

Chapter II

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE CONFERENCE

2. In pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 3276 (XXIX) and 3277 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974 and at the invitation of the Government of Mexico, the World Conference of the International Women's Year - the first such conference held under United Nations auspices - was held in Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975, in the course of the year which had been proclaimed "International Women's Year" by General Assembly resolution 3010 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972.

3. The Conference adopted as its principal decisions the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace 1975 and the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year, and recommended, *inter alia*, that the General Assembly should consider at its thirtieth session the convening of another world conference on women in 1980. 1/

4. Acting on proposals and recommendations of the Mexico City Conference, the General Assembly, by its resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, proclaimed the period from 1976 to 1985 as the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace and decided to convene in 1980, at the mid-point of the Decade, a world conference to review progress made in implementing the objectives specified by the Mexico City Conference.

5. In conformity with that and other decisions of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council, and at the invitation of the Government of Denmark, the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace was held at Copenhagen from 14 to 30 July 1980. The Conference adopted the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women and a large number of resolutions and decisions concerning specific subjects, including a resolution by which it recommended that the General Assembly, at its thirty-fifth session, should consider the convening in 1985 of another world conference on women to review and appraise the achievements of the Decade. 2/

6. The report of the 1980 Conference was considered by the General Assembly later that year; on 11 December 1980 the Assembly adopted resolution 35/136 by which it responded to a number of the Conference's proposals and recommendations, and in particular decided "to convene in 1985, at the conclusion of the Decade, a World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women" (para. 17). At its subsequent session, when it considered the subject again, the Assembly adopted resolution 36/126 of 14 December 1981, by which it requested the Commission on the Status of Women to give priority at its 1982 session to the question of preparations for the 1985 Conference.

The Commission accordingly dealt with the question and reported and made certain recommendations to the Economic and Social Council in the early part of 1982. In response to the Commission's report and proposals, the Council adopted resolution 1982/26 of 4 May 1982, by which it decided, *inter alia*, to designate the Commission as the preparatory body for the Conference.

The question of preparations for the Conference was further considered by the General Assembly later in the same year. The Assembly adopted resolution 37/60 of 10 December 1982, by which it endorsed the Council's decisions concerning preparations for the Conference and took a number of other decisions relevant

thereto. Pursuant to paragraph 5 of that resolution, the Secretary-General appointed Mrs. L. Shahani, Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, as Secretary-General of the Conference.

9. The Commission on the Status of Women acting as the Preparatory Body for the Conference held its first session at Vienna in February/March 1983, under the chairmanship of Olajumoke Oladayo Obafemi (Nigeria). In its report 3/ on the session it addressed a number of recommendations, including the text of the provisional agenda for the Conference, to the Economic and Social Council, which in response thereto adopted decision 1983/132 of 26 May 1983; in addition, on the same date the Council adopted resolution 1983/28 concerning more specifically the participation of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council in the Conference and in the preparatory process at the national and regional levels.

10. The General Assembly considered the report of the Commission acting as the Preparatory Body on its first session (including the provisional agenda proposed for the Conference) and the Council's decisions concerning preparations for the 1985 Conference, as well as other related matters, at its thirty-eighth session. As a result of this consideration the Assembly adopted resolution 38/108 of 16 December 1983, by which it decided to accept with appreciation the offer of the Government of Kenya to act as host to the Conference in Nairobi in 1985; took note of the Commission's reports and endorsed its recommendations; and considered that at the Conference particular attention would be paid (in connection with item 7 of the provisional agenda) to the problems of women in territories under racist colonial rule and in territories under foreign occupation, on the basis of appropriate documentation from the international conferences, held at Mexico City and Copenhagen, on women under the themes of equality, development and peace.

