

Chapter V

REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE CONFERENCE AND ACTION TAKEN ON THESE REPORTS BY THE CONFERENCE

A. Report of the First Committee

161. The Conference, at its 3rd plenary meeting, on 16 July 1985, allocated to the First Committee the following chapters of the document relating to agenda item 8 entitled "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 for the period 1986 to the year 2000: 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/CONF.116/12), to be dealt with in the manner set out below:

The First Committee would consider, in that order:

Chapter I: Equality (paras. 44 to 93)

Chapter II: Development (paras. 94 to 228)

Chapter III: Peace (paras. 229 to 273)

Under chapter III, the Committee was to consider also sections C, M, P and Q of chapter IV, relating to "Areas of special concern". Section C referred to "Women in areas affected by armed conflicts, foreign intervention and threats to peace", section M referred to "Refugee and displaced women and children", section P referred to "Women and children under apartheid" and section Q referred to "Palestinian women and children".

162. The Committee considered these chapters at meetings held from 15 to 25 July 1985.

163. The Committee's Presiding Officer was Mrs. Cecilia Lopez (Colombia), who was elected by acclamation at the 2nd plenary meeting of the Conference, on 15 July 1985.

164. At its 1st meeting, on 16 July 1985, the Committee elected the following officers:

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

Rapporteur: Ms. Diaroumeye Gany (Niger)

165. At its 3rd meeting, on 17 July, the Committee decided to establish a Negotiating Group, consisting of the Chairman of the Group of 77 and of the coordinators of the regional groups and representatives designated by them, on the understanding that the Group would be open-ended. The Negotiating Group was to

deal with and settle the text of the sections of the document concerning the Forward-looking Strategies referred to the Committee.

166. In addition, the Committee considered a number of draft resolutions submitted to it.

167. At its 12th meeting, on 23 July, the Committee decided to establish a Working Group to review and combine, whenever feasible, draft resolutions; the members of the Group, which was open-ended, were the sponsors of the draft resolutions and the regional co-ordinators, under the chairmanship of the representative of Romania.

168. The text of the draft resolutions submitted to the Committee, in some cases as revised or amended, is reproduced in annex I to this report, pursuant to a decision taken by the Conference at its 20th (closing) plenary meeting.

169. The First Committee recommended to the Conference for adoption the text of the paragraphs to be incorporated in the chapters and sections of the Forward-looking Strategies which had been referred to the Committee. For an account of the action taken by the Conference with respect to these recommendations see below.

B. Report of the Second Committee

170. The Conference, at its 3rd plenary meeting, on 16 July 1985, allocated to the Second Committee specific sections of the document relating to agenda item 8, entitled "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".

171. In accordance with the decision of the Conference on the allocation of work between the two Committees, the Second Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretariat containing the draft text of the 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 (A/CONF.116/12, paras. 1-43, 274-283, 286-298, 301-305 and 308-372);

(b) Working paper submitted by Mrs. Rosario Manalo, Chairperson of the Preparatory Body for the Conference at its third and resumed third sessions, on the results of the informal consultations held in New York pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 1985/158 (A/CONF.116/CRP.1);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General transmitting the recommendations of the regional intergovernmental preparatory meetings (A/CONF.116/9 and Corr.1);

(d) Note by the Secretariat containing 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 (A/CONF.116/15).

172. The Presiding Officer of the Committee was Mrs. Rosario Manalo (Philippines), who was elected by acclamation at the 2nd plenary meeting of the Conference, on 15 July 1985.

173. At its 1st meeting, on 16 July 1985, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

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

Rapporteur: Helen Ware (Australia)

174. The Committee considered agenda item 8 at its 1st to 18th meetings, from 16 to 25 July 1985.

175. It was agreed that the Committee should not hold a general discussion. The Committee considered the draft paragraphs of the Forward-looking Strategies allocated to it, as contained in documents A/CONF.116/12 and A/CONF.116/CRP.1, at its 1st to 11th and 18th meetings, on 16 to 20, 22 and 25 July 1985, taking into account the two other documents before it (A/CONF.116/9 and Corr.1 and A/CONF.116/15).

176. The Second Committee recommended to the Conference for adoption the text of the paragraphs to be incorporated in the chapters and sections of the Forward-looking Strategies which had been referred to the Committee. For an account of the action taken by the Conference with respect to these recommendations see below.

177. In addition to considering the paragraphs of the Forward-looking Strategies, the Second Committee considered a number of draft resolutions submitted to it. The text of the draft resolutions submitted to the Committee, in some cases as revised or amended, is reproduced in annex I to this report, pursuant to a decision taken by the Conference at its 20th meeting.

C. Action taken in plenary on the reports of the First and Second Committees

178. The Conference considered the reports of the First and Second Committees (A/CONF.116/L.6 and Add.1-6 and A/CONF.116/L.5 and Add.1-15) at the 18th, 19th and 20th plenary meetings, on 25 and 26 July 1985.

1. Action with respect to the text of the Forward-looking Strategies

179. The Conference decided to consider in their numerical order the paragraphs recommended by the Committees for inclusion in the Forward-looking Strategies. The Conference considered, in addition, a number of paragraphs which had been proposed in Committee and on which it had been impossible to reach agreement in the Committee concerned. These paragraphs were accordingly left to be decided by the Conference, as is explained below in the appropriate context.

Paragraphs 1-35* (A/CONF.116/L.5/Add.1-8)

180. At the 18th plenary meeting, on 25 July 1985, the Conference adopted by consensus the text of paragraphs 1 to 35 recommended by the Second Committee. It was agreed that paragraph 18 as it appeared in document A/CONF.116/12 should be deleted (see A/CONF.116/L.5/Add.5), and that paragraph 26 should, as recommended by the Committee (see A/CONF.116/L.5/Add.8), be transferred to the beginning of section C of the Introduction to the Forward-looking Strategies.

181. The delegation of the Holy See reserved its position with respect to paragraph 30 because it had not joined in the consensus at the International Conference on Population (Mexico City, 1984) and did not agree with the substance of paragraph 30.

Paragraph 36 (A/CONF.116/L.5/Add.9)

182. The Conference considered paragraph 36 at its 19th plenary meeting on 26 July 1985. The Second Committee had been unable to agree on the text of the paragraph (which appeared in square brackets in the Committee's report; see A/CONF.116/L.5/Add.9) and accordingly referred it to the plenary Conference for consideration and decision.

183. After a debate in which the representatives of Egypt, Canada, the Byelorussian SSR, Mexico, Norway, Philippines, Mali, Austria, Zambia, Ireland and Algeria took part, it was agreed that the paragraph should be adopted and that the countries which wished to formulate reservations to the paragraph should be mentioned in a footnote.

Paragraphs 37-43 (A/CONF.116/L.5/Add.9)

184. The Conference adopted by consensus paragraphs 37 to 43 as recommended by the Second Committee.

Paragraph 44 (A/CONF.116/L.6/Add.1)

185. As recommended by the First Committee, the Conference adopted by consensus and without change the text of paragraph 44 as it appeared in document A/CONF.116/112.

Paragraph 45 (A/CONF.116/12)

186. The First Committee had been unable to reach agreement on this paragraph as it appeared in document A/CONF.116/12 and referred it to the plenary for decision. After a discussion in which the representatives of Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Trinidad and Tobago, Kenya, India and Italy took part, the Conference adopted the paragraph.

* In this chapter the numbering of paragraphs of the Forward-looking Strategies follows that in the reports of the Committees. As the Conference decided to rearrange the order of certain paragraphs, the numbering is different in the final text of the Strategies set out in chapter I above.

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Paragraphs 46-48 (A/CONF.116/L.6/Add.1)

187. As recommended by the First Committee, the Conference adopted by consensus and without change the text of paragraphs 46 to 48 as it appeared in document A/CONF.116/112.

Paragraphs 49 and 50 (A/CONF.116/L.6/Add.1)

188. The Conference adopted by consensus the text of paragraphs 49 and 50 recommended by the First Committee in its report.

Paragraphs 51-72 (A/CONF.116/L.6/Add.1)

189. The Conference adopted by consensus the text of paragraphs 52 to 55, 57 to 59, 62 and 68 recommended by the First Committee in its report, and as recommended by the Committee adopted for paragraphs 51, 56, 60, 61, 63 to 67 and 69 to 72 the relevant text as it appeared in document A/CONF.116/12, without change.

190. The delegation of the United States of America formulated a reservation concerning the phrase "equal pay for work of equal value" in paragraph 70, on the grounds that it was inconsistent with the federally adopted principle of equal pay for equal work.

Paragraphs 73-94 (A/CONF.116/L.6/Add.1)

191. The Conference adopted by consensus the text of paragraphs 73, 75, 78, 80 to 84 and 86 to 91 recommended by the First Committee in its report, and as recommended by the Committee adopted for paragraphs 74, 76, 77, 79, 85 and 92 to 94 the relevant text as it appeared in document A/CONF.116/12 without change.

192. The delegation of the United States of America stated that the reservation it had expressed concerning the phrase "equal pay for work of equal value" in paragraph 70 applied likewise to the same phrase in paragraph 73.

