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I. Introduction

gender equality. It suggests that increased citizen participation enhances national capacity to deal with social issues and brings desired empowerment to women and minorities. It identifies gender mainstreaming as a means for enhancing collaboration aimed at empowerment. It further finds that the scope and mandate of many national aid agencies have been broadened to include attention to gender equality. With regard to the sub-theme on the impact of employment strategies on social development, the report points to experience that indicates that reducing or ending discrimination in education against women tends to lead to higher female earnings, greater investment in healthier and better-educated children and a lower rate of population growth.

19. In one of its policy recommendations, the report highlights the importance that employment strategies target equality of opportunities for women, which could both empower women and produce positive results for social development.

20. According to the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) on activities undertaken in 2001 and 2002 (E/CN.5/2003/2), several activities either have gender components, or are focused on gender equality issues. For example, the Institute published a number of books and issued programme papers on topics such as gender justice, development and rights; on women's employment in the textile manufacturing sectors; on gender and education; and on the links between sex trafficking and vulnerability to human

ical and social development. The report also highlights the importance of gender equality in the context of the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals.

responsibility of the private sector at the national and international levels regarding, inter alia, the development, social, gender and environmental implications of their activities. It recommended promotion of cross-sectoral and integrated policies that took into account the needs and interests of all members of society and that mainstreamed a gender perspective. The Commission noted that employment strategies could have a substantial impact on poverty eradication, social development and gender equality and called for 68 Tw2g4S4o -9.h.9365 e.-y with economic growth strategies and structural reforms.

25. A draft resolution submitted for action to the Economic and Social Council on policies and programmes.93volving youth (E/CN.5/2003/L.4) would recognize the importance of the five emerging issues of concern to young people,.93cluding the mixed impact of globalization on young wo-9. and -9.. The Council would recognize the need to support the activities of youth mechanisms that have be9. set up by youth and youth organizations, bearing in mind that girls, boys, young wo-9. and -9. had the same rights but differe.h.needs and strengths and were active agents for decision-making processes, positive change and 2g4S4o -9.h.936society.

26. I. a preambular paragraph of a draft resolution for action by the General Assembly on preparations for 68 observance of the t9.hh anniversary of the I.ternational Year of the Family in 2004 (E/CN.5/2003/L.8), the Assembly would emphasize that equality betwe9. wo-9. and -9. and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all family members were essential to family well-being and to society at large,.would note the importan ce of reconciliation of work and family life and would recognize the principle that boh parents have commo. responsibilities for 68 upbringing and 2g4S4o -9.h.of the child.

B. Statistical Commission

27. The thirty-fourth session of the Statistical Commission was held from 4 to 7 March 2003. I. accordance with the Commission's multi-year programme of work, gender statistics were most rec9.hly on the agenda in 2001. The Commission's proposed multi-year programme of work to 2006 does not.93clude specif ic consideration of gender statistics.

28. Sg4Sral reports before the Statistical Commission 93cluded refere.ces to gender statistics. I. response to a previous request by the Commission for a more systematic 2g4S4o -9.h.of social statistics, the United Nations Statistics Division reported, 93ter alia, on the production of a t9chnical report reviewing national statistics on gender for 68 period 1955 to 2005; and that a review of all *Demographic Yearbook* topics co4Sred by age and sex in its questionnaires and tabulations was under way. The Division was also planning to merge 68 web site on *World's Wo-9. statistics and indicators* with the on

B.

29. In follow-up to Council resolution 2002/23 on gender mainstreaming, the United Nations Statistics Division noted that gender mainstreaming was reflected in the range of development indicators considered by the Commission in the context of follow-up to the United Nations Millennium Declaration and United Nations conferences and summits. The Division's database on the indicators contained data broken down by sex to the extent possible (see E/CN.3/2003/28).

30. In the area of health statistics, several reports from national bureaux of statistics provided information about attention to women's health issues within national health surveys (Australia, E/CN.3/2003/4), in monitoring of HIV/AIDS (Botswana, E/CN.3/2003/5 and Corr.1), and in regard to health accounts (European Communities, E/CN.3/2003/6).

31. The actions taken by the Statistical Commission did not refer explicitly to questions of disaggregation of data by sex, or to gender statistics or related matters. With regard to the Council's policy guidance, including gender mainstreaming, the Commission agreed that the actions outlined in response to such policy decisions were consistent with the Council's requests and adequately reflected the relevant work being undertaken and planned by the Commission and the United Nations Statistics Division.