11. The Commission acting as the Preparatory Body for the Conference held its second session from 27 February to 7 March 1984, under the chairmanship of Rosario G. Manalo (Philippines). Its report on that session 4/ was considered by the Economic and Social Council, which by its decision 1984/125 of 24 May 1984, took note of the report, and approved the recommendations contained in the report and decided to transmit it to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session. At that session the Assembly dealt once again with the subject of preparations for the Conference and on 14 December 1984 adopted resolution 39/129, by which it reiterated its appreciation to the Government of Kenya for offering to act as host to the Conference in Nairobi from 15 to 26 July 1985; urged all Member States to make all efforts to ensure the success of the Conference; took note of the Preparatory Body's second report and endorsed the recommendations made therein; and made a number of recommendations concerning documents to be submitted to the Preparatory Body at its third session and documents to be submitted to the Conference. In the final paragraph of the resolution, the Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its fortieth session the item "United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace".

12. A third session of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the Preparatory Body for the Conference was held at Vienna from 4 to 13 March 1985, under the chairmanship of Rosario G. Manalo (Philippines). As explained in the report on that session, 5/ the Preparatory Body was unable to complete its business at that time, including consideration of the Secretary-General's report (A/CONF.116/PC/21) concerning the principal item on the agenda, as well as of certain other items (the draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference and certain organizational matters). It decided that certain of the unfinished items should be referred to the Economic and Social Council for consideration at

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its first regular session of 1985. In this connection, by decision 39/459 of 12 April 1985, the General Assembly decided, inter alia, "to request the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the Preparatory Body for the Conference to resume its third session in New York for a period of not more than seven days starting from 29 April 1985, in order to complete successfully its preparatory work ...".

13. Accordingly, the Preparatory Body met in resumed third session and as an open-ended working group at United Nations Headquarters from 29 April to 1 May 1985. With respect to the principal item on its agenda, it decided 6/ to transmit to the Conference a text consisting partly of agreed recommendations and partly of proposals that were not agreed (separately identified) concerning Forward-looking Strategies of implementation for the advancement of women and concrete measures to overcome obstacles to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women for the period 1986 to the year 2000: Equality, Development and Peace". 7/

14. In conformity with Assembly decision 39/459, the Economic and Social Council, in the course of its session from 7 to 21 May 1985, gave priority to the results of the Preparatory Body's deliberations. The Council decided, inter alia, to invite Mrs. Rosario Manalo (Philippines), Chairman of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the Preparatory Body for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace at its third and resumed third sessions, to hold informal consultations in New York, prior to the Conference, with a view to facilitating the deliberations of the Conference regarding the Forward-looking Strategies for the advancement of women and concrete measures to overcome obstacles to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women for the period 1986 to the Year 2000: Equality, Development and Peace - and to make the results of those consultations available to the Conference as appropriate.

15. The Council decided in its resolution 1985/46 of 31 May 1985 to transmit to the Conference the report of the Secretary-General reviewing the issue of women and development in the medium-term plans of the organizations of the United Nations system.

16. By its decision 1985/158 the Council transmitted to the Conference the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the achievements of and obstacles encountered by States parties in the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. It also transmitted the report of the Secretary-General on the participation of non-governmental organizations in the United Nations Decade for Women.

17. The Economic and Social Council considered the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference during its session. At its 26th meeting, on 31 May 1985, by decision 1985/158 the Council authorized its Bureau to continue making every effort through informal consultations to assist in resolving outstanding issues relating to the rules of procedure for the Conference and to submit the results to the Council at a resumption of its first regular session of 1985, on 20 June 1985. At its resumed session, the Council by decision 1985/164 recommended a formulation of rule 6 relating to the composition of the General Committee of the Conference. The outstanding question of rules 32-44 was referred to the Conference.

18. The Conference was preceded by intergovernmental preparatory meetings organized by the regional commissions, in co-operation with the secretariat of the Conference, the specialized agencies and other bodies concerned. These regional meetings were held at the places and on the dates mentioned below:

Economic and Social Commission for Asia
and the Pacific

Tokyo, 26-30 March 1984

Economic Commission for Africa

Arusha, 8-12 October 1984

Economic Commission for Europe
(Seminar on the economic role of women
in the ECE region)

Vienna, 15-19 October 1984

Economic Commission for Latin America
and the Caribbean

Havana, 19-23 November 1984

Economic Commission for Western Asia

Baghdad, 3-6 December 1984

19. At these regional intergovernmental meetings and the Seminar various recommendations, some dealing with matters of specific interest to the region concerned, were adopted for submission to the Conference. 8/