193. The delegations of Morocco and the United Arab Emirates formulated reservations concerning paragraph 75.

Paragraph 94 bis (A/CONF.116/CRP.2)

194. The text of a paragraph 94 bis, to be inserted immediately after paragraph 94, had been submitted to the First Committee. The Committee had been unable to reach agreement on the text of this proposed additional paragraph and referred it to the plenary of the Conference for consideration and decision. The Conference considered the proposed paragraph at its 19th and 20th plenary meetings on 26 July 1985. The paragraph read as follows:

There are coercive measures of an economic, political and other nature that are promoted and adopted by certain developed States and are directed towards exerting pressure on developing countries, with the aim of preventing them from exercising their sovereign rights and of obtaining from them advantages of all kinds, and furthermore affect possibilities for dialogue and negotiation. Such measures, which include trade restrictions, blockades, embargos and other economic sanctions incompatible with the principles of the United Nations Charter and in violation of multilateral or bilateral commitments, have adverse effects on the economic, political and social

development of developing countries and therefore directly affect the integration of woman in development, since that is directly related to the objective of general social, economic and political development.

195. A discussion ensued in which the representatives of the following countries took part: Belgium, Italy, Egypt, Mexico, Luxembourg, Japan, Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, Yugoslavia, United States of America, Angola, Syrian Arab Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, Cuba, German Democratic Republic, USSR, Kuwait, Viet Nam, United Kingdom, Mali, Norway, Philippines, Kenya and Congo.

196. After this discussion, the text of the proposed new paragraph 94 bis was put to vote, by roll-call, and was adopted by 109 votes to none, with 28 abstentions. The result of the vote was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Samoa, Sao Tomé and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Paragraph 95 (A/CONF.116/12)

197. The First Committee had been unable to reach agreement on the draft text of this paragraph as it appeared in document A/CONF.116/12 and referred it to the plenary of the Conference for consideration and decision. At the 20th plenary meeting the term "zionism" in the third sentence of the draft gave rise to a protracted discussion, in which the representatives of the following countries took part: Islamic Republic of Iran, Syrian Arab Republic, Belgium, Afghanistan, Jordan, Canada, Mexico, Kenya, France, United States of America, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Ivory Coast, Angola, Senegal, United Kingdom, Norway, Ireland, Tunisia, Iceland, Trinidad and Tobago, Switzerland, Federal Republic of Germany and Egypt.

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198. After a recess, the representative of Kenya proposed, in the light of consultations conducted during the recess with interested delegations, that the words "racism, zionism" in the third sentence of the draft text should be deleted and replaced by the phrase "and all other forms of racism and racial discrimination".

199. Statements were made by the representatives of the USSR, Egypt, Mexico, Colombia, Japan, Pakistan, India, Indonesia, Venezuela, Philippines, China, Zambia, Mali, Ghana, Honduras, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jamaica, Bangladesh, Malawi, Nicaragua, Oman, Kuwait and Iraq. The observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization also made a statement.

200. The amendment proposed by the representative of Kenya was agreed to and the Conference adopted paragraph 95 as amended without a vote.

201. After the adoption, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Burkina Faso, Syrian Arab Republic and Kenya. The delegation of Albania made a statement dissociating itself from the consensus reached on paragraph 95.

Paragraphs 96 and 97 (A/CONF.116/L.6/Add.2)

202. The Conference adopted by consensus the text of paragraphs 96 and 97 recommended by the First Committee in its report.

Paragraph 98 (A/CONF.116/12)

203. The First Committee had been unable to reach agreement on the draft text of this paragraph as it appeared in document A/CONF.116/12 and referred it to the plenary of the Conference for consideration and decision. The Conference considered the text at the 20th plenary meeting. The representatives of Egypt, United States of America, Canada, United Republic of Tanzania, Federal Republic of Germany, Mali and Cuba spoke in the discussion, after which the text of paragraph 98 was put to vote, by roll-call, and was adopted by 103 votes to 1, with 77 abstentions. The result of the vote was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Paragraph 99 (A/CONF.116/L.6/Add.2)

204. As recommended by the First Committee, the Conference adopted by consensus the text of paragraph 99 as it appeared in document A/CONF.116/12.

Paragraph 99 bis (A/CONF.116/CRP.2)

205. In the First Committee the draft text of an additional new paragraph 99 bis had been submitted, to be inserted immediately after paragraph 99. The Committee had been unable to reach agreement on the draft and referred it to the plenary of the Conference for consideration and decision. The draft text of paragraph 99 bis read as follows:

Protectionism against developing countries' exports in all its forms, the deterioration in the terms of trade, monetary instability, including high interest rates and the reduction in real terms of flows of official development assistance have aggravated the development problems of the developing countries, and consequently have complicated the difficulties hampering the integration of women in the development process.

One of the principal obstacles now confronting the developing countries is their gigantic public and private external debt, which constitutes a palpable expression of the economic crisis and has serious political, economic and social consequences for those countries. The amount of the external debt obliges the developing countries to devote enormous sums of their already scarce export income to the servicing of the debt, which affects their peoples' lives and possibilities of development, with particular effects on women. In many developing countries there is a growing conviction that the conditions for the payment and servicing of the external debt cause those countries enormous difficulties and that the adjustment policies traditionally imposed are inadequate and lead to a disproportionate social cost.

The negative effects of the present international economic situation on the least developed countries have been particularly grave and have caused serious difficulties in the process of integrating women in development.

The growth prospects of the low income countries have seriously deteriorated owing to the reduction in international economic co-operation, particularly the reduction in real terms of flows of official development assistance and the growing trade protectionism in the developed countries, which restricts the capacity of the low income countries to attain the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women.

This situation is even more grave in the developing countries that are afflicted by drought, famine and desertification.

206. The representative of Mexico proposed that the phrase "reduction in real terms of flows of official development assistance", which occurred twice in the draft text, should in both cases be amended to read "the inadequate flow of official development assistance". With this amendment the text of paragraph 99 bis was adopted without a vote.

207. Reservations concerning paragraph 99 bis were expressed by the delegations of France, Norway and the United States of America.

208. The Norwegian delegation reserved its position with respect to the formulation of the first line of paragraph 99 bis and with respect to the word "imposed" in the second subparagraph.

Paragraphs 100 to 159 (A/CONF.116/L.6/Add.2)

209. The Conference adopted by consensus the text of paragraphs 100, 104, 108, 120, 121, 122, 126, 128, 136, 137, 139 to 144, 146, 148, 150 to 157 and 159 recommended by the First Committee in its report, and as recommended by the Committee it adopted for paragraphs 101, 102, 105, 106, 107, 109 to 119, 123 to 125, 127, 129 to 135, 138, 145, 147, 149 and 158 the relevant text as it appeared in document A/CONF.116/12. It was agreed that paragraph 103 in that document would be deleted.

210. The delegation of Austria formulated a reservation concerning paragraph 136.

211. The delegation of the Holy See reserved its position with respect to paragraphs 156 to 159 because it did not agree with the substance of these paragraphs.

212. The delegation of the United Arab Emirates reserved its position with respect to paragraph 158.

Paragraphs 160-242 (A/CONF.116/L.6/Add.2, Add.3 and Add.5)

213. The Conference adopted by consensus the text of paragraphs 160 to 165, 170, 172, 175, 176, 182, 183, 186, 189a, 194, 197, 200, 203, 208, 225, 228, 229, 230 to 234, 238, 239 and 241 as recommended by the First Committee in its report. It was agreed that draft paragraph 235 would be deleted. In addition, as recommended by the Committee, the Conference adopted for paragraphs 166 to 169, 171, 173, 174, 177 to 181, 184, 185, 187 to 189, 190 to 193, 195, 196, 198, 199, 201, 202, 204 to 207, 209 to 224, 226, 227, 236, 237, 240 and 242 the relevant text as it appeared in document A/CONF.116/12.

Paragraph 243 (A/CONF.116/12)

214. The First Committee, having been unable to reach agreement on the text of paragraph 243 as it appeared in document A/CONF.116/12, referred it to the plenary of the Conference for consideration and decision. At its 20th plenary meeting the Conference adopted that text without a vote.

Paragraph 243a

215. The text of an additional paragraph 243a, to be inserted immediately after paragraph 242, had been submitted to the First Committee. The Committee had been unable to reach agreement on the text and referred it to the plenary of the Conference for consideration and decision. The Conference considered it at the 20th plenary meeting. The paragraph read as follows:

Foreign military intervention in South-West Asia has caused immense destruction and serious suffering, especially for women and children. The continuing conflict, and especially the use of inhuman and indiscriminate methods of warfare including against women and children to suppress the resistance of the people, constitutes serious violations of international humanitarian norms. This has led to the mass exodus of millions of people, the vast majority of them women and children, and created enormous social and economic problems for neighbouring countries. To achieve the objectives of the strategies of the year 2000, it is imperative to achieve an early political solution of the situation on the basis of the withdrawal of foreign troops and in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly.

216. After consultations, it was agreed that the paragraph should be revised to read:

In South-West Asia women and children have endured serious suffering due to the violation of the United Nations Charter leading, among other things, to the vast problem of refugees in neighbouring countries. It was urgent to achieve a political solution of the situation.

As so revised the paragraph was adopted without a vote.