C. Commission on Human Rights

32. The Commission on Human Rights held its fifty-ninth session from 17 March to 25 April 2003. As in previous years, the Chairpersons of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women addressed the Commission. For the first time, the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights addressed the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-seventh session.

33. The Commission continues to address under a specific agenda item the human rights of women. In three resolutions, as compared to five in 2002, the Commission focused on particular aspects of the human rights of women, including: women's equal ownership, access to and control over land and the equal rights to own property and to adequate housing (resolution 2003/22); integration of the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system (resolution 2003/44); and the elimination of violence against women (resolution 2003/45). The mandate of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences was renewed for a period of three years (*ibid.*). Consideration of the questions on violence against women migrant workers has been biennialized, and no resolution was introduced on traffic in women and girls.

34. The Commission also highlighted the need to address the gender perspectives or gender dimensions in relation to many of the questions on its agenda, and used in many instances language similar to that of previous resolutions on the same subject.

1. Country-specific resolutions

35. The Commission addressed the particular situation of women in many of its country-specific resolutions, along the lines of past resolutions, for example with regard to Cambodia (resolution 2003/79); the Democratic Republic of the Congo (resolution 2003/15); and the human rights situation of the Lebanese detainees in

2003/72). New elements contained in issue-specific resolutions include references to the special human rights needs and situations of women in a number of areas, such as pregnant women's vulnerability to malaria (resolution 2003/29); those in relation to the HIV/AIDS pandemic (resolution 2003/47); and to prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building (resolution 2003/42). Resolution 2003/72 on impunity stressed the importance of bringing to justice those responsible for gender-related crimes and crimes of sexual violence in defined circumstances. Resolution 2003/52 on human rights and mass exoduses recognized that refugee and displaced women and girls are particularly vulnerable to persecution, gender-based discrimination and gender-specific violations of human rights.

D. Commission on Population and Development

42. The theme of the thirty-sixth session of the Commission on Population and Development, held from 31 March to 4 April 2003, was population, education and development. The concise report on world population monitoring 2003 (E/CN.9/2003/2) covered trends in population, education and development, including a review and update of the relationships between education and the main demographic areas with attention to entry into reproductive life, fertility, desired family size and family planning, health and mortality, and international migration. The report and its conclusions addressed gender disparities and differences, and the situation of women, especially in relation to school enrolment and literacy, marriage, fertility and family planning, and health and mortality.

43. According to the report on monitoring of population programmes (E/CN.9/2003/3), which also focused on the theme of the session, addressing illiteracy and eliminating gender disparities were among the major challenges in progress towards the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.⁶ In its conclusions, the report recommended that United Nations entities and their partners continue to advocate for national education policies and programmes that maximize female enrolment and continuation at school, promote the value of girl children to both their families and society, and mobilize community participation in support of education for all.

44. The report on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action (E/CN.9/2003/4) drew attention to the need for additional resources to support programmes that address the broader population and development objectives, including those that sought to improve the status and empowerment of women.

45. According to the report on world demographic trends (E/CN.9/2003/5), the majority of older persons are women. Female life expectancy is higher than life expectancy for males in all regions, and has increased more than that of males during the last half century in Asia, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean. The report also discussed trends in various regions on the scope and methods of contraception use by married and in -union women.

46. In the report on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2002 (E/CN.9/2003/6), the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized its activities, including gender-specific

work, in areas such as contraceptive use, trends in women's age of marriage, and women's awareness and behaviour relative to HIV/AIDS.

47. At its intersessional meeting the Bureau of the Commission also reviewed interaction between the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission on the Status of Women. At a meeting of the Chairpersons of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council it was agreed the gender mainstreaming should be integrated into the work of the commissions (E/CN.9/2003/8).

48. In its resolution on the special theme of the session, the Commission requested the Population Division to continue its research, and the United Nations Population Fund to continue its programming on the linkages between population, education and development, and to pay attention to the way in which education interacts with health, particularly sexual and reproductive health, including HIV/AIDS, and to the way in which education influences the levels, trends and differentials of mortality, fertili

53. As part of its comprehensive strategy to counter illicit drugs and crime in Afghanistan, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) assessed the role of microfinance as a financing alternative to the current lending practices for the various components within the opium market, including the current work of women and children in the poppy fields. As part of its support for alternative crop development in Bolivia, UNDCP provided revolving funds for the purchase of input to numerous microenterprises, many managed by women's groups and young people (see E/CN.7/2003/13).

