

Part IV

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS ON WOMEN'S/GENDER ISSUES

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UN Conferences on Women

● The 3rd World Conference on Women

was held in Nairobi in 1985. It agreed the “Forward Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women”.
<http://www.earthsummit2002.org/toolkits/women/un-doku/un-conf/nairobi2.htm>

Two of the most important international agreements are the Beijing Declaration and the Beijing Platform of Action.

● The Beijing Conference

<http://www.un.org/geninfo/bp/women.html>
<http://www.earthsummit2002.org/toolkits/women....>

Official title: The Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace Beijing, 4–15 September 1995

Informal name: The Beijing Women’s Conference

Host Government: China

Number of Governments participating: 189

Conference Secretary-General: Mrs. Gertrude Mongella, Assistant Secretary-General, Division for the Advancement of Women

Organisers: The Commission on the Status of Women, with the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) serving as the Conference secretariat

Principal themes: The advancement and empowerment of women in relation to women’s human rights, women and poverty, women and decision-making, the girl-child, violence against women and other areas of concern

NGO presence: More than 5,000 representatives from 2,100 non-governmental organisations and 5,000 media representatives attended the Conference and nearly 30,000 individuals attended the independent NGO Forum ’95

Resulting documents: The Beijing Declaration; Platform for Action

Follow-up mechanisms: In addition to the national mechanisms, the primary UN bodies include the Commission on the Status of Women; the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW Committee); the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM); the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW); the Division for the Advancement of Women

The Beijing Platform for Action: The Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 resulted in the international community agreeing the Beijing Platform for Action and the Beijing Declaration. The Platform for Action addresses 12 critical areas of concern in the following sections:

- Women and poverty
- Education and training for women
- Women and health
- Violence against women
- Women and armed conflict
- Women and the economy
- Women in power and decision-making
- Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women
- Human rights of women
- Women and the media
- Women and the environment
- The girl-child

The Platform for Action approved at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 4–15 Sept. 1995) is an agenda for women’s empowerment. It aims at accelerating the implementation of the *Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women* and at removing all the obstacles to women’s active participation in all spheres of public and private lives through a full and equal share in economic, social, cultural and political decision making.

The Platform for Action establishes a set of actions that should lead to fundamental changes by the year 2000. Its implementation is primarily the responsibility of Governments, but also of institutions in the public, private and non-governmental sectors at the community, national, subregional/regional and international levels.

Sections A, B, C, F, G, H, and K are particularly relevant to women and sustainable development issues. Among these, Section K. might be most directly relevant to the concerns dealt with in the Rio process. Based on a comprehensive analysis of the inter-relationships of crucial factors such as gender equity, poverty, unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, the destruction of ecosystems, the pollution of rural and urban environments and the depletion of resources, it states that “women have essential roles to play in the development of sustainable and ecologically sound consumption and production patterns and approaches to natural resource

management“. Section K recommends actions by governments, Local Authorities, international organisations, private sector institutions and NGOs to

- involve women actively in environmental decision-making at all levels;
- integrate gender concerns and perspectives in policies and programmes for sustainable development;
- strengthen or establish mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels to assess the impact of development and environmental policies on women;

Recommendations focus on participation of women as environmental experts, managers and educators; poverty elimination; information provision and capacity-building for women; addressing research gaps; and the eradication of environmental hazards, which particularly affect women. It is stressed that co-ordination between institutions working on gender issues, on the one hand, and those working on environmental issues, on the other hand, is necessary at all levels in order to appropriately address the pressing issues.

Other Advances Made in the Platform

(<http://www.un.org/geninfo/bp/women2.html>)

Women’s rights as human rights: The Platform takes the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which recognises violence against women as a human rights problem, one step further by asserting women’s right “to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence”.

Right to inherit: Traditional legal structures in many societies discriminate against women inheriting land and property. The Platform calls for a change in these structures by “enacting as appropriate, and enforcing legislation that guarantees equal rights to succession and ensures equal right to inherit, regardless of the sex of the child”.