20. In addition, documentary and statistical material designed to illustrate the evolution of the status of women in recent times was gathered by specialized agencies and other bodies and organs of the United Nations system and issued in documents for submission to the Conference. An intergovernmental body - the Organization of African Unity - prepared jointly with the Economic Commission for Africa a document relating to the position of women living under a régime of apartheid. Many non-governmental organizations having an interest in the topics to be considered by the Conference arranged meetings or seminars dealing with such topics and prepared statements or documents addressed to the Conference. (See the list of documents in annex III to this report.)

Notes

1/ See the report of the Mexico City Conference, United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1 (E/CONF.66/34).

2/ See the report of the Copenhagen Conference, United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.IV.3 and Corr. (A/CONF.94/35), in particular resolution 33 (the draft of which had been introduced by the delegation of Kenya on behalf of a number of countries, see ibid., para. 420).

3/ A/CONF.116/PC/9 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

4/ A/CONF.116/PC/19 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Corr.1.

5/ A/CONF.116/PC/25.

6/ See the report on the resumed third session (A/CONF.116/25/Add.1-3) and annex.

7/ See document A/CONF.116/12.

8/ For the texts of the recommendations and of the reports (or extracts thereof) of the regional intergovernmental meetings, see the relevant reports of the Secretary-General (A/CONF.116/9).

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Chapter III

ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. Date and place of the Conference

21. The World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, was held at Nairobi from 15 to 26 July 1985, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 39/129 of 14 December 1984. During that period the Conference held 20 plenary meetings.

B. Pre-Conference consultations

22. Pre-Conference consultations open to all States invited to participate in the Conference were held at Nairobi on 13 and 14 July 1985 to consider a number of procedural and organizational matters. These and other informal consultations were conducted under the chairmanship of Mrs. Rosario Manalo (Philippines), who had been Presiding Officer of the Commission acting as the Preparatory Body for the Conference. The report on the consultations (A/CONF.116/L.1 and Add.1) was submitted to the Conference and its recommendations were accepted as the basis for the organization of the Conference's work, including the recommendation concerning the structure of the Conference's report.

C. Attendance

23. The following States were represented at the Conference:

Afghanistan	Chile
Albania	China
Algeria	Colombia
Angola	Comoros
Antigua and Barbuda	Congo
Argentina	Costa Rica
Australia	Cuba
Austria	Cyprus
Bahrain	Czechoslovakia
Bangladesh	Democratic Kampuchea
Barbados	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Belgium	Democratic Yemen
Belize	Denmark
Benin	Djibouti
Bhutan	Dominica
Botswana	Dominican Republic
Brazil	Ecuador
Bulgaria	Egypt
Burkina Faso	El Salvador
Burundi	Equatorial Guinea
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	Ethiopia
Cameroon	Fiji
Canada	Finland
Cape Verde	France
Central African Republic	Gabon
Chad	Gambia

German Democratic Republic	Panama
Germany, Federal Republic of	Papua New Guinea
Ghana	Paraguay
Greece	Peru
Grenada	Philippines
Guatemala	Poland
Guinea	Portugal
Guinea-Bissau	Republic of Korea
Guyana	Romania
Haiti	Rwanda
Holy See	Saint Christopher and Nevis
Honduras	Saint Lucia
Hungary	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Iceland	Samoa
India	San Marino
Indonesia	Sao Tome and Principe
Iran, Islamic Republic of	Saudi Arabia
Iraq	Senegal
Ireland	Seychelles
Israel	Sierra Leone
Italy	Solomon Islands
Ivory Coast	Somalia
Jamaica	Spain
Japan	Sri Lanka
Jordan	Sudan
Kenya	Suriname
Kiribati	Swaziland
Kuwait	Sweden
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Switzerland
Lesotho	Syrian Arab Republic
Liberia	Thailand
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Togo
Luxembourg	Trinidad and Tobago
Madagascar	Tunisia
Malawi	Turkey
Malaysia	Uganda
Maldives	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist
Mali	Republic
Malta	Union of Soviet Socialist
Mauritania	Republics
Mauritius	United Arab Emirates
Mexico	United Kingdom of Great Britain
Mongolia	and Northern Ireland
Morocco	United Republic of Tanzania
Mozambique	United States of America
Nepal	Uruguay
Netherlands	Vanuatu
New Zealand	Venezuela
Nicaragua	Viet Nam
Niger	Yemen
Nigeria	Yugoslavia
Norway	Zaire
Oman	Zambia
Pakistan	Zimbabwe

24. The United Nations Council for Namibia and the Special Committee against Apartheid were represented at the Conference.