Paragraphs 244 to 273 (A/CONF.116/L.6/Add.3)

217. The Conference adopted by consensus the text of paragraphs 245, 246, 250 to 253, 255, 256, 260, 262, 265 and 268 to 273 recommended by the First Committee in its report. In addition, as recommended by the Committee, the Conference adopted for paragraphs 244, 257 to 259, 261, 263, 264, 266 and 267 the relevant text as it appeared in document A/CONF.116/12. It was agreed that draft paragraph 254 in that document should be omitted. It was further agreed to adopt, in lieu of draft paragraphs 247, 248 and 249 as they appeared in the said document, a paragraph in the following terms:

Safeguarding world peace and averting a nuclear catastrophe is one of the most important tasks today in which women have an essential role to play, especially by supporting actively the halting of the arms race followed by arms reduction and the attainment of a general and complete disarmament under effective international control, and thus contribute to the improvement of their economic position. Irrespective of their socio-economic system, the States should strive at avoidance of the confrontation and at building friendly relations instead, which should be also supported by women.

218. As regards paragraph 255, the Conference adopted the following text which had been recommended by the First Committee:

Mankind is confronted with a choice: to halt the arms race and proceed to disarmament or face annihilation. The growing opposition of women to the danger of war, especially a nuclear war, which will lead to a nuclear holocaust, and their support for disarmament must be respected. States should be encouraged to ensure unhindered flow and access to information, including to women, with regard to various aspects of disarmament to avoid dissemination of false and tendentious information concerning armaments and to concentrate on the danger of the escalation of the arms race and on the need for general and complete disarmament under effective international control. The resources

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released as a result of disarmament measures should be used to help promote the well-being of all peoples and improve the economic and social conditions of the developing countries. Under such conditions, States should pay increased attention to the urgent need to improve the situation of women.

Paragraphs 274 to 305 (A/CONF.116/L.5/Add.10 and Add.11, and A/CONF.116/L.6/Add.4)

219. The Conference adopted by consensus the text of paragraphs 274 to 283, 286 to 298 and 302 to 305 recommended by the Second Committee in its report (A/CONF.116/L.5/Add.10 and Add.11) and agreed to the Committee's recommendation that paragraphs 280 and 281 should be placed in chapter II. The Conference adopted also the text recommended in the First Committee's report (A/CONF.116/L.6/Add.4) for paragraphs 284 and 285, these two paragraphs to be placed in chapter III. In addition, the Conference adopted the following text of paragraphs 299 and 300 as recommended by the First Committee:

M. Refugee and displaced women and children

Paragraph 299

The international community recognizes a humanitarian responsibility to protect and assist refugees and displaced persons. In many cases refugee and displaced women are exposed to a variety of difficult situations affecting their physical and legal protection as well as their psychological and material well-being. Problems of physical debility, physical safety, emotional stress and socio-psychological effects of separation or death in the family, as well as changes in women's roles, together with limitations often found in the new environment including lack of adequate food, shelter, health care and social services call for specialized and enlarged assistance. Special attention has to be offered to women with special needs. Furthermore, the potential and capacities of refugees and displaced women should be recognized and enhanced.

Paragraph 300

It is recognized that a lasting solution to the problems of refugees and displaced women and children should be sought in the elimination of the root causes of the flow of refugees and durable solutions should be found leading to their voluntary return to their homes in conditions of safety and honour and their full integration in the economic, social and cultural life of their country of origin in the immediate future. Until such solutions are achieved, the international community, in an expression of international solidarity and burden-sharing, should continue providing relief assistance and also launching special relief programmes taking into account the specific needs of refugee women and children in countries of first asylum. Similarly, relief assistance and special relief programmes should also continue to be provided to returnees and displaced women and children. Legal, educational, social, humanitarian and moral assistance should be offered as well as opportunities for their voluntary repatriation, return or resettlement. Steps should also be taken to promote accession by Governments to the 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees and to implement, on a basis of equity for all refugees, provisions contained in this Convention and its 1967 Protocol.

220. On the proposal of the delegation of Niger, supported by the delegations of Mali and Burkina Faso, the Conference agreed to insert the following text as an additional section in chapter IV:

Women in areas affected by drought

1. During the Decade, the phenomenon of drought and desertification grew and developed incessantly, no longer affecting merely some localities in a single country but several entire countries.
2. The scale and persistence of drought constitutes a grave threat, particularly for the countries of the Sahel, in which famine and a far-reaching deterioration of the environment set in as a result of the desertification process.
3. Hence, despite the considerable efforts of the international community, the living conditions of the peoples, particularly those of women and children, which were already precarious, have become particularly miserable.
4. In view of that situation steps should be taken to promote concerted programmes between the countries concerned for combating drought and desertification. Efforts should be intensified for the formulation and implementation of programmes aimed at food security and self-sufficiency, in particular by the optimum control and exploitation of hydro-geological resources.
5. A distinction should be made between emergency aid and productive activities. Emergency aid should be intensified when necessary and as far as ever possible directed towards development aid.
6. Measures should be adopted to take into account women's contribution to production, involve them more closely in the design, implementation and evaluation of the programmes envisaged and ensure ample access for them to the means of production and processing and preservation techniques.

Paragraph 306 (A/CONF.116/12)

221. The First Committee, to which the section of document A/CONF.116/12 entitled "Women and children under apartheid" containing the paragraph in question in square brackets had been allocated, had been unable to reach agreement on the text of the paragraph and referred it to the plenary of the Conference for consideration and decision. The Conference considered this paragraph at the 20th plenary meeting.

222. The representative of Egypt, speaking on behalf of the States members of the Group of 77 represented at the Conference, proposed that the first alternative of the paragraph should be adopted as it appeared in document A/CONF.116/12, and included in chapter III of the Forward-looking Strategies, subject to two changes: (a) the opening passage of the eighth subparagraph should read "In addition to measures already taken, further effective measures, including sanctions, should be taken to terminate ..."; (b) immediately after the ninth subparagraph an additional subparagraph should be inserted which would read:

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The international community must condemn the direct aggression committed by the armed forces of the racist régime of South Africa against the frontline countries as well as the recruitment, training and financing of mercenaries and of armed bandits who massacre women and children and who are used to overthrow the legitimate Governments of these countries by reason of their support for the people of South Africa and Namibia.

223. In the ensuing discussion statements were made by the representatives of Mali, Mexico, the United States of America, Namibia (represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia), Yugoslavia, Senegal, Trinidad and Tobago, United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya. The representative of the Special Committee against Apartheid and the observer for the South West Africa People's Organization also made statements.

224. After the discussion, the text of the proposed paragraph 306, as amended, was put to the vote, by roll-call, and was adopted by 122 votes to 1, with abstentions. The result of the vote was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaïre, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

25. Statements in explanation of vote were made or expressing reservations were made or submitted by a number of delegations.

26. The delegation of Swaziland stated that it had voted in favour of the paragraph just adopted but reserved its position with respect to the eighth and ninth subparagraphs for reasons which, it said, were well known to the Conference.

227. The delegation of Lesotho stated that it had voted in favour of the paragraph just adopted because of its firm conviction that apartheid was the root cause of many evils, and that the Government of Lesotho had made its position clear on this matter. However, so far as the eighth subparagraph was concerned, the delegation of Lesotho stated that it could not support economic sanctions against South Africa because of Lesotho's geopolitical position and its economic dependence on South Africa.

228. The delegation of Botswana stated that it supported the recommendations in the paragraph just adopted but that it reserved its position with respect to the eighth and ninth subparagraphs relating to sanctions, in conformity with the position always taken by Botswana when similar resolutions had been submitted to the General Assembly.

Paragraph 307 (A/CONF.116/12)

229. The First Committee, to which the section of document A/CONF.116/12 entitled "Palestinian women and children" containing the paragraph in question in square brackets had been allocated, had been unable to reach agreement on the text of the paragraph and referred it to the plenary of the Conference for consideration and decision. The Conference considered the paragraph at the 20th plenary meeting.

230. The representative of Egypt, speaking on behalf of the States members of the Group of 77 represented at the Conference, proposed that the second alternative of the paragraph as it appeared in document A/CONF.116/12 should be adopted and included in chapter III of the Forward-looking Strategies.

231. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic proposed that in the second subparagraph a reference to Security Council resolution 497 (1981) should be added.

232. The delegation of Israel made a statement opposing the adoption of the paragraph.

233. Statements were made by the representative of Mali and the observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization.

234. On being put to the vote, by roll-call, the text of paragraph 307, as amended by the Syrian Arab Republic, was adopted by 98 votes to 3, with 28 abstentions. The result of the vote was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Yemen, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles,

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Against: Australia, Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malawi, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Portugal, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Paragraphs 308 to 372 (A/CONF.116/L.5/Add.11, Add.12 and Add.13)

235. At the 20th plenary meeting the Conference adopted by consensus the text of paragraphs 308 to 372 recommended by the Second Committee in its report, as well as two additional new paragraphs recommended by the Committee (see A/CONF.116/L.5/Add.11-13).

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236. Having considered the chapters, sections and paragraphs of the Forward-looking Strategies and adopted them (as amended or revised in certain cases) at successive meetings, the Conference at its 20th plenary meeting, on 26 July 1985, adopted the text of the Forward-looking Strategies as a whole by consensus. For the final text see chapter I.

237. After the adoption of the text of the Forward-looking Strategies, statements in explanation of vote or expressing reservations were made or submitted by France, Spain, Australia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Malaysia, Finland, Albania, Sweden, Switzerland, Luxembourg (on behalf of the European Community and Portugal and Spain), United States of America, Japan, Israel, Argentina, Portugal, Canada, Netherlands, Denmark, Uruguay, Ecuador, Holy See, Norway, Chile, Malaysia, Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland.