Reviewing laws on illegal abortion: The Platform asks nations to “consider reviewing laws containing punitive measures against women who have undergone illegal abortion”.

Role of the family: The Platform points out the importance of the family as the basic unit of society and recognises the “social significance of maternity, motherhood and the role of parents in the family and in the upbringing of children”. Furthermore, it notes that maternity should not impede the full participation of women in society.

Culture and religion: Traditional interpretations of religious texts often marginalise the role of women in society. However, according to the Platform, religion can “contribute to fulfilling women’s and men’s moral, ethical and spiritual needs and to realising their potential in society”.

Rape as a war crime: Rape, according to the Platform, is a war crime, and in some cases, an act of genocide. Those guilty of such a crime “must be punished” whenever possible.

Follow-up

National level: *The Platform for Action* adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995) states that “governments have the primary responsibility for implementing the Platform. Commitment at the highest political level is essential to its implementation, and Governments should take a leading role in coordinating, monitoring and assessing progress in the advancement of women...” and, “[a]s soon as possible, preferably by the end of 1995, Governments, in consultation with relevant institutions and non-governmental organisations, should begin to develop implementation strategies for the Platform and, preferably by the end of 1996, should have developed their strategies or plans of action.”

Subregional/regional level: *Paragraph 301 of the Platform for Action* approved at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 4–15 Sept. 1995) states that regional commissions of the United Nations and other subregional/regional structures should promote and assist the pertinent national institutions in monitoring and implementing the global Platform for Action within their mandates. This should be done in coordination with the implementation of the respective regional platforms or plans of action and in close collaboration with the *Commission on the Status of Women*, taking into account the need for a coordinated follow-up to United Nations conferences in the economic, social, human rights and related fields.

International level: *The Platform for Action* needs to be implemented through the work of all of the bodies and organisations of the United Nations system during the period 1995–2000, specifically and as an integral part of wider programming.

Paragraph 308 of the Platform states that responsibility for ensuring the implementation of the Platform for Action and the integration of a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the UN system must rest at the highest levels.

● Beijing +5

*UN General Assembly Special Session, June 2000:
“Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development And Peace
for the 21st Century”*

Review Process: The Beijing process is clearly the most important one regarding women & sustainable development issues. The implementation of agreements of all 12 sections of the Beijing PfA is under review. Governments have submitted reports on the basis of a questionnaire sent out by the UN Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), providing information about progress at the national level. In addition, women’s NGOs have produced “Alternative Reports” at national, regional and international level which are available at <http://www.womenact.org> (see also: <http://www.igc.org/csdngo/alttreaties/ATindex.htm>)

UN DAW aimed to take women’s NGOs contributions into account throughout the process, for example by looking at NGO alternative reports and by conducting a “Global Forum”, ie scheduled online discussion groups addressing each of the PfA sections and open for all stakeholders to participate. These online discussions have been archived on the WomenWatch website (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch>) and contributions are publicly accessible. A full report of these discussions was submitted to the final preparatory meeting for Beijing+5 as a UN Background Document.

*Preliminary Analysis of the Beijing+5
Outcome Document by the UN Division for the
Advancement of Women (June 2000)*

See document published by DAW, Beijing+5 Process and Beyond, at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/followup/bfbeyond.htm>

LA LUTTA CONTINUA!!!

A Statement from the NGOs of the Linkage Caucus

*(Beijing + 5 UN General Assembly Special Session,
New York, June 9, 2000)*

As women from around the world who have been active in the “Beijing + 5” Review process nationally, regionally, and internationally, we re-commit ourselves to working for implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and for the advancement of the human rights of all women. While there have been positive aspects to this review process, we want to register our disappointment with the Outcomes Document agreed to by governments at the United Nations today. We appreciate the hard work that many have put into this process and applaud those delegations that have fought to defend and advance commitments to women. However, we regret that there was not enough political will on the part of

some governments and the UN system to agree on a stronger document with more concrete benchmarks, numerical goals, time-bound targets, indicators, and resources aimed at implementing the Beijing Platform.