25. The Palestine Liberation Organization and the South West Africa People's Organization attended the Conference in the capacity of observers.

26. The following national liberation movements were represented by observers:

African National Congress (South Africa)
Pan Africanist Congress of Azania

27. Members of the secretariat of the following United Nations offices were present throughout or during part of the Conference:

Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation
Department of International Economic and Social Affairs
Department of Technical Co-operation for Development
Department of Political and Security Affairs
Department of Public Information

28. The secretariats of the following regional commissions were represented at the Conference:

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Economic Commission for Africa
Economic Commission for Western Asia

29. The following United Nations bodies and programmes were also represented:

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
United Nations Children's Fund
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Fund for Population Activities
United Nations Development Fund for Women
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
United Nations Industrial Development Organization
United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
United Nations Institute for Training and Research
United Nations Office for Emergency Operations in Africa
United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office
United Nations University
World Food Programme
Federation of International Civil Servants Associations
International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT

Representatives of the following specialized agencies and related organizations participated in the work of the Conference:

International Labour Organisation
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
International Civil Aviation Organization
World Meteorological Organization
World Health Organization
World Bank
International Fund for Agricultural Development

31. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers:

Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
Arab Gulf Programme for the United Nations Development Organizations
Arab Labour Organization
Caribbean Community Secretariat
Commonwealth Secretariat
Council for Mutual Economic Assistance
Council of Europe
European Community
Inter-American Development Bank
Intergovernmental Committee for Migration
International Center for Public Enterprises in Developing Countries
League of Arab States
Nordic Council
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
Organization of African Unity
Organization of American States (Inter-American Commission of Women)
Organization of the Islamic Conference

32. A large number of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, or on the Roster, attended the Conference. The list of participants is given in document A/CONF.116/INF.1.

D. Opening of the Conference and election of its President

33. The Conference was called to order by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In the course of his address he stated that the purpose of the Conference was to draw up a balance sheet of results obtained and of the many problems remaining to be solved before women could stand everywhere beside men with rights and opportunities equal not only in law but also in fact. He pointed out that the United Nations had consistently played an important role in supporting efforts to improve the lives and status of women around the world by providing a forum for discussions and by developing the necessary international instruments and strategies. In this important sphere, as in others, the endeavours of the United Nations had been shaped by, and constituted a response to, the process of rapid change which had marked the 40 years since the establishment of the Organization.

34. He said that the International Women's Year 1975 had been an important event in that it directed the world community's attention not only to the needs but also to the strength of women. Moreover, women themselves increasingly expressed the view that they shared many problems and aspirations which transcended national boundaries as well as cultural and political backgrounds. Emphasizing the interrelatedness of the themes of the Decade - equality, development and peace, he noted the relatively greater progress made towards equality and the increasing recognition of the relationship between development and the advancement of women. The issues of women's advancement could not be separated from those of peace and

It was heartening to note that women were participating increasingly in the struggle for peace and disarmament. No doubt, the deliberations of the Conference would reflect political, economic and social realities, though it could hardly be expected to offer solutions to problems that had for long been and were still being discussed in other United Nations forums. In its discussions the Conference should not lose sight of the need to preserve and build upon the gains achieved during the Decade, on the basis of the broad and genuine support of the entire international community.

