

armed conflict", include mobilization of Arab and international women's organizations in order to secure the release of all detainees, especially women and to further cooperate with Israeli women to establish a peace culture. Other measures included: efforts to mainstream a gender perspective into development processes; an initiative to coordinate and exchange information better on initiatives for women in development as carried out by donors, the Palestinian Authority and non-governmental organizations; the establishment of a database of institutions and workshops on the use of the Internet; programmes on the development of Palestinian women entrepreneurship and of Palestinian women's status; projects emphasizing income-generating opportunities for women; enterprise development through the creation of entrepreneurial awareness, skills training and institutional capacity-building; creation of additional employment opportunities for Palestinian women in the export-oriented floricultural industry.

Also within the follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action, measures included: assistance to disadvantaged refugees, particularly women, to raise their economic status through skills training, production units, group savings and credit provision; programmes to achieve managerial and financial sustainability for community centres; programmes to address the needs of small farmers and fishermen, women and landless people in the rural areas of Jericho and the Gaza Strip; assistance to the Palestinian non-refugee population, in particular in the Gaza Strip, with a poverty-alleviation scheme targeting approximately 50,000 needy persons registered as special hardship cases, of which over 65 per cent are female heads of household; a project on gender-sensitive education, which includes workshops for teachers on gender issues in teaching, subject curricula, counselling and discipline issues, the development of a gender-sensitive resource manual and community awareness campaigns; a rural girls development centre to train young rural women in various skills; projects related to gender equality in education and women's health; the establishment of a women's centre for health care, social assistance, legal counselling and community education in the Gaza Strip; and, assistance to non-governmental organizations in the area of law reform and women's rights.

The report states that considerable efforts are being made by the Palestinian authorities and civil society to improve the economic and social conditions of Palestinian women, including legislative revisions, but notes that there is little gender-specific information and analysis on the situation of Palestinian women with regard to, for example, the economy, social and political life, human rights or violence. The report concludes that the status and living conditions of Palestinian women are closely linked with the progress of the peace process and women in the occupied territories continue to be directly affected in injurious ways by security measures and the overall effects of occupation.

#### **Draft Resolution**

At its March 1998 session the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) adopted by roll call vote (34 in favour,

1 opposed and 5 abstentions) a draft resolution (E/CN.6/1998/12, Draft Resolution II) on the situation of Palestinian women. The CSW, *inter alia*: noted with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General concerning the situation of Palestinian women and assistance provided by organizations of the UN system; recalled paragraph 260, concerning Palestinian women and children, in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, and the Beijing Platform for Action; recalled previous CSW resolutions and those of other UN bodies; noted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women as it concerns the protection of civilian populations, expressed concern about the stalemate in the Middle East peace process and the deterioration of the socio-economic conditions of the Palestinian people; also expressed concern about (a) the continuing difficult situation of Palestinian women in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, (b) the severe consequences of continuous illegal Israeli settlements activities, (c) the harsh economic conditions and other consequences for Palestinian women and their families as a result of the frequent closures and isolation of the occupied territory; reaffirmed that the Israeli occupation remains a major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development planning of their society; called on Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties in the occupied Palestinian territory; urged Member States and relevant inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations to provide financial and technical assistance to Palestinian women, especially during the transitional period; requested the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation and to assist Palestinian women by all available means, and to submit to the CSW at its forty-third session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

The same resolution was adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its June 1998 session (1998/10).



## **PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

**Date of admission to UN:** 10 October 1975.

### **TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS**

**Land and People:** Papua New Guinea has not submitted a core document for use by the treaty bodies.

#### **Racial Discrimination**

Acceded: 27 January 1982.

Papua New Guinea's second through eighth reports have not been submitted (covering the period 1987-1997); the eighth periodic report was due 26 February 1997.

*Reservations and Declarations:* Article 4.