Still, some important steps were taken. First and foremost, the Political Declaration reaffirms that governments have the responsibility to implement the Beijing Platform for Action, and thus, the platform remains the reference point for governmental commitment to women’s rights in all 12 critical areas of concern. Some of the other areas advanced in the document are outlined below.

We will continue to utilise the Beijing Platform as well as other world conference documents and reviews in our work for women’s empowerment and rights. We will also work to hold governments accountable to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (which 165 countries have ratified), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and all other human rights treaties and standards. These instruments entail binding obligations on government signatories to respect, promote, protect, and fulfil the human rights of women and girls, many of which are elaborated in the Platform for Action. The commitments contained in all these documents are universal, inseparable and indivisible.

The Beijing + 5 review provided opportunity and space for public assessment and discussion of the critical areas of concern. As a result, we have been able to air important issues locally and globally. Many governments have made reports on what they are doing to implement the platform, and women’s NGOs have produced over 100 alternative reports engaging in public debate about what still needs to be done. Some of the regional meetings for this review resulted in documents, which women can use to advance women’s rights nationally and regionally. Even the obstacles that we have encountered in this review have taught us what we need to do to improve the current political climate in the world and to counter the intransigent minority who still oppose women’s rights. And as always, women have taken this space to network and share experiences and strategies across cultural, racial, national and other boundaries.

It is women’s movements that have placed women’s empowerment and rights on the world’s agenda over the past 25 years. Once more women have come to this review in record numbers as we did for the World Conference in Beijing. And it is women who will continue to take the leadership in working for these goals. We will not be turned back. We welcome support and partnership with men, with governments, the United Nations and other institutions as we continue the struggle to realise economic justice and all human rights for all women in all our diversity in the next decade.

Some of the issues strengthened in the agreed language of the Beijing +5 Outcomes document are:

A: Health

- Maternal mortality – make it a health sector priority – Para 107 (a) his
- Education programs to enable men to practise safer sex – Para 107 9 quarter

- Gender aspects of diseases such as malaria & TB – Para 135 d
- Affirm the goals of ICPD + 5 – Para 115 a ter
- Health Sector reform – impact on women’s access to health services – Para 115 d

B: Violence

- Honour Killings & Forced Marriage – Addressed for the first time in an international consensus document. Paras 103 d & 130 a
- Dowry related Violence – Strengthened language calling on governments to take comprehensive measures to eliminate it – Para 130 a
- Marital rape – Legislation and stronger mechanisms are called for to address all forms of domestic violence – Para 103 c

C: Globalisation

- Recognition of negative impacts on women & gender differences, ensuring equal access to social protection – Para 110a & 118k
- Equal participation of women in macro economic decision making – 125 9

D: Economy

- Right to inheritance & property rights – Para 102 k
- Right to housing – Para 135 d
- Gender budgets – Para 30 & 109a
- ILO declaration on women’s rights at work – Para 127 b

E: Human Rights

- Ratify optional protocol to CEDAW – Para 102 g
- Gender related asylum – Para 102 I
- Equality between women & men migrants – Para 132 b
- Increased recognition of specific needs & rights of indigenous women 103 e & g. 128h

F: Political Empowerment

- Quotas & other measures to increase women’s participation in political parties and parliaments – Para 117 a bis

Rio Process: Women & Sustainable Development

Goals

The goals set out in international agreements pertaining to women and sustainable development can be categorised in accordance with the overall principle of sustainable development and its 3 pillars:

1. environmental protection
2. economic well-being
3. social equity

A fourth category deals with the goal of

4. balancing the three aspects

The understanding of the gender aspects and impacts of the issues contained in these goals has developed further throughout the cycle of UN Summits and Conferences in the 1990s. New developments, such as globalisation and HIV/AIDS, have been taken into account and conferences following the Earth Summit have achieved a more detailed look at specific issues. In some cases, issues that were left out in Agenda 21 have been addressed, such as violence against women and armed conflict (Beijing PfA). The overall goal in terms of women and sustainable development is gender-mainstreaming of all policies – incorporating a gender perspective in all planning and decision-making processes.