54. In the proposed revised budget for the biennium 2002-2003 and the proposed outline for the biennium 2004-

G. Commission on Science and Technology for Development

59. At its sixth session, held from 5 to 9 May 2003, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development considered as the substantive theme of the session the question of technology development and capacity-building for competitiveness in a digital society, with particular attention to information and communication technologies (ICT) as pervasive technologies of global impact, wide application and growing potential.

60. The Commission held three intersessional panels. One of the policy recommendations of the panels to enhance strategic competitiveness of ICT, directed at the Commission, was to ensure that all its programmes take into account the need to meaningfully and systematically integrate gender equality principles, and improved collaboration between the Commission and its Gender Advisory Board (see E/CN.16/2003/2).

61. The note by the secretariat on the functioning of the Commission and its coordinating role (E/CN.16/2003/5) emphasized the collaborative linkages between the work of its Gender Advisory Board, established to examine gender implications of science and technology, and the Commission on the Status of Women and its secretariat. Its Gender Advisory Board had also benefited from support from the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Development Fund for Women.

62. In the draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council on the theme, the Council would request the Commission to take into account the need to meaningfully and systematically integrate a gender component into all its programmes, and to improve its collaboration with its Gender Advisory Board.

H. Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

63. The twelfth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal

children; and to ensure effective policy interventions in the area of violence against women (see E/CN.15/2003/2).

65.

70. The report on economic aspects of forests (E/CN.18/2003/7), recognized that well-functioning markets, from local village-level consumer markets to industrial and international markets, could generate a more equitable distribution of forestry benefits within communities and families, in particular for women. Experiences from several countries indicated that community management of forests had led to significant increases in incomes and economic surpluses and to improvements in the

Security;¹⁰ case studies on gender mainstreaming in programme budgets; the organization of a day of dialogue on gender and financing for development as well as the publication and wide dissemination of a report on that issue; efforts to support integration of gender perspectives in the World Summit on the Information Society process; a gender analysis of documents of the Common Country Assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework; maintenance and expansion of WomenWatch; ongoing links with the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination; and the development of gender indicators by the regional commissions.

76. At the annual session, members of the Network emphasized the importance of inter-agency cooperation in various areas as many of the long-standing challenges and newly emerging issues affecting gender equality were of concern to many entities of the United Nations. Integrated rather than sectoral approaches would have to be strengthened in the promotion of gender equality, for example, in the areas of

Justice. There was no apparent reference to the Commission's agreed conclusions on environmental management and mitigation of natural disasters when the Council, in its humanitarian affairs segment of 2002, addressed a related topic. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development did not refer to the Commission's agreed conclusions of 2003 on gender equality in relation to ICT.

85. The Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality has expanded its efforts to support gender mainstreaming in a growing number of sectors, and has also taken steps to encourage the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its high-level committees to address the gender perspectives of issues on their agenda.

86. As in 2002, a significant number of reports submitted to the Council and the commissions now include attention to the concerns of women or draw attention to gender perspectives. This appears to facilitate attention to such issues in the discussions and outputs of the relevant intergovernmental bodies. It therefore seems especially critical to continue those efforts, as well as to deepen the analysis and make it more systematic, including by using data disaggregated by sex and gender-specific studies and information in order to present relevant gender perspectives of all issues covered in reports.

VII. Recommendations

87. Based on the analysis of the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies in 2002 and 2003, the following recommendations are presented to the Council for its consideration.

88. The Council may wish to decide to devote its coordination segment of 2004 to a review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of its agreed conclusions 1997/2 on gender mainstreaming.

89. The Council may wish to express its appreciation to its subsidiary machinery for their continuing attention to gender perspectives and to increased use of the gender mainstreaming strategy. It may in particular encourage them to strengthen practical guidance provided in resolutions, decisions and agreed conclusions, as applicable, so as to accelerate the consistent use of the gender mainstreaming strategy in all policies and programmes, and at all levels.

90. The Council could also encourage relevant commissions to take additional steps to address gender aspects within their mandates, including by visibly incorporating such aspects in multi-year programmes of work or thematic discussions.

91. The Council may also commit itself, and urge the commissions to use more systematically the work of the Commission on the Status of Women on related topics under consideration by them.

92. The Council may wish to call for continuing efforts to include attention to gender equality in reports submitted to the Council and its subsidiary machinery, and especially to enhance their analysis of gender perspectives and related recommendations.

Notes

¹ A/57/286.

² The results of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and parts of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs were not available by the time of finalization of the report and are thus not reflected.

³ See A/57/3 (Part I), chap. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No.3*.

⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, sect. A, para. 4.

⁵ As no consensus was achieved, the Commission did not adopt the agreed conclusions on the second thematic issue.

⁶ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁷ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26*

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