238. The delegation of Malaysia expressed reservations concerning references to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women wherever they occurred in the texts adopted by the Conference. In that delegation's opinion, some provisions of the Convention would impose a duty on States which accept the Convention to introduce measures that could not be effected without encountering problems. Examples were the provisions of Article 2 (a) and 2 (b) which would entail specific amendments not only to the legislation but also to the Federal Constitution of Malaysia. As some of the principles enunciated in the Convention may be fundamentally inconsistent with the matters permitted by the Federal Constitution, Malaysia was unable to accept the Convention as a whole. Nevertheless, Malaysia had initiated measures giving equal opportunity to women in a manner consistent with the objectives of the Convention, specifically Articles 6, 12 and 13. The Convention would, however, be used as a guideline, whenever possible, within the constitutional framework of Malaysia.

239. The representative of the Holy See stated that the participation of the Holy See in the Conference was intended to express, both by word and by action, the Holy See's strong interest in and commitment to the main goal of the United Nations

Decade for Women, namely to proclaim and foster the human dignity of women and their full participation in the life of society. Thus the delegation of the Holy See had participated in the consensus on the Forward-looking Strategies accepted by the Conference, giving special attention to the following:

(a) Measures to overcome the discrimination against women still existing in law and politics and in society as a whole where women are marginalized simply because of their sex, which prevent an authentic equality of women and men from being attained;

(b) Projects to promote women as agents and beneficiaries of the development of peoples and of the construction of peace, directed toward a better future and brighter destiny for all human beings;

(c) Proposals to recognize the family as the fundamental natural cell of society, even though such an orientation will require strong, attentive support and commitment in the future. However, only if the family retains an important place in the reflections about women (as well as men) can one look toward the future of humanity with hope. Such reflections allow a positive future for humanity because, above all, a mutual commitment to parenthood and a loving relationship of the woman with her husband, the father of their children, are the conditions for a stable family life and recognize one of the unique contributions that women make to society. While these goals should not be inconsistent with the presence of women in the different environments of public life, nor with the contributions women make to society, a necessary and renewed sharing of commitments within the family and beyond it for both women and men brings satisfaction to both partners, to the family and to society;

(d) Opposition to showing and using women as "sex objects", even if such opposition during the deliberations was not logically developed into a criticism of sexual permissiveness and irresponsibility;

(e) Activities on behalf of some particular and difficult situations of women: the poorest women, rural women, indigenous women, migrant and refugee women, old women, handicapped women, women forced into prostitution and those under apartheid. Special attention has been given to this category because a preferential option for the poor is a gospel imperative emphasized in the constant teaching of the Church.

240. At the same time, the delegation of the Holy See stated that it was obliged to express some serious concerns about some of the paragraphs which had been adopted and which hindered or detracted from the process of authentic human development:

(a) Political change and socio-economic progress were not enough to ensure the advancement of women in equality, development and peace, for they did not adequately deal with basic anthropological and ethical questions. The Strategies failed to reflect adequately the fundamental conviction regarding the dignity of every human person which was at the base of common humanity;

(b) The participation of a larger number of women in social life of and by itself was not sufficient. Women were not simply "human resources" to be used. While the usual sexual stereotypes were not to be repeated because of their discriminatory character, the alternative could not be a uniformity of human beings. This would be a sad impoverishment of humanity. Women's original contribution and particular qualities were not sufficiently reflected in the

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strategies, and hence the diversity and richness of humanity failed to appear in the text;

(c) The development of the human person involved many levels of reflection, and therefore the only true human development was one encompassing ethical, cultural and religious aspects of the human person. The clear, convincing and consistent consciousness of this point was lacking in the text, even if occasional allusions to it occurred;

(d) Certain practices of family planning, which presupposed an ideological basis of sexual freedom as the final liberation of women, caused great concern. Often promoted by rich and powerful institutions, they threatened the unity and stability of marriage and the family and menaced the cultural values of third world countries, notably the healthy vitality and joy of living of their families.

241. The representative of the United States of America stated that her delegation had joined in the adoption of the Forward-looking Strategies document because of what it said about women and their unique concerns. The United States delegation was proud to have been a part of the Conference, and to have participated actively in the formulation of the final document.

242. In one sense, she said, the Forward-looking Strategies document was a milestone in the discussion of women's concerns and participation in societies throughout the world. In those areas of unique concern to the world's women, the Conference had truly accomplished a great deal. It had reaffirmed the right of women to full equality in every aspect of social, economic, cultural and political life. In so doing, it had placed a powerful weapon - that of international public opinion - in the hands of women throughout the world.

243. The participants had pledged their support for equal opportunities in employment, health and education. They had pointed to the need for greater attention to the role of women in industry, science, social services, trade, communications and community development, to name but a few.

244. Development, a crucial factor for the overwhelming majority of the women of the world, was also an area of broad general agreement. In the developing world, where most of the work was done by women while most of the wealth was controlled by men, there was a vital need to reorient development programmes toward the needs and aspirations of women. Her delegation was proud of the development section of the Forward-looking Strategies and the new insights it provided into the unique problems of women in the development process, but also the enormous potential force that women represented if only they were allowed to devote their energies to the betterment of their own lives, as well as the lives of their families.

245. The Conference had also focused on women whose concerns were special and thus deserved special attention - the elderly, the abused, the disabled and the destitute. They toiled in poverty in both city and countryside. They were ravaged by war, held against their will, forced into unimaginable degradation and denied their means of livelihood. They were forced to leave their homes to seek work, or to flee their homelands because of persecution based on race, religion, or political affiliation. All these problems were dealt with in the Forward-looking Strategies, and her delegation was proud that it has been possible to reach agreements and form a plan of action which, if implemented, could lead to substantial improvement in the situation of these women who suffer.

246. However, there were also sections of the Forward-looking Strategies which gave her delegation reason for concern. Too often there was a tendency for the document to call for State action to correct wrongs which stemmed from obstacles beyond the control of Governments - ranging from simple ignorance to deep-rooted socio-cultural traditions. The United States representative repeated her delegation's reservations with regard to paragraphs 70, 73 and 137 [paras. 69, 72 and 137 in the final text] and the formula "equal pay for work of equal value". As had been stated, the United States Government maintained the principle of equal pay for equal work.

247. Finally, there were sections of the Forward-looking Strategies to which the United States delegation strongly objected. Most obvious of these were elements of the paragraphs on apartheid and Palestinian women, although the delegation's difficulties extended to a lesser degree to other sections of the document as well. As was well known, her delegation had long been concerned and sought to minimize the insertion of general political issues with only a nominal connection with the unique concerns of women into the Conference - a Conference which should have been devoted to the unique concerns of women. Unfortunately, other delegations seemed to be less interested in those issues, and instead had used the Conference to pursue the same divisive political issues that permeated the entire United Nations system. While not wishing to belittle the suffering in the Middle East or southern Africa - nor in Afghanistan, Cambodia or Central America - her delegation considered that this Conference was neither the place nor the occasion to attempt solutions to these global issues so hotly debated elsewhere. Her delegation could not accept the unbalanced and at times even destructive language that marred these two sections of the Forward-looking Strategies.

248. The United States delegation viewed the Forward-looking Strategies as a reflection of two basic tendencies. There were those delegations who were interested in the special problems of women and worked tirelessly for a document that would air those problems and seek to formulate practical solutions. Unfortunately, there were still others who were more interested in using the Conference to pursue a separate political agenda. For the former, her delegation had only the greatest respect and admiration, all the more so because of the way they had continued to work for the cause of women, while the latter group had done everything it could to debase their cause and the Conference itself.

249. The United Kingdom stated that it had joined the consensus on the final document of the Conference entitled "The Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women". It considered this to be a valuable document containing practical and realistic ideas for progress over the next 15 years and attached great importance to its technical content. However, the United Kingdom did not consider that the Conference was an appropriate forum for the discussion of general political issues and wished to make clear that it had reservations on several paragraphs of the document, and to explain why it had abstained on certain of them.

250. The United Kingdom did not accept the tendentious and misleading explanations of the causes of underdevelopment and of the obstacles to the implementation of United Nations goals and objectives for the advancement of women in paragraphs 45 and 95 [paras. 44 and 95 in the final text] respectively of the Forward-looking Strategies: these took no account of the discrimination and other detrimental policies in various countries and regions of the world which hindered development and the advancement of women.

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251. The United Kingdom considered that the sweeping references in paragraph 94 bis [para. 94 in the final text] to unspecified measures by unspecified countries were irrelevant to this document. It had consistently opposed the use of binding treaty language in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (para. 98) in order to impose far-reaching obligations of a long-term character. It did not accept that adjustment policies for developing countries (para. 99 bis) [para. 100 in the final text] were inadequate.

252. While the United Kingdom sympathized with the underlying sentiment of the first subparagraph of paragraph 306 [para. 259 in the final text], it believed that the language of this subparagraph was in some respects exaggerated. Its position on the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid was well-known. It was not prepared to support an armed struggle nor to give assistance to national liberation movements which condoned violence (third and eleventh subparagraphs). The United Kingdom had made clear on numerous occasions, most recently in the statement of the British Deputy Permanent Representative in the Security Council on 25 July, that it was opposed to the complete termination of contacts with South Africa (eighth subparagraph). It did not believe that this would be effective in bringing about the desired reforms in South Africa; dialogue and economic involvement in South Africa seemed more likely than isolation to help the black community.

253. The United Kingdom had great sympathy for the plight of Palestinian women, but had reservations about some of the formulations in paragraph 307 [para. 260 in the final text], which concerned political issues more appropriate to the United Nations forums.