Issues

The international community has identified the following issues that provide an important framework for achieving gender equality in sustainable development:

- women’s human rights and control over their lives;
- poverty eradication;
- women’s access to resources and services;
- women’s control and management of resources;
- globalisation;
- finance for development;
- health, including environmental health.

Strategies

Several main strategies have been suggested to achieve this goal:

- full and equal participation of women in the formulation of all policies and decision-making;

- awareness-raising, capacity-building, education and training of women and men; and of all people in decision-making positions in all sectors and at all levels (incl. changing curricula; public campaigns; developing gender sensitivity trainings; guidelines for gender mainstreaming, etc);
- institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women;
- making gender disaggregated information available and supporting relevant research;
- collecting and sharing good practices at local, national and international levels; including peer group review of (good) practice and promoting successful strategies.

Agenda 21, Chapter 24

Women have considerable knowledge and experience in managing and conserving natural resources. However, the role of women in achieving sustainable development has been limited by barriers such as discrimination and lack of access to schooling, land and equal employment. Chapter 24 addresses many important areas of sustainable development, pointing out barriers towards women's full and equal participation in sustainable development and in public life and making recommendations on what governments should do to overcome these barriers.

Chapter 24 urges countries to increase the proportion of women decision-makers, planners, scientists, technical advisers, managers and extension workers in environment and development fields. It is important to eliminate female illiteracy, assure girls have universal access to primary and secondary education, and provide increased post-secondary training for women in sciences and technology.

Governments should:

- ensure a role for women in national and international ecosystem management and control of environmental degradation;
- provide comprehensive health care, including prenatal care and the opportunity to breast-feed, and information on maternal and child health, family planning and responsible parenthood;
- help to reduce the heavy workload on women and girls at home and outside, by working with employers and other organisations to set up affordable nurseries and kindergartens. National programmes are needed to encourage men to share household tasks equally with women;
- provide women with better access to all forms of credit, particularly in the informal sector;
- ensure women's access to property rights, as well as agricultural inputs and implements;
- take all necessary measures to eliminate violence against women, and work to eliminate persistent

negative images, stereotypes and prejudices against women;

- develop consumer awareness among women to reduce or eliminate unsustainable consumption, particularly in industrialised countries. This would encourage manufacturers to offer products that are more environmentally and socially friendly;
- begin to count the value of unpaid work, including "domestic" work when measuring the state of the economy.

Another important point is that in Agenda 21 Chapter 24, recommendations are calling mostly upon governments to take or initiate action. Other stakeholders are integrated in a less direct way and via government actions having an impact on them rather than outlining their roles and responsibilities. Recent CSD decisions, however, have incorporated strong recognition of other stakeholders' necessary involvement and collaboration among stakeholders.

It is important to note that women's NGOs activities during the Rio Earth Summit process, particularly the World Women's Congress in Miami, Florida, in 1991, have had a very significant impact on the process and the agreed outcomes. Involvement of women's NGOs should be increased to ensure an effective review for 2002.

Earth Summit II, the United Nations General Assembly Special Session for the Purpose of an Overall Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of Agenda 21, 1997

For the first 5 year review of implementation of Agenda 21 in 1997, the following issues were identified as particularly important to women and sustainable development (UN DPI 1997): poverty; management of natural resources; water; commercialisation of agriculture; environment and women's health; and environmental activism of women's NGOs.

In the Secretary General's Report on Overall Progress Achieved since UNCED (January 1997), it was stated that "the implementation of specific objectives in the major groups chapters of Agenda 21 has not always achieved the level desired. For example, gender balance in decision-making has still not been achieved and national instruments to this effect are not being enforced" (Section II, para 97).

The Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, agreed in June 1997, however, does not make as many references and recommendations pertaining to women. Many of the references to women are reaffirming conclusions and recommendations stated in Agenda 21 and observing that the goals set out in 1992 have not yet been met. (3)

Relevant Agreements from other UN Conferences and Summits and Their Reviews

At the UN Conferences and Summits following the Earth Summit in 1992, the international community looked at some of the issues addressed in Agenda 21 in more detail and depth. All of them are engaged in follow-up processes, most in 5-year reviews. Every time, attempts were made to work from a gender perspective, incorporating women's issues and concerns into commitments and recommendations. This section aims at pointing out the areas, which bear particular importance regarding women and sustainable development issues.

