

forums that the status of women is an issue enjoying substantial priority among UN member states.

Early in 1986 the Department appointed a Special Adviser for International Women's Programs, thus manifesting Canada's continuing commitment to the full integration of women in all aspects of development.

Canada's support for the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies (FLS) for the Advancement of Women and for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women is described in the document *Dimensions of Equality: A Federal Government Work Plan for Women*. Released at the annual conference of First Ministers held in Vancouver in November 1986, the document outlines measures which federal and provincial governments will undertake to promote global equality of women and their full participation in society (see also below).

Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission met in a special session in New York early in 1987 in order to review its functioning in the light of its major new responsibilities stemming from the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies. Several far-reaching decisions were made and adopted by consensus. The Commission recommended to ECOSOC the adoption of a UN system-wide medium-term plan for women and development. It also recommended guidelines for a reporting system on the FLS; an extended Commission session in 1990; two future world conferences for review and appraisal of progress in advancing the status of women; annual (instead of biennial) Commission meetings until the year 2000; restructuring of the Commission's agenda; expansion of the Commission's terms of reference to include promoting the objectives of equality, development and peace; monitoring and appraising progress made at the national, subregional, regional, sectoral and global levels; and the adoption of a five-year work program emphasizing the global objectives of equality, development and peace.

These efforts at review and reform reinforce the central position which the Commission on the Status of Women occupies in the UN system and the far-reaching terms of reference assigned to it by ECOSOC.

Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

Canadian activity to support implementation of the Nairobi Strategies at international levels has aimed at improving the effectiveness with which sectoral intergovernmental bodies address global equality issues, and on ensuring that implementation is co-ordinated on a UN system-wide basis.

Thus Canadian delegations to international meetings have focused on integrating the FLS in the planning, programming and budgeting systems of such bodies as WHO, UNESCO, the Commission on Human Settlements, the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, the Committee on the Development of New and Renewable Sources of Energy and the regional commissions for Europe, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean.

During 1986, substantive status of women resolutions were adopted in all three committees of ECOSOC as well as in the Second (Economic), Third (Social) and Fifth (Administrative) Committees of the General Assembly. At the twenty-sixth session of the Committee for Program and Co-ordination, the participation of the Canadian Observer Delegation helped to ensure that revisions to the Medium-Term Plan for 1984-89 took into account the monitoring requirements mandated by the Nairobi FLS. The Canadian delegation at the General Assembly's Thirteenth Special Session worked to ensure that the final document — the UN Program of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-90 — made adequate reference to the role of women farmers in agriculture. At the Forty-First General Assembly, Canada strongly supported an action program to improve the status of women in the UN Secretariat. As a result of these efforts, the Secretary General appointed women to two high-level posts, of whom one was a Canadian.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

Canada believes that many states that have ratified the Convention have done so with reservations weakening its applicability. Our views were considered at the UN General Assembly; the General Assembly did not take action on a Canadian proposal to develop guidelines for the Convention's provisions for marital status.

At the sixth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, held in Vienna in March 1987, the Committee adopted, *inter alia*, a resolution urging withdrawal of reservations by those states which had registered them at ratification.

Drug Control

In recent years drug trafficking has taken on alarming proportions, domestically and internationally. The seriousness of the problem was early on recognized by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, who identified the drug problem as one of the major challenges he faced in his portfolio.

Trafficking, by its very nature, usually involves transborder activities and attempts to control it require international co-operation. Canada recognizes the important role of the United Nations in efforts to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking and of the UN Secretary General in facilitating co-ordination and interaction among member states of the UN.

The General Assembly in 1985 adopted a resolution co-sponsored by Canada, calling for a ministerial-level International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, to be held in Vienna in 1987. In order to ensure that the maximum time be available at that conference for the consideration of substantive items, the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs met in February to act as the preparatory conference for the Vienna meeting. At the preparatory meeting Canada worked to ensure that the Vienna Conference's objectives would be balanced between the reduction in demand for drugs, the treatment and rehabilitation of addicts and the problems created by drug production and trafficking. Subsequent to the