254. The delegation of Portugal welcomed the adoption without a vote of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women as a very positive and important contribution to the United Nations activities for the promotion of the status of women. It wished, however, to record that the positions it had adopted on the controversial elements included in the text, namely those relating to political, economic and disarmament issues, should not be taken as prejudging the positions of the Government of Portugal in the appropriate United Nations forums.

255. The Government of Sweden stated that it had been pleased to join the consensus in the adoption of the Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. It was important that the process initiated by the United Nations Decade for Women should continue and that progress made and obstacles encountered be monitored and evaluated also in the years to come. In this context, the Forward-looking Strategies would be of crucial importance. In the Swedish view, the document's importance was further enhanced by its adoption without a vote.

256. While strongly supporting the Forward-looking Strategies as a whole, the Government of Sweden had reservations concerning paragraphs containing formulations which Sweden could not fully subscribe.

257. As regards paragraph 94 bis [para. 94 in the final text] concerning economic and other coercive measures, Sweden objected to coercive economic measures which were not founded on decisions by the Security Council in accordance with the United Nations Charter. However, the principles involved should have a universal applicability and Sweden, therefore, had had to abstain in the vote on the paragraph as formulated.

258. In spite of certain reservations, Sweden had been in a position to support paragraph 306 [para. 259 in the final text] concerning women and children under apartheid. There could be no question about the urgent need to eliminate the abhorrent apartheid system, which Sweden had consistently condemned as an institutionalized form of racial discrimination, and to terminate South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia through the speedy and effective implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). Further effective pressure must be brought to bear on the régime in South Africa in order to bring about the urgently needed change. Therefore, the Government of Sweden reiterated its call for mandatory, economic sanctions decided by the Security Council. Pending such decisions, Sweden, in co-operation with the other Nordic countries, had adopted certain unilateral measures aiming at restricting relations with South Africa and also at inspiring other countries to similar action. Furthermore, Sweden had expanded its humanitarian assistance to the national liberation movements struggling against apartheid in South Africa, to refugees and to other victims and opponents of apartheid as well as to the front-line States in southern Africa.

259. The Government of Sweden, however, had to reserve its position on certain formulations of the paragraph in question which did not take into account the fact that only the Security Council could adopt decisions mandatory for Member States. Sweden also reserved its position on the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.

260. While in agreement with the general thrust of paragraph 307 [para. 260 in the final text] concerning Palestinian women and children, Sweden had found it necessary to abstain in the vote on that paragraph because of its reservations concerning certain formulations using unbalanced language or failing to reflect adequately the complexity of the underlying political conflict. In that regard, the Government of Sweden continued to maintain that the principles contained in Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) should constitute the basis for a negotiated settlement. In the Swedish view, these principles implied an Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied since 1967 in return for peace within secure and recognized boundaries. Furthermore, a settlement must enable the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination, including the right to establish a State of their own.

261. Certain paragraphs, such as paragraphs 36 and 90 [paras. 35 and 97 in the final text], implied endorsement of instruments or resolutions to which Sweden had expressed reservations or which Sweden had not been able to support, either as a whole or in parts. The Swedish position regarding those documents had been repeatedly stated and remained unchanged.

262. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany stated that:

(a) With regard to paragraph 36 [para. 35 of the final text] of the Forward-looking Strategies it wished to recall that it had been unable to support the Declaration of Mexico and the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the Decade;

(b) It reserved its position with regard to paragraphs 45 and 95 [paras. 44 and 95 of the final text] because it considered that these paragraphs did not adequately describe the reasons for discrimination against women and the obstacles to their integration into the development process;

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(c) It reserved its position with regard to paragraphs 94 bis, 98 and 99 bis [paras. 94, 99 and 100 of the final text] which in its view contained imbalances and inappropriate accusations at variance with the objectives of this document;

(d) It reserved its position with regard to paragraph 306 [para. 259 of the final text] because it could not support some of the measures demanded in order to eliminate apartheid;

(e) It reserved its position with regard to paragraph 307 [para. 260 of the final text] because it felt that the formulations in that paragraph should duly take into account all elements of a just and durable settlement of the Middle East conflict as laid down in Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

263. The delegation of Belgium expressed a general regret that certain questions concerning relations between States or the human condition as a whole and not having a specific bearing on the status of women had been discussed by the Conference and dealt with in the context of the Forward-looking Strategies. These questions were within the competence of other international forums, and accordingly Belgium reserved the position it had taken or would take in those forums with regard to such questions. In particular, Belgium expressed reservations with respect to certain passages of the Forward-looking Strategies document contained in paragraphs 94 bis, 99 bis, 306 and 307 [paras. 94, 100, 259 and 260 in the final text]. In addition, Belgium wished to reiterate the reservations it had expressed at the time of the adoption of the Forward-looking Strategies concerning certain declarations and instruments referred to in the Strategies. These reservations applied in particular to certain instruments referred to in paragraphs 36 and 98 [paras. 35 and 98 in the final text] of the Strategies document.

264. The Government of Finland stated that it had been pleased to join the consensus on the adoption of the Forward-looking Strategies for the advancement of women. It was important that the process initiated by the United Nations Decade for Women should continue and that progress should be made and obstacles encountered should be monitored and evaluated also in the years to come. In this context, the Forward-looking Strategies would be of crucial importance. In the Finnish view, the document's importance was further enhanced by its adoption without a vote.

265. While strongly supporting the Forward-looking Strategies as a whole, the Government of Finland had reservations concerning paragraphs containing formulations to which it could not fully subscribe.

266. As regards paragraph 94 bis [para. 94 in the final text] concerning economic and other coercive measures which were not founded on decisions by the Security Council in accordance with the United Nations Charter. However, the principles involved should have a universal applicability, and Finland, therefore, had had to abstain in the vote on the paragraph as formulated.

267. In spite of certain reservations, Finland had been in a position to support paragraph 306 [para. 259 in the final text] concerning women and children under apartheid. There could be no question about the urgent need to eliminate the horrent apartheid system which Finland had consistently condemned as an institutionalized form of racial discrimination, and to terminate South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia through the speedy and effective implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). Further effective pressure must be brought to bear on the régime in South Africa in order to bring about the urgently needed

change. Therefore, the Government of Finland reiterated its call for mandatory, economic sanctions decided by the Security Council. Pending such decisions, Finland, in co-operation with the other Nordic countries, had adopted certain unilateral measures aiming at restricting relations with South Africa and also at inspiring other countries to similar action. Furthermore, Finland had expanded its humanitarian assistance to the national liberation movements struggling against apartheid in South Africa, to refugees and to other victims and opponents of apartheid as well as to the front-line States in southern Africa.

268. The Government of Finland, however, had to reserve its position on certain formulations of the paragraph in question which did not take into account the fact that only the Security Council could adopt decisions mandatory for Member States. Finland also reserved its position on the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.

269. While in agreement with the general thrust of paragraph 307 [para. 260 in the final text] concerning Palestinian women and children, Finland had found it necessary to abstain in the vote on that paragraph because of reservations concerning certain formulations using unbalanced language and failing to reflect adequately the complexity of the underlying political conflict. In that regard, the Government of Finland continued to maintain that the Security Council's resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) constituted the basis for a comprehensive settlement. According to these resolutions Israel must withdraw from Arab territories occupied since 1967. The rights of Israel and all other States of the area to exist within secure and recognized boundaries must be guaranteed. Furthermore, a settlement must enable the Palestinian people to exercise its right to national self-determination.

270. Finally, paragraph 98 implied endorsement of instruments or resolutions to which Finland had expressed reservations or which Finland had not been able to support, either as a whole or in part. The Finnish position regarding those documents had been repeatedly stated and remained unchanged.

271. The delegation of Japan stated that it had joined in the adoption by consensus of "the Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women", recognizing the importance of this document and respecting the spirit of co-operation and solidarity for the success of the Nairobi Conference.

272. As indicated at the time, Japan wished to clarify its position on some of the contents of the Strategies document.

273. Japan had contributed, in various forums, to the promotion of disarmament, as disarmament could play a great role for the achievement and the maintenance of world peace and stability, which were most important for the improvement of life and the welfare of all mankind. However, disarmament was inseparable from the security policies of each nation and no nation could be expected to implement disarmament unilaterally, because it might affect its own security. Japan did not believe that effective disarmament could be achieved by merely expressing idealistic slogans or principles and that true disarmament could be realized without sufficient verification measures.

274. Japan wished to make clear that its participation in the adoption by consensus of the Strategies document did not in any way mean a departure from its aforementioned basic positions on this matter.

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275. Japan was aware of the view of the developing countries on the establishment of a new international economic order (NIEO). However, Japan considered that a NIEO had not yet been fully discussed in the proper forum, and hence Japan's joining in the consensus did not mean any change in its past position on a new international economic order.

276. Japan had abstained from voting on paragraph 94 bis [para. 94 in the final text] because the thrust of this paragraph came from General Assembly resolutions 38/197 and 39/210, which Japan had voted against. In this regard, Japan wished to make the following two points:

(a) The paragraph in question dealt with a matter of a political nature inconsistent with the principal aims of the Forward-looking Strategies;

(b) The paragraph was not even-handed because it referred only to the "coercive" economic measures taken by developed countries against developing countries, without due regard to other cases.