● The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Cairo 1994

ICPD built on and broadened the consensus achieved at previous conferences on population (Bucharest 1974, Mexico City, 1984). The major success of ICPD was shifting from focus on population as family planning to women's reproductive rights and reproductive health. ICPD also reflected the widespread recognition that population is inextricably linked to the full range of human development concerns – including poverty alleviation, women's empowerment and environmental protection. ICPD emphasised two themes:

1. choices and responsibilities;
2. the need to incorporate population considerations into all national and international efforts to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

The overall aim was to identify actions that will make national policies and programmes more effective in meeting individual needs, especially those of women, and in bringing population into balance with available resources. Among the issues addressed and the goals and strategies agreed at ICPD were:

- availability of family planning as part of a broader package of reproductive health services;
- reduction of infant, child and maternal mortality;
- access to education, particularly for girls;
- female-headed households being the poorest of the poor, partly because women have less access than men to training, credit, property, natural resources and better-paid jobs;

- urban populations;
- youthful populations in many countries and growing numbers of elderly persons.

● ICPD+5: Review of the International Conference on Population and Development, New York 1999

The review document, 'Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the ICPD' reaffirms the international consensus agreed at ICPD and builds in many parts on its language, targets and benchmarks. The document sets out a series of recommendations on population and development issues including gender equality, equity and empowerment of women, reproductive rights and reproductive health, resource mobilisation, adolescent sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS. It also addresses issues of male involvement; human rights; and partnerships with civil society in implementation. Specific benchmarks are delineated in the text including the reduction of illiteracy of women and girls, maternal mortality, young people's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and provision of safe and effective family planning and contraceptive methods. These benchmarks are seen as an important and effective way of guiding individual countries in reaching the goals of the Cairo Programme of Action.

● The World Summit on Social Development (WSDD), Copenhagen 1995

The Copenhagen Declaration & Programme of Action on Social Development deal with 10 Commitments:

1. Creating an enabling environment for social development;
2. Eradicating absolute poverty;
3. Supporting full employment;
4. Promoting social integration based on the enhancement and protection of all human rights;
5. Achieving equality and equity between women and men;
6. Attaining universal and equitable access to education and primary health care;
7. Accelerating the development of Africa and the least developed countries;
8. Ensuring that structural adjustment programmes include social development goals;
9. Increasing resources allocated to social development;
10. Strengthening cooperation for social development through the UN.

Commitment 5 is obviously relevant to women and sustainable development issues. However, Commitments 2, 4, 6, 7, and 8 are important for us as well. All of them address issues, which affect women and men differently in most cases, and all of them incorporate some kind of a gender perspective.

● **Copenhagen +5: UN General Assembly Special Session, June 2000: “Achieving Social Development for All in a Globalising World”**

Review Process: The implementation of all 10 commitments was under review. Of particular importance to reviewing implementation of women & sustainable development goals were data collected on Commitments 2, 4, 6, 7, and 8 and, above all, Commitment 5. Reviewing the commitments coming out of Copenhagen+5 regarding their success in incorporating a gender perspective will be an important contribution to the preparations for 2002 in the light of women and sustainable development issues.

For evaluations of the Geneva Outcome visit the Socialwatch website at <http://www.socialwatch.org/> and click on the link “NGO Assessments”.

● **The World Summit on Human Settlements, Habitat II, Istanbul 1996**

The main themes of the Habitat II Conference were

1. adequate shelter for all,
2. sustainable human settlements in an urbanising world.