15. Reviewing the achievements of the Decade, he said that to expect that the goals of women's equality with men and full participation in the life of society would be attained in so short a span of time was to belittle the magnitude of the task. However, compared with 1975, there was in 1985 a much greater awareness of women's problems, greater advocacy of their rights and greater understanding of their needs. Most importantly, this increased awareness was widely shared by women themselves. Governments had enacted legislation outlawing discrimination based on sex, and national mechanisms to ensure respect of women's rights had been set up. Women were beginning to make their presence felt in the public life of their countries. The growing appreciation of the diverse roles which women could play in society had been responsible for many of the positive achievements of the Decade, particularly in the areas of health, education and employment. The emphasis on primary health care moved the focus to women, the educational gap between girls and boys had narrowed, especially in developing countries, and there had been an increasing erosion of the fallacious "role model" that depicted women as essentially unproductive in the economic sense.

16. The Secretary-General added that the United Nations Decade for Women had coincided with a period in which the world economy had run an uneasy course. In this context, women had suffered particularly from cutbacks in public investments in social programmes due to economic difficulties and the necessary process of adjustment. Even in these difficult economic times, however, the Decade had registered significant progress. For instance, there had been an increase in the number of countries - from 28 in 1978 to 90 in 1983 - with equal pay legislation on their statute books. Qualitative and quantitative changes had taken place in women's participation in the labour force. The woman of the twenty-first century would enjoy better education and possess higher skills than the women of 1975, and would be better informed about her rights and obligations in society. The greater awareness of women's issues was attributable in large measure to the valuable efforts of the non-governmental community with which the United Nations system continued to collaborate closely.

17. Concluding, the Secretary-General said that the positive trends of the Decade were encouraging. At the same time he noted that the challenge remained how to maintain the momentum beyond the Decade and to intensify international co-operation in this vital area. A sense of shared purpose and direction, a renewed commitment to the Plan of Action of Mexico City, the Programme of Action adopted at Copenhagen, the goals and objectives of the Decade and to the Charter of the United Nations ought to be a beacon to guide the world community through the days and years ahead. The efforts to ensure equality of women's rights with those of men must not flag. He was confident that the international community, working in concert, would respond to the challenges of the promotion of peace, fostering of economic and social development and the universal observance of human rights. He stressed that without the full partnership of women and men, goals would remain elusive and, in this light, viewed the close of the United Nations Decade for Women as really only a beginning.

38. In an inaugural address, His Excellency the Honourable Daniel T. arap Moi, President of the Republic of Kenya, welcomed the delegations and thanked the Secretary-General and the Secretariat of the United Nations for the support they had extended to the host Government in connection with preparations for the Conference.

39. He referred to the formidable task confronting the delegations and to the numerous matters on the agenda which bore vitally on the destiny of mankind. Throughout history, and in all parts of the world, the human community had been concerned with the issues of equality, development and peace, and hence it was fitting and indeed inevitable that these matters should form part of the agenda of a conference convened to discuss the status and well-being of more than half of the world's population.

40. The world community's preoccupation with the integration of women in the mainstream of human progress was of relatively recent date. Despite the progress made in almost every field of human striving, efforts to alleviate the plight of women had achieved less than the world community had a capacity to accomplish. However, one point of agreement was that a start had been made and that humanity could not afford to slow down the momentum in a field so crucial to the well-being of mankind.

41. Noting that the Conference was taking place on the eve of celebrations to mark the fortieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations, he stressed that this was a special and historic occasion for reviewing and appraising the achievements of 10 years of international resolve and commitment to improve the status of women and to formulate viable strategies for the promotion of the advancement of women in the years ahead.

42. In this context, he referred to the action taken by the General Assembly since 1975 to improve the status of women, and considered that the world community had come a long way since the Mexico City Conference. By the time international action was taken, Kenya, among others, had enacted legislative and constitutional provisions guaranteeing to all citizens inalienable rights irrespective of sex, creed, race or ethnic origins. Kenya had in addition ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and Kenya was both a contributor to and beneficiary of the United Nations Development Fund for Women. At the national level, women in Kenya were involved in the identification, formulation and implementation of development activities, starting from the village level, and women had begun to enter the legal, medical, engineering and veterinary professions which had previously been male-dominated.