277. Japan had voted in favour of paragraph 306 [para. 259 in the final text] but wished to make the following comments:

(a) With regard to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid referred to in the first subparagraph, although Japan understood the purposes of this instrument, owing to the ambiguity of the elements constituting a crime, Japan had difficulties in signing and ratifying the Convention, in view of the Japanese domestic laws concerned;

(b) With regard to the material assistance referred to in the second subparagraph, Japan's understanding was that this did not include military assistance;

(c) With regard to the eighth subparagraph, which sought to terminate all collaboration with the racist régime of South Africa in the political, military, diplomatic and economic fields, Japan understood that such termination did not include that of normal trade;

(d) With regard to the ninth subparagraph, which sought comprehensive and mandatory measures against South Africa, Japan did not believe that such measures would provide an effective and expeditious means of achieving a peaceful solution to the question of apartheid.

278. The delegation of Israel stated that its participation in the consensus on the final document on "Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women" did not include paragraph 260. Israel had voted against this paragraph, because it was completely biased and untrue, had been introduced only to serve the ongoing relentless political warfare against Israel, was thus totally unrelated and extraneous to the subject-matters of the Conference, and would only hinder the realization of its purposes.

279. The Government of Canada expressed its great satisfaction that the Conference, a result of a spirit of compromise and co-operation on the part of all Governments present, had achieved consensus on the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies. This was a significant achievement. The Government of Canada, while pleased to join in the consensus, nevertheless wished to have its reservations noted in the official records of the Conference with respect to those paragraphs in

the vote on which the Canadian delegation had abstained, namely: 94 bis, 98, 306 and 307 [paras. 94, 96, 259 and 260 in the final text]. With respect to paragraph 36 [para. 35 in the final text], the Government of Canada stated that Canada was one of the Member States listed in the footnote as having reservations.

280. The Government of Argentina reserved its position with respect to the reference, in the first subparagraph of paragraph 307 [para. 260 in the final text] of the Forward-looking Strategies, to torture as one of the oppressive Israeli practices to which Palestinian women in the occupied Arab territories are allegedly vulnerable.

281. The Government of the Netherlands submitted the following comments concerning certain paragraphs of the Forward-looking Strategies:

(a) As regards paragraph 95 it stated that the reference in this paragraph to "all other forms of racism" could not, in the opinion of the Netherlands, be interpreted to include a reference to Zionism;

(b) With regard to paragraph 306 [para. 259 in the final text] it stated that the Netherlands rejected the system of apartheid and agreed fully that as a result of the continued practice of this system women and children suffer from inhumane practices. The Netherlands had abstained from voting on this paragraph because it contains several elements which are not acceptable, notably the reference in the first subparagraph to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment on the Crime of Apartheid and the reference in the eighth subparagraph to the termination of all collaboration with South Africa in the political, military, diplomatic and economic fields;

(c) As regards paragraph 307 [para. 260 in the final text] the Government of the Netherlands stated that, although the Netherlands agreed that Palestinian women had for many years faced difficult living conditions, had suffered and were consequently a vulnerable group, it had had to abstain from voting on this paragraph, which contains various unacceptable elements. In the opinion of the Netherlands, reference to the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people should be placed in the context of a comprehensive, negotiated settlement of the problems in the region, including the right of Israel to exist within secure and recognized borders. One of the other problems for the Netherlands in this paragraph was the reference to the implementation of the programme of action for the achievement of Palestinian rights.

282. The delegation of Denmark stated that it had abstained in the vote on paragraph 94 bis [para. 94 in the final text] of the Forward-looking Strategies. Denmark confirmed its support for the relevant provision of the "Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations" (General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, annex). This provision reads: "No State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights and to secure from it advantage of any kind". Denmark could not accept, however, that the paragraph in question is addressed one-sidedly to developed countries only.

283. Furthermore, Denmark had reservations with respect to formulations in the Forward-looking Strategies document which are of a purely political nature and extraneous to the subject matter of the Forward-looking Strategies. Although

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Denmark had voted in favour of paragraph 306 [para. 259 in the final text] it therefore had reservations on several of its subparagraphs, in particular the eighth subparagraph. For the same reasons Denmark had abstained in the vote on paragraph 307 [para. 260 in the final text] of the Strategies document.

284. The Government of Ireland expressed reservations with respect to certain paragraphs of the Forward-looking Strategies, in addition to paragraph 36 [para. 35 in the final text] where Ireland is included in the footnote listing the countries having reservations to that paragraph.

285. As regards paragraph 75 [para. 74 in the final text], the Government stated that Ireland had joined in the consensus on this paragraph on the basis that its second sentence was concerned with the principle of equality of rights, and did not imply any obligation on the part of a State to provide for dissolution of marriage, or to provide any special forms of divorce.

286. With respect to paragraphs 94 bis and 98 [paras. 94 and 98 in the final text], Ireland was of the view that the targeting of developed countries for blame for the economic and other difficulties experienced by developing countries was unbalanced and did not adequately reflect the complex nature of the problem. For these reasons Ireland had abstained in the separate votes on these paragraphs.

287. As regards paragraph 306 [para. 259 in the final text] the Government of Ireland stated that Ireland had voted in favour of this paragraph. This position had been adopted without prejudice to the following reservations:

(a) Ireland does not propose to sign or ratify the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid;

(b) Ireland supports the introduction of measures to bring about an end to the apartheid system on a graduated, selective mandatory basis but has grave reservations about the effectiveness and the practicability of attempting to isolate South Africa totally;

(c) While Ireland has consistently supported the full implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and the unconditional withdrawal of South African forces from Angola, Ireland feels that sanctions cannot be effective unless imposed and enforced by the Security Council;

(d) While Ireland has consistently opposed the apartheid régime in South Africa the Irish Government does not recognize that violence can be a legitimate means of securing political change. For this reason Ireland will continue its policy of granting material and financial assistance to humanitarian groups and those seeking change by non-violent means.

288. With respect to paragraph 307 [para. 260 in the final text] the Government stated that Ireland attached the greatest importance to matters affecting the rights of the population of the Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967 and had fully supported the spirit of this paragraph. However, Ireland would have wished to see a number of modifications in the language of this paragraph and in particular the reference to torture. As a result Ireland had abstained in the vote on the paragraph as a whole.

289. The Government of France expressed reservations with respect to a number of paragraphs of the Forward-looking Strategies, viz.:

(a) France expressed a reservation concerning paragraph 36 [para. 35 in the final text], in particular as regards the reference to the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their contribution to Development and Peace, 1975;

(b) France expressed a reservation concerning paragraph 45 [para. 44 in the final text] as adopted by the Conference;

(c) France expressed a reservation concerning paragraph 94 bis [para. 94 in the final text] as adopted by the Conference;

(d) France expressed a reservation concerning paragraph 95 as adopted by the Conference;

(e) France expressed a reservation concerning paragraph 98 as adopted by the Conference;

(f) France expressed a reservation concerning paragraph 99 bis [para. 100 in the final text] as adopted by the Conference;

(g) France expressed a reservation concerning paragraph 306 [para. 259 in the final text], in particular as regards the eighth and ninth subparagraphs. If the subparagraphs of this paragraph had been put to the vote separately, France would have been able to vote in favour of all the other subparagraphs;

(h) France expressed a reservation concerning paragraph 307 [para. 260 in the final text] which in its opinion did not reflect a balanced point of view regarding the situation referred to in chapter IV "Areas of special concern" [of document A/CONF.116/12] in the section entitled "Palestinian women and children".

290. As regards chapter III as a whole of the Forward-looking Strategies, France stated that the fact that it had joined in the consensus on the chapter did not prejudice the positions adopted by France with respect to the subject-matter in the appropriate forums.

291. The Swiss delegation submitted comments and reservations regarding certain paragraphs of the Forward-looking Strategies, viz.:

(a) With respect to paragraph 36 [para. 35 in the final text] Switzerland expressed a reservation at the time when the paragraph was adopted by consensus, for the paragraph contains inter alia a reference to the Declaration of Mexico City of 1975 which was not endorsed by Switzerland (Switzerland is one of the countries listed in the footnote to this paragraph);

(b) Switzerland abstained in the vote on paragraph 94 bis [para. 94 in the final text] on the grounds that, while opposed to the taking of restrictive commercial measures for political purposes - and this objection applies to all cases of such commercial measures and irrespective of the country against which such measures are directed - Switzerland considered that this paragraph dealt with a question for the settlement of which other forums were competent;

(c) Switzerland expressed reservations concerning paragraph 98 because the formulation implies an excessively general attribution exclusively to developed countries of the responsibility for the difficulties at present being experienced in international economic relations;

(d) Switzerland expressed reservations concerning the first, second and fourth subparagraphs of paragraph 99 bis [para. 100 in the final text]. In the opinion of Switzerland it was first and foremost protectionism as such that ought to be censured in the first subparagraph. Furthermore, the language of the second and fourth subparagraphs was not satisfactory in that it did not express a balanced view regarding the causes of indebtedness and of the deterioration of growth prospects;

(e) With regard to paragraph 293 [para. 292 in the final text] Switzerland, which expressed a reservation concerning this paragraph, considers that transnational corporations are by no means principally responsible for the excessive and inappropriate exploitation of the land;

(f) With respect to paragraph 306 [para. 259 in the final text] Switzerland abstained in the vote on this paragraph. Although it firmly condemns the apartheid system, which is incompatible with human rights and with Switzerland's own conception of the dignity of the human person, and although it hopes for a change in this respect, Switzerland, by virtue of the principle of universality which is the basis of its external relations, is also seeking a dialogue with States whose ideas differ from its own;

(g) As regards paragraph 307 [para. 260 in the final text] Switzerland abstained in the vote on this paragraph, for while attaching very great importance to the settlement of the Palestinian problem, both for the sake of world peace and for the sake of the populations concerned, Switzerland took the view that bodies other than the Nairobi Conference were responsible for finding a solution to the problem.