Section III.D. of the Habitat Agenda deals specifically with “Gender Equality”. However, the primary role of women in human settlements is strongly recognised throughout the document and several clauses on gender and women were included in the Habitat Agenda. Clauses in Section III D. and elsewhere address the following issues: women’s full and equal participation in urban planning and management; women’s equal access to resources, services and opportunities to employment, inheritance, ownership, credit, personal development, and decision-making; women’s equal access to safe drinking water and sanitation; women’s empowerment and poverty eradication; combating social exclusion and discrimination; reviewing structural adjustment in the light of gender specific impacts; practical methods to integrate gender perspectives in human settlements development; gender disaggregated data; building partnerships between people and government; education and training for women; shelter policies benefiting vulnerable groups.

● **Istanbul +5**

The review process on implementation of the Habitat II Agenda is underway. A UN GA Special Session is to be held in June 2001 in New York.

All commitments and recommendations of the Habitat Agenda are under review. Of particular importance to reviewing Agenda 21, Chapter 7 (Promoting Sustainable Human Settlement Development) and Chapter 10 (Integrated Approach to the Planning and Management of Land Resources), in the light of women and sustainable development issues, will be the efforts to review clauses of the Habitat Agenda with women and gender issues. The review of Section III.D. of the Habitat Agenda (Gender Equality) will summarise some of the relevant data and can be used to inform a review on women and sustainable development towards 2002.

The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS)/Habitat has embarked on two global campaigns: Global Campaign on Secure Tenure, and Global Campaign for Good Urban Governance. The Istanbul +5 preparatory process is being used to gain consensus on the global norms for the two campaigns. Two relevant areas are women and secure tenure and women and good governance.

The global theme for World Habitat Day – 2 October 2000 was ‘Women in Urban Governance’. For this, UNCHS produced an information kit that provides valuable material. In addition, the Women and Habitat Programme will be encouraging all network partners to report on this issue from their respective countries and to input this into the Istanbul +5 review process at the national level.

● **The World Food Summit (WFS), Rome 1996**

The Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Food Summit constitute the most comprehensive international commitments and agreements on

- global food security
- enhancing and empowering women’s key role in household food security; and, in developing countries, throughout the food chain (production, harvesting, storage, processing/preservation, transport, marketing), and in the conservation of bio-diversity and management of land, forest and water resources.

The agreements also instituted a monitoring and review process at regional and global levels towards the benchmarks being set.

● **WFS Follow-Up**

The follow-up process to WFS reached a major milestone in September 2000 with a meeting of the FAO Committee on World Food Security. The FAO Com-

mittee on World Food Security reviewed WFS follow-up reports and action proposals from regional Ministerial conferences (1999–2000), on WFS Commitments 1, 2, 5, 7 and decided on further action.

The commitments under review for September 2000 deal with the following issues:

1. An enabling environment designed to create the best conditions for the eradication of poverty and for durable peace, based on full and equal participation of women and men, which is most conducive to achieving sustainable food security for all.
2. Implementing policies aimed at eradicating poverty and inequality and improving physical and economic access by all, at all times, to sufficient, nutritionally adequate and safe food and its effective utilisation.
3. Preventing and being prepared for natural disasters and man-made emergencies and to meet transitory and emergency food requirements in ways that encourage recovery, rehabilitation, development and a capacity to satisfy future needs.
4. Implementing, monitoring, and following up the WFS Plan of Action at all levels in cooperation with the international community.

The reviews of follow-up reports on Commitments 1 and 2 will be particularly relevant when reviewing achievements and failures in the area of women and sustainable development.

Subsequent reviews will take place biannually, leading up to the mid-term review of 2006.

Other International Agreements on Women's/Gender Issues

- **Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (1993)**
Cites violence against women as “one of the crucial mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men”. The UN has appointed a *Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women* to collect data and recommend measures to eliminate such violence and its causes.
- **Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (1979)**
Described as the international bill of rights for women, prohibits any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex that impairs

or nullifies human rights and fundamental freedoms of women in all areas. A UN Committee regularly monitors progress in implementing the Convention and holds hearings on reports submitted by States parties. An *optional protocol to the Convention* has been adopted.

