

**Commission on the Status of Women
Forty-eighth session
1-12 March 2004**

**Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and
conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building***

Agreed conclusions

The Economic and Social Council,

Endorses the following agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-eighth session with respect to women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building:

1. The Commission on the Status of Women recalls and reiterates the strategic objectives and actions of the Beijing Declaration¹ and Platform for Action,² the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", and its agreed conclusions on women and armed conflict adopted at its forty-second session in 1998. It also recalls the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,³ Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security and all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolution 58/142 of 22 December 2003 on women and political participation.

2. The Commission calls for the full respect of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including the four Geneva Conventions of 1949,⁴ in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.

3. The Commission calls for the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human

7. The Commission recognizes that while both men and women suffer from the consequences of armed conflict, there is a differential impact on women and girls, who are often subject to, and affected by, particular forms of violence and deprivation. The Commission calls for measures to prevent gender-based

the peace agreement, including demobilization, disarmament, reintegration and rehabilitation, are implemented in a manner that promotes gender equality and ensures women's full and equal participation;

(d) Promote women's full and equal access to public information related to peace processes;

(e) Review, on a regular basis, their contributions to the promotion of gender equality and the full and equal participation of women, and to fulfil their monitoring, accountability and reporting obligations in the implementation of peace agreements;

(f) With regard to gender mainstreaming, ensure and support the full participation of women at all levels of decision-making and implementation in development activities and peace processes, including conflict prevention and resolution, post-conflict reconstruction, peace-making, peacekeeping and peace-building and, in this regard, support the involvement of women's organizations, community-based organizations and non-governmental organizations;

(g) Develop and strengthen the provision of gender advisory capacity and gender sensitive training programmes for all staff in missions related to armed conflicts.

In this regard, the Commission takes note of the report of the Secretary-General.

14. In regard to post-conflict peace-building, the Commission on the Status of Women calls on Governments, as well as all other relevant participants in these processes,

– Concerning elections:

(a) To ensure equal access of women in all stages of the electoral process including to consider the adoption of measures for increasing women's participation in elections through, inter alia, individual voter registration, temporary gender-specific positive actions and access to information, representation in bodies administering elections and as election monitors and observers, as well as encouraging political parties to involve women fully and equally in all aspects of their operations;

(b) To ensure equal access for women to voter and civic education, provide women candidates with full support, training and financial resources and eliminate discriminatory practices hampering women's participation either as voters or candidates.

– Concerning reconstruction and rehabilitation:

(a) To ensure the full participation of women on equal bases in the reconstruction and rehabilitation process;

(b) To ensure the equal access of women to social services, in particular health and education and, in this regard, to promote the provision of adequate health care and health services and assistance for women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations and counselling for post-conflict trauma;

(c) To facilitate equal employment opportunities for women to achieve their economic empowerment.

15. The realization and the achievement of the goals of gender equality, development and peace need to be supported by the allocation of necessary human, financial and material resources for specific and targeted activities to ensure gender equality at the local, national, regional and international levels as well as by enhanced and increased international cooperation.