

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, when finalizing his report, to take into account relevant aspects of agreed conclusions 1998/1 of 17 July 1998, adopted at the humanitarian affairs segment of the substantive session of the Council;¹³⁷

7. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in his report to the General Assembly, taking into account the discussions in the Council on item 3 (a) of the agenda for its substantive session of 1998, entitled "Advancement of women: implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the role of operational activities in promoting, in particular, capacity-building and resource mobilization for enhancing the participation of women in development", and the outcome thereof, to include a section on mainstreaming a gender perspective in the operational activities of the United Nations system, containing recommendations to that end;

8. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in accordance with the coordination, guidance and oversight roles of the Council in the implementation by the United Nations system of the triennial policy review of operational activities, to make recommendations, when finalizing his report, on the possible themes that could be discussed at the working-level meetings of the operational activities segments of the substantive sessions of 1999, 2000 and 2001 of the Council, taking into account the necessary preparatory work for the following triennial policy review;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to undertake, as appropriate, in close consultation and collaboration with recipient Governments and donors, impact evaluations of the themes on operational activities identified by the General Assembly for discussion at future sessions of the Council;

10. *Stresses* the importance of the continued participation of the specialized agencies and regional commissions of the United Nations system and the ongoing collaboration with the World Bank in relevant aspects of United Nations operational activities on the basis of the national priorities of the recipient countries.

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1998/43. Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its agreed conclusions 1997/2 of 18 July 1997, on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,⁴⁵

Affirming that gender mainstreaming constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women² and for achieving the overall goal of gender equality,

¹³⁷ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/53/3), chap. VII, para. 5.*

Recognizing the importance of integrating a gender perspective into development as well as into all other policy areas and of addressing the disparity of opportunities between women and men at all stages of their lives if gender equality is to be achieved,

Welcoming the steps already taken by various entities of the United Nations system, including the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional and regional commissions and other subsidiary bodies, the Secretariat, the Administrative Committee on Coordination, the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality and other subsidiary machinery of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and the executive committees, as well as specialized agencies, funds and programmes, to implement agreed conclusions 1997/2,

1. *Invites* the United Nations system, in implementing the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women,² to take into account the different obstacles to the development and empowerment of women in all regions and their roles as actors in and beneficiaries of development;

2. *Reaffirms* that the recommendations contained in its agreed conclusions 1997/2⁴⁵ should be implemented as a matter of urgency and at the latest by the time of the five-year review of the Platform for Action in 2000, and calls on all parts of the United Nations system to take immediate action in this regard;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Implementation of the agreed conclusions of the 1997 coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system";¹³⁸

4. *Requests* all entities of the United Nations system, in particular the funds and programmes in their operational activities, to adopt a comprehensive, integrated and multisectoral approach to implementing the Platform for Action;

5. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat to contribute to the inclusion of a gender perspective in the reports of the Secretariat, and reiterates that all reports from entities of the Secretariat should reflect a gender perspective;

6. *Urges* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to provide suggestions to the Council and its subsidiary bodies, in particular to other functional commissions, on further measures to implement the strategy of gender mainstreaming;

7. *Decides* to pay particular attention to the feminization of poverty, its causes and remedies when reviewing the theme of poverty eradication in 1999 and to ensure a gender perspective when reviewing the implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, and requests that any documentation to be prepared for this purpose provide an adequate basis towards this end;

¹³⁸ E/1998/64.

8. *Also decides* to continue to monitor annually the way in which its functional commissions and subsidiary bodies implement the Platform for Action, *inter alia*, by mainstreaming the gender perspective, under the agenda items “Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits” and “Advancement of women”.

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