- **Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergencies and Armed Conflicts (1974)**
- **Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (1967)**
Affirms that “discrimination against women, denying or limiting as it does their equality of rights with men, is fundamentally unjust and constitutes an offence against human dignity”.
- **Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages (1962)**
Decrees that no marriage can occur without the consent of both parties.
- **Convention against Discrimination in Education**
Adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (14 December 1960) paves the way for equal educational opportunities for girls and women.
- **Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (1958)**
Promotes equality of rights between men and women in the workplace.
- **Convention on the Political Rights of Women (1952)**
Commits Member States to allow women to vote and hold public office on equal terms with men.
- **ILO Equal Remuneration Convention (1951)**
Establishes the principle and practice of equal pay for work of equal value.
- **Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (1949)**
Calls for the punishment of those procuring others for prostitution.

See:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/un/iinstrum.htm>

International Agreements on Particular Issues

The Toolkit website provides “packages” or compilations of international agreements on a number of issues which are of particular interest for women. Many women’s organisations are working on these issues and will be doing so during the next years, using them in their advocacy and practical project work, and preparing for upcoming meetings such as Earth Summit 2002.

The purpose is to provide the relevant information on what the international community has agreed on with regard to a particular issue in one place. We have analysed the documents with a gender perspective and refer to the sections which pertain to women’s/gender aspects of the issue addressed.

The toolkit website provides listings of the relevant documents and Internet links to them. All documents can also be downloaded in TXT format from www.earthsummit2002.org/toolkits/women/download.htm.

Compilations on the following issues are available:

- UN Documents on Women’s/Gender Issues
- Energy
- Finance for Development
- Freshwater
- Health
- Housing & Shelter
- Information for Decision-making and Participation, incl. Indicators
- Land
- Poverty
- Structural Adjustment Programmes
- Tourism
- Transport

example

POVERTY

UN Conferences

Agenda 21, Rio 1992: Chapter 3: Combating Poverty

Earth Summit II, 1997: Chapter 3.B: Sectors + Issues, Par.62, Women + Land+ Poverty:

Population Summit/ICPD, Cairo 1994: Chapter 3. Section B and Section C (population, environment, growth, poverty, participation + women)

Copenhagen Social Development Summit, 1995: Chapter II: Eradication of Poverty

Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing 1995: Chapter 1 IV A: Women and Poverty

Habitat II, Istanbul 1996: Chapter IV. C.3: Social development (eradication of poverty, creation of productive employment and social integration)

UN Commissions

UN Commission on the Status of Women

1993 Chapter I.C: R 37/8: Women in Extreme Poverty

1996 Chapter I.C: Resolution 40/9: Objectives and Action in the Critical Area of Poverty

UN Commission on Social Development

1996 Chapter I.C: Women and Poverty
Chapter III: Strategies and Actions for eradication of poverty

NGO Documents

NGO Documents for the Earth Summit, 1992: Non-Governmental Organisation Alternative Treaties at the '92 Global Forum; Treaty 18. Poverty Treaty (Preamble; women)

EMPLOYMENT

International Agreements

World Summit on Social Development, Copenhagen 1995

Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development:
Commitment 3; Commitment 8

Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development:
Introduction, points 2 & 3

Chapter I : An Enabling Environment for Social Development: Basis for action and objectives, point 7, Section A, point 9 (a–k), Action 12f

Chapter II : Eradication of Poverty: Basis for action and objectives, Section 23 and 25, Action A (b), 27(a), 29(a), 34 (a, b, c), Section C (b, c, e)

Chapter III : Expansion of Productive Employment and Reduction of Unemployment/Basis for action and objectives: Action A point 48–50 and 51 (f, h), Action B, point 52 (f, g), Action C, point 54, 56, Action D, point 57–62, Action E, points 64(b, g) and 65

Chapter IV : Social Integration/Basis for action and objectives, points 66–70, Action A, point 71 (a–h), Action B, point 73 (a–k), Action C, point 74 (d), Action E, point 77 (c)

Chapter V : Implementation and Follow-Up/Basis for action and objectives: Action A, points 83 (a, c, f, g, h), Action C, point 91 (c), Action D, point 98 (c)

Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development:
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example

LAND

(listed are only those that incorporate a gender perspective)

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