292. The representative of Australia stated that the Forward-looking Strategies contained much that would be of very real value to women all over the world. Australia had strongly supported the Conference as a way of advancing the status of women at both national and international levels and had every confidence that the Conference would be welcomed for the benefits it would bring to women in Australia and elsewhere, especially in developing countries. It was a tribute to the efforts of Kenya as host that potentially divisive issues had been defused and that good sense had prevailed.

293. As was obvious from Australian statements and votes, there were parts of the document which Australia did not like and could not support. However, in response to the spirit of co-operation and sisterhood at the Conference, Australia was not willing to allow these objections to prevent it from supporting the Forward-looking Strategies document. Australia regretted very much not being able to vote in favour of the section on apartheid. Its abstention did not in any way represent any tolerance whatsoever of this repugnant system but was necessary because of some specific unacceptable references.

294. The representative of Australia also regretted that a negotiated solution could not be found to the section on Middle East issues. However fundamental principles were involved, and the Conference had proven inappropriate for resolving such difficulties.

295. Australia sincerely believed that a strong and progressive document was the greatest and the most unique gift that could be given to the women of the world.

296. Speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community, its member States and Spain and Portugal, the representative of Luxembourg welcomed the adoption by consensus of the document on the Forward-looking Strategies, which represented a sound basis for the development at all levels of activities to promote equality of opportunity for women.

297. The Community was already embarked on a very advanced global policy in that field and the results of the Conference, particularly the document on the Forward-looking Strategies, would be of substantial help in supporting and strengthening its efforts. The representative of Luxembourg expressed regret that questions of general policy had often relegated the special problems of women to the background. The Community and its member States naturally wanted the positions they adopted on questions of general policy to be the same as those they take in other United Nations bodies. To a large extent that explained the votes of the member States of the Community on a number of paragraphs dealing with those questions.

298. The representative of Luxembourg reiterated the intention of the community, its member States and Spain and Portugal to continue the discussions and dialogue in the United Nations after the Conference. He stressed the need for a regular evaluation at all levels of the progress achieved in creating equal opportunities for women.

299. Uruguay endorsed the Conference document entitled: "Forward-looking Strategies of implementation for the advancement of women". It wished however to express its reservations on certain statements in paragraphs 306 and 307 [paras. 259 and 260 of the final text], with which it did not agree and which, moreover, in the view of the Government of Uruguay, went beyond the objectives of the Decade and were contrary to its general spirit.

300. While strongly supporting the Forward-looking Strategies as a whole the Government of Norway wished to submit its reservations with regard to certain paragraphs to which Norway could not fully subscribe.

301. Norway abstained in the vote on paragraph 94 bis (para. 94 in the final text) of the Forward-looking Strategies, concerning economic and coercive measures, as Norway objected to measures of that type that were not founded on decisions of the Security Council in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. Furthermore, the paragraph was unbalanced in that it addressed only the developed countries.

302. Norway had voted in favour of paragraph 306 (para. 259 in the final text) concerning women and children under apartheid, despite certain reservations. There could be no question about the urgent need to eliminate the abhorrent apartheid system, which Norway had consistently condemned as an institutionalized form of racial discrimination. South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia should also be terminated through the speedy and effective implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). Further effective pressure must be brought to bear on the Government of South Africa in order to bring about the necessary changes. Therefore, the Government of Norway reiterated its call for mandatory economic sanctions by the Security Council against South Africa. Pending such decisions, Norway, in co-operation with the other Nordic countries, had adopted certain unilateral measures directed at restricting economic and other relations with South Africa and hoped that other countries would implement similar measures. Furthermore, Norway had expanded its humanitarian assistance to South Africa, to

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refugees and other victims and opponents of apartheid as well as to the front-line States in southern Africa and co-operation with the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference. The Government of Norway, however, had to reserve its position on certain formulations of that paragraph which did not take into account the fact that only the Security Council could adopt decisions which were mandatory for the Member States. Norway also reserved its position on the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, to which Norway had not acceded.

303. As regards paragraph 307 [para. 260 in the final text] concerning Palestinian women and children, Norway, despite its great sympathy for the plight of the Palestinian women, had found it necessary to abstain in the vote because of certain formulations using unbalanced language and failure to reflect adequately the complexity of the underlying political conflicts. In that regard, the Government of Norway continued to maintain that the principles contained in Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) should constitute the basis for a negotiated settlement to the conflicts in the Middle East.

304. Certain paragraphs, such as paragraphs 36 and 98 [paras. 35 and 98 in the final text], implied endorsement of instruments or resolutions to which Norway had expressed reservations or had not been able to support, either as a whole or in part. The Norwegian position regarding those documents remained unchanged.

2. Action with respect to draft resolutions submitted to the First and Second Committees

305. In the course of their meetings the First and Second Committees considered a large number of draft resolutions which had been submitted to them. Particulars of these draft resolutions and of the action taken in Committee are set out in the reports of the two Committees (A/CONF.116/L.6/Add.6 and Add.6/Corr.1 and Corr.2 as regards the First Committee, and A/CONF.116/L.5/Add.14 and 15 as regards the Second Committee). In addition, a draft declaration (A/CONF.116/L.4/Rev.1) had been submitted.

306. At the 20th (closing) plenary meeting of the Conference the Vice-President for co-ordination, referring to the draft resolutions and the draft declaration submitted by delegations, suggested that since, owing to lack of time, the Conference had been unable to take action on any of them, they should be appended to the report of the Conference in their original, amended or amalgamated form.

307. This suggestion was agreed to by the Conference. (For the text of the decision see chap. I above. For the text of the draft resolutions and the draft declaration see annex I to the present report.)

308. In response to comments by the representatives of Ethiopia, Algeria, the Libyan Arab Republic and Morocco, the President stated that the draft texts reproduced in annex I to this report would be brought to the attention of the General Assembly for consideration and action as appropriate.

D. Report of the Credentials Committee

309. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 15 July 1985, the Conference, in accordance with rule 4 of its rules of procedure (A/CONF.116/2, as revised in accordance with the decisions taken by the Conference at the same meeting in connection with the adoption of its rules of procedure) appointed a Credentials Committee composed of the following States: Bhutan, China, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Italy, Ivory Coast, Paraguay, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America.

310. The Credentials Committee held one meeting, on 22 July 1985.

311. Mr. Achyut Bhandari (Bhutan) was unanimously elected Presiding Officer of the Committee.

312. The Committee had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General of the Conference, dated 20 July 1985, on the status of credentials of representatives of participants attending the Conference (A/CONF.116/CC/WP.1). Additional information on credentials received by the Secretary-General of the Conference after the issuance of the memorandum was provided to the Committee by the Secretary of the Committee. On the basis of the information made available to it the Committee noted that as at 22 July 1985:

(a) Formal credentials issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign affairs, as provided for in rule 3 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, had been submitted by the representatives of the following 127 States participating in the Conference:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian SSR, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia;

(b) Credentials for the representatives of the following eight States issued by their respective Head of State or Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs had been communicated to the Secretary-General of the Conference, in the form of a note verbale or a cable:

Benin, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Iceland, Pakistan, Peru, Rwanda, Solomon Islands;

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(c) The designation of the representatives of the following 12 States had been communicated to the Secretary-General of the Conference by means of a cable, letter or note verbale from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs or other Ministry concerned:

Belize, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Yemen, Gambia, India, Kiribati, Mauritania, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Vanuatu;

(d) The designation of the representatives of the following 10 States had been communicated to the Secretary-General of the Conference by means of a letter, note verbale or cable from their permanent representatives or permanent missions to the United Nations (Geneva, Nairobi, New York or Vienna) or their embassies in Kenya or neighbouring countries:

Ecuador, Guinea, Italy, Lesotho, Malawi, Nicaragua, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Zimbabwe;

(e) In respect of Namibia, represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia, the designation of its representatives had been communicated to the Secretary-General of the Conference by a letter from the President of the United Nations Council for Namibia.

313. Statements concerning the information provided to the Committee on the status of credentials of representatives of participants attending the Conference were made by the representatives of China, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Italy, Paraguay, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America.

314. The representative of the USSR stated that there was no country, either on the geographical map, or in real international political life, that was called "Democratic Kampuchea". There was, however, a State - the People's Republic of Kampuchea - created by the will of the Kampuchean people, Kampuchean women, men and children who had survived the barbarous bombardments of American aviation and the genocide of Pol Pot's clique. The Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, formed on the basis of free, democratic and general elections, was firmly leading the country along the way of national reconstruction. Kampuchea had made its choice as regards the route of historical development and social progress. The Soviet delegation stood firmly in favour of the restoration of the legitimate rights of the People's Republic of Kampuchea in the United Nations. The delegation of the People's Republic of Kampuchea should be granted its legitimate right to address the Conference on behalf of its country. That would be the only just solution, which would contribute to the prestige of the Conference. As to the persons who played the role of delegates of so-called "Democratic Kampuchea", they represented nobody except the elements rejected by the Kampuchean people in the process of its struggle for liberation. "The coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea" was nothing more than a screen for Pol Pot's butchers. The presence of the "Democratic Kampuchea" delegation at the Conference constituted an insult to the memory of millions of Kampuchean people, particularly women and children, who had fallen victim to the policy of genocide pursued by Pol Pot's clique. Accordingly, the Soviet delegation opposed the acceptance of credentials submitted by the representatives of the so-called "Democratic Kampuchea" and requested that a separate vote be taken on this question.

