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality embraced this progression, as it built on the five years of experience of the former Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality with informal intersessional work, largely through electronic networking, and the use of task forces and working groups with designated task managers. Once-a-year sessions of the Network are held immediately prior to the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women to allow gender specialists from entities of the United Nations system to combine their work in the Network with participation in the session of the Commission. These annual meetings are an opportunity to review progress in intersessional work, discuss policy concerns and emerging issues of concern to all members with regard to gender equality, develop common approaches, and hold theme-specific workshops to enhance the capacities of members to act as catalysts for gender mainstreaming.

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59. Discussions during this year's session focused on: gender mainstreaming in programme budgets; tools and indicators for gender-impact analysis, monitoring and evaluation; gender mainstreaming in the Common Country Assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework process; women, peace and security; gender and financing for development; gender and information and communication technologies; and WomenWatch, online databases on good practices and gender training materials. The Network held a one-day genderpractices1208683

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the same time, progress was made by the Commission on Social Development in addressing the gender perspectives of the interface of macroeconomic and social policies. Having held only its second session, the United Nations Forum on Forests is at an early stage of implementing its mandate and has significant opportunities for addressing gender perspectives.

64. The degree of attention in the reports before intergovernmental bodies to situations that are specific to women on the one hand, and to the gender perspectives of a particular subject or issue on the other, appears to have a positive correlation to the degree of attention given to these matters by the intergovernmental bodies. This would confirm the importance of the Council's request to the Secretary-General, contained in agreed conclusions 1997/2,² to present issues and approaches in a gender-sensitive manner when preparing reports so as to provide the intergovernmental machinery with an analytical basis for gender-responsive ss wa9. The degree