43. In conclusion, the President of Kenya reaffirmed his country's total commitment and determination to continue assisting Kenyan women to attain even greater successes in the coming years, and he expressed the hopes of Kenya that the deliberations of the Conference would be inspired and tempered by the desire to succeed. In this context, he stressed that, while differences of opinion were bound to arise over certain issues at the Conference as at any other, nonetheless it was vital that the objectives and aspirations of the Conference should not be submerged by rhetoric which might attract immediate and wide attention, but from which the Conference and, above all, the women of the world would gain little. The success of this Conference would also depend crucially on the will of all Governments to implement its recommendations, for without this will resolutions would remain mere paper monuments. Yet, while it was the duty of Governments to take action, the onus remained on women to unite and take full advantage of the opportunities so created.

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44. He stressed that women formed the most important element and performed literally vital functions in all societies. After a Decade of varying attempts to advance the cause of women, he said, the years ahead should witness resolute action to eradicate obstacles to the advancement of women. The delegations owed it to the women of the world to produce a final document that would prove that the journey to Nairobi in 1985 had not been in vain.

45. The President of the Republic of Kenya formally declared the Conference open.

46. At its 1st meeting on 15 July 1985 the Conference elected by acclamation Miss Margaret Kenyatta, the head of the delegation of Kenya, as the President of the Conference. In her acceptance speech, she expressed her own and her country's gratitude to the delegates for electing her to this high office. Indeed, she said, all Africa was honoured by the decision of the world community to accept the offer of the Government of Kenya to host the Conference, especially during the year marking the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations.

47. Reviewing the major achievements for the advancement of women since the establishment of the United Nations in 1945, she cited the Preamble of the United Nations Charter which reaffirmed faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women, and of nations large and small. She also particularly mentioned the pioneering work of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women which had made many significant recommendations for promoting women's social, economic and political rights, and had prepared several important international conventions on such subjects as the political rights of women, the nationality of women, age and consent to marriage etc. The adoption by the General Assembly of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was a significant contribution to the advancement of women. Other achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women included the Mexico City and Copenhagen Conferences and the World Plan of Action and the Programme of Action adopted, respectively, in Mexico City in 1975 and in Copenhagen in 1980. She stressed that these were mutually complementary instruments, not two separate ones. Their implementation involved not only Governments, but also agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

48. She expressed the hope that all delegations would show good will in order to enable the Conference to make a serious contribution to the advancement of women. For her part, she added that she would do her best to merit the confidence which the Conference had placed in her.

E. Messages from Heads of State or Government

The Conference received messages wishing it success addressed to it by the heads of State or Government of Algeria, Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Comoros, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Dominica, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mongolia, Pakistan, Poland, Republic of Korea, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia and Zambia.

F. Other messages

50. A message was received from Her Majesty the Queen of Jordan.

51. A message was received from the Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

G. Adoption of the rules of procedure (agenda item 3)

52. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 15 July 1985, the Conference adopted the provisional rules of procedure as contained in document A/CONF.116/2,* as revised in the light of the acceptance by the Conference of the Economic and Social Council's recommendations regarding rules 6 and 15 (see document A/CONF.116/17).**

53. Following discussions during the pre-Conference consultations on matters of procedure, the President, immediately after the adoption of the rules of procedure, made the following statement:

"In my capacity as President of the Conference, and with the concurrence of all groups concerned, I wish to make the following statement.

* The square brackets in chapter VIII (Decision-making) were removed.

** The text of the two rules reads:

"Elections

"Rule 6

"The Conference shall elect the following officers: a President, one Vice-President for Co-ordination, twenty-nine other Vice-Presidents, a Rapporteur-General and a Presiding Officer for each of the Main Committees established in accordance with rule 45.

"Decisions concerning organization

"Rule 15

"1. The Conference shall, to the extent possible, at its first meeting:

(a) Elect its officers and constitute its subsidiary bodies;

(b) Adopt its rules of procedure;

(c) Adopt its agenda, the draft of which shall, until such adoption, be the provisional agenda of the Conference;

(d) Decide on the organization of its work.

"2. Recommendations resulting from pre-conference consultations shall, in principle, be acted on without further discussion."