315. The representative of China stated that Democratic Kampuchea was a sovereign State and a Member of the United Nations. The coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea was the sole legitimate representative of the people of Kampuchea. The legitimate status of Democratic Kampuchea had been recognized by the General Assembly of the United Nations at successive sessions. That fact could not be disputed. The "Heng Samrin régime" was nothing more than an agent of a foreign power, a puppet propped up by the armed forces of foreign aggression. It could in no way represent the people of Kampuchea. Any attempt to force the entry of such a puppet in the United Nations was bound to fail. The Chinese delegation considered that the Conference, being held under the auspices of the United Nations, should abide by resolutions adopted by the General Assembly. The Credentials Committee should therefore recommend that the Conference accept the credentials of the delegates of Democratic Kampuchea.

316. The representative of China added that his delegation wished to reiterate that allowing the Afghan representative to attend the World Conference should not, under any circumstances, be construed as a tacit acceptance of the situation created by the foreign armed occupation of Afghanistan.

317. The representative of Cuba stated that, with regard to the credentials of the delegation of so-called Democratic Kampuchea, the task of the Committee was very simple. The Committee should examine where the credentials of the group which had designated itself as the delegation of Democratic Kampuchea had been signed. They could have been signed anywhere except in the territory of the sovereign and independent State of Kampuchea whose legitimate Government was the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. The Cuban delegation rejected the credentials of the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea and supported the request by the representative of the Soviet Union for a separate vote on the question of the acceptance of those credentials.

318. The representative of Cuba stated that the shameful facts of the situation whereby the most powerful imperialist Power dishonourably and in violation of its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations occupied tiny Grenada were well known. The authorities in Grenada at present were the product of that occupation and for as long as control was not returned to the people of Grenada to enable it to elect freely a sovereign Government, Cuba would not be in a position to accept the credentials of a delegation from Grenada. The same representative requested that a separate vote be taken by the Committee on the question of the acceptance of the credentials of the representatives of Grenada.

319. The representative of the United States of America stated that the questions relating to the seating of Democratic Kampuchea in United Nations meetings had been discussed extensively in the context of the General Assembly and had been conclusively resolved. In the view of the United States delegation, the precedents set by the General Assembly should be followed at this Conference. The same representative added that the delegation of the United States regretted that the delegations of the Soviet Union and Cuba felt constrained to request a vote on the acceptance of the credentials of the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea which was a well-settled issue.

320. The representative of the United States stated also that there were no grounds upon which the credentials of the representative of Grenada could be subject to challenge. Those credentials should be approved without question. The same representative added that the United States delegation regretted that another delegation had felt constrained to request a vote on that issue.

321. The representative of the Soviet Union stated that, as was known, on 25 October 1983 the United States of America had committed an act of plunder and aggression against Grenada and the people of this tiny country had been deprived of liberty. The right of the people of Grenada to decide upon its own destiny had been trampled. The whole world condemned the aggression and the aggressor, as could be seen from General Assembly resolution 38/7, which had been supported by the votes of 108 countries. It was the duty of the United Nations and of the Conference to stand up for the people, the women and children of Grenada. It was imperative to cease the foreign intervention and to restore a normal situation on the island. The people of Grenada had been deprived of its right to live independently and the Soviet Union could not recognize the imposed puppet régime. For as long as those circumstances persisted, the Soviet delegation was not in a position to accept the credentials of the delegation which was occupying places in the conference rooms behind the nameplate "Grenada". The Soviet delegation opposed the acceptance of the credentials submitted by the puppet régime imposed by the United States in Grenada and supported the proposal by the delegation of Cuba for a separate vote on that question.

322. The representative of the Soviet Union further stated that statements made in the Committee regarding the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan - a sovereign and non-aligned country and a full and equal Member of the United Nations - were completely irrelevant. Observations made by the delegation of China were manifestations of psychological warfare and an inadmissible attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. The training and sending of mercenary bands from the territory of third countries to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan was the main obstacle to the solution of problems of Afghan women and to their liberation from the chains of age-old backwardness. It was the task of the international community and the Conference to help the people and women of Afghanistan to escape from the plunder by former feudal elements supported from outside.

323. The representative of the United States stated that the delegation of the Soviet Union had confused the facts relating to Grenada and Afghanistan. There were no foreign troops in Grenada but there were in Afghanistan. The people of Grenada had freely elected their Government and the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session had accepted the credentials of the representatives of Grenada submitted by that Government.

324. The representative of Italy stated that his delegation considered that in the light of the decisions taken by the General Assembly of the United Nations the Conference should accept as completely valid the credentials submitted for the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea and Grenada.

325. Acting on the request by the representative of the Soviet Union, supported by the delegation of Cuba, the Presiding Officer put to the vote the question of the acceptance of the credentials of the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea. The Committee by 7 votes (Bhutan, China, Equatorial Guinea, Italy, Ivory Coast, Paraguay and the United States of America) to 2 (Cuba and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) accepted as valid the credentials of the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea.

326. Subsequently, the Presiding Officer, acting on the request by the representative of Cuba, supported by the delegation of the Soviet Union, put to the vote the question of the acceptance of the credentials of the representatives of Grenada. The Committee, by 6 votes (Bhutan, Equatorial Guinea, Italy, Ivory Coast,

Paraguay and the United States of America) to 2 (Cuba and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) with 1 abstention (China), accepted as valid the credentials of the representatives of Grenada.

327. The Presiding Officer then proposed that, taking into account the statements made and positions expressed by members of the Committee, as reflected in this report, the Committee should adopt the following draft resolution:

"The Credentials Committee,

Having examined the credentials of representatives to the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women,

Taking into account the various statements made by delegations during the debate,

Accepts the credentials of representatives submitted in accordance with rule 3 of the rules of procedure of the Conference,

Accepts as provisional credentials the other communications received and reported to the Committee on the understanding that credentials in due form as required under rule 3 of the rules of procedure would be promptly submitted to the Secretary-General of the Conference by the authorities concerned,

Recommends that the Conference approve the report of the Credentials Committee."

328. The representative of the Soviet Union stated that his delegation would not object to the adoption of the Committee's report without a vote but dissociated itself from the report in so far as it related to the acceptance of the credentials of the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea and of Grenada.

329. The representative of Cuba stated that her delegation would similarly not object to the adoption of the Committee's report without a vote; however, it dissociated itself from the report in so far as it related to the acceptance of the credentials of Democratic Kampuchea and Grenada, and requested that this position should be duly reflected in the report.

330. The draft resolution proposed by the Presiding Officer was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

331. Subsequently, the Presiding Officer proposed that the Committee recommend to the Conference the adoption of a draft decision (see next paragraph). The proposal was approved by the Committee without a vote.

Recommendation of the Credentials Committee

332. The Credentials Committee recommended to the Conference the adoption of the following draft decision:

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"Credentials of representatives to the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace"

"The Conference,

"Having examined the report of the Credentials Committee,

"Approves the report of the Credentials Committee."

Action in plenary on the report of the Credentials Committee

333. The Conference considered the report of the Credentials Committee at the 17th plenary meeting on 25 July 1985.
334. The representatives of Democratic Yemen, Viet Nam, Cuba, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Albania, Mongolia, Congo and Ethiopia made statements expressing reservations with respect to the credentials of the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea.
335. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement expressing reservations with respect to the credentials of the representatives of Israel.
336. The representative of Pakistan made a statement expressing reservations with respect to the credentials of the representatives of Afghanistan.
337. The representative of Cuba made a statement expressing reservations with respect to the credentials of the representatives of Grenada.
338. The representatives of the United States of America and China reiterated the position of their delegations, as recorded in the report of the Credentials Committee, with regard to the credentials of the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea and Afghanistan.
339. Having considered the report of the Credentials Committee, the Conference adopted the report and the draft decision recommended by the Committee. (For the text of the decision see chap. I.)

Chapter VI

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE

340. The Rapporteur-General introduced the draft report of the Conference (A/CONF.116/L.3 and Add.1 to 3) at the 17th plenary meeting on 25 July 1985.

341. The Conference considered chapters II, III and IV of the draft report and adopted them with certain amendments.

342. At the 20th (closing) plenary meeting on 26 July 1985, the representative of Denmark introduced a draft resolution expressing gratitude to the President of Kenya and to the Government and people of Kenya and designating the document on the Forward-looking Strategies adopted by the Conference as the "Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women".

343. The draft resolution was adopted by acclamation. (For the text of the resolution see chap. I.)

344. At the same meeting, the Conference adopted the draft report as a whole and authorized the Rapporteur-General to complete the report, in conformity with the practice of the United Nations, with a view to its submission to the General Assembly at the fortieth session.

345. After the adoption of the report statements were made by the representatives of Zambia, Egypt (on behalf of the Group of 77), the Philippines (on behalf of the Group of Asian States), the USSR (on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States), Canada (on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States), Mexico (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), Mali (on behalf of the Group of African States) and Colombia.

346. The Secretary-General of the Conference made a concluding statement.

347. The President of the Conference also made a concluding statement and declared the Conference closed.

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