"Without prejudice to the rules of procedure of the Conference which have been adopted, in particular rule 34, and without setting a precedent, a general understanding has emerged as a result of consultations whereby all documents of the Conference, in particular the Forward-looking Strategies document under item 8 of the Conference agenda, should be adopted by consensus."

H. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 4)

54. At the 2nd plenary meeting, on 15 July 1985, the Conference adopted as its agenda the provisional agenda (A/CONF.116/1) recommended by the Preparatory Body, which was as follows:

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of the President.
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
4. Adoption of the agenda.
5. Election of officers other than the President.
6. Other organizational matters:
 - (a) Allocation of items to the Main Committees and organization of work;
 - (b) Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
 - (i) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
 - (ii) Report of the Credentials Committee.
7. Critical review and appraisal of progress achieved and obstacles encountered in attaining the goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, and the sub-theme: Employment, Health and Education, bearing in mind the guidelines laid down at the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City, and the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held at Copenhagen:
 - (a) Progress achieved and obstacles encountered at national, regional and international levels to attain the goal and objective of equality;
 - (b) Progress achieved and obstacles encountered at national, regional and international levels to attain the goal and objective of development;
 - (c) Progress achieved and obstacles encountered at national, regional and international levels to attain the goal and objective of peace.

8. Forward-looking Strategies of implementation for the advancement of women for the period up to the year 2000, and concrete measures to overcome obstacles to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, and the sub-theme: Employment, Health and Education, bearing in mind the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and the establishment of a new international economic order:

- (a) Strategies and measures at the national, regional and international levels to achieve the goal of equality;
- (b) Strategies and measures at the national, regional and international levels to achieve the goal of development;
- (c) Strategies and measures at the national, regional and international level to achieve the goal of peace.

9. Adoption of the report of the Conference.

I. Election of officers other than the President (agenda item 5)

55. At its 2nd plenary meeting on 15 July 1985 the Conference elected Mr. Tom Vraalsen (Norway) Vice-President for Co-ordination and the following 29 States as Vice-Presidents: Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Burundi, Chad, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Liberia, Mali, Nicaragua, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Zambia.

56. Mrs. Elena Lagadinova (Bulgaria) was elected Rapporteur-General.

57. The Conference elected Mrs. Cecilia Lopez (Colombia) Presiding Officer of the First Committee and Mrs. Rosario Manalo (Philippines) Presiding Officer of the Second Committee.

58. The First and Second Committees elected their Deputy Presiding Officers and Rapporteurs:

First Committee

Deputy Presiding Officers: Ms. Laetitia van den Assum (Netherlands)
Ms. Olimpia Solomonescu (Romania)
Ms. Kulsum Saifallah (Pakistan)

Rapporteur: Ms. Diaroumeye Gany (Niger)

Second Committee

Deputy Presiding Officers: Ms. Billie Miller (Barbados)
Ms. Konjit Sine Giogis (Ethiopia)
Ms. Eva Szilagyi (Hungary)

Rapporteur: Ms. Helen Ware (Australia)

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J. Other organizational matters (agenda item 6)

1. Allocation of agenda items

59. At its 3rd plenary meeting on 16 July 1985 the Conference decided that items 1 to 7 and 9 would be considered in plenary meetings and that item 8 would be considered by the Main Committees. (For the distribution of the work as between the two Committees in relation to item 8, in particular consideration of the document concerning Forward-looking Strategies (A/CONF.116/12), see document A/CONF.116/L.2.)

2. Credentials of representatives to the Conference

60. In conformity with rule 4 of the rules of procedure the Conference at its 2nd plenary meeting on 15 July 1985 established a Credentials Committee composed of the following States: Bhutan, China, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Italy, Ivory Coast, Paraguay, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America.

K. Implications of Conference decisions for the programme budget of the United Nations

61. At the 19th plenary meeting, on 26 July 1985, before the consideration of the recommendations of the Main Committees, the Secretary of the Conference stated that any provisions of decisions taken or resolutions adopted by the Conference that had implications for the programme budget of the United Nations would be brought to the attention of the General Assembly by the Secretariat at the time when the Assembly considered the report of the Conference.