

Special national and international measures are necessary to increase the level of women's participation in the sphere of international relations so that women can contribute, on an equal basis with men, to national and international efforts to secure world peace ...

The 1985 Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women state, inter alia:

Universal and durable peace cannot be attained without the full and equal participation of women in international relations, particularly in decision-making concerning peace ... 1/

3. Member States of the United Nations are themselves devoting efforts to advancing the participation of women in their national societies. There is thus a correlation in the efforts of the national and international communities in moving towards the above objective.

4. The Department for Disarmament Affairs has done well in moving toward this objective. It currently has 10 out of 31 Professional positions filled by women. The Department has earned a sound reputation for the high professional quality of its work. A greater proportion of women are employed in the central services work of the Department. It is clear that the contribution of women to the cause of promoting international peace and disarmament through the Department's activities is already considerable. This third special session devoted to disarmament should commend the Department for its achievements in the disarmament process and in advancing the participation of women in United Nations activities.

5. One of the major components of the United Nations activities in disarmament is the World Disarmament Campaign. While the Campaign is working well towards accomplishing its objectives, there is scope for intensified effort to increase the participation of women in its activities.

6. The special session provides a useful opportunity to give further impetus to the objective of advancing the participation of women in the process of peace and disarmament. Consistent with the judgements and objectives of the 1982 Declaration and the 1985 Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, it is proposed that the General Assembly call for the following:

(a) Department for Disarmament Affairs

While noting with satisfaction the positive trends in the Department with respect to the employment of women at the Professional level, to encourage the Secretary-General to intensify efforts to employ appropriately qualified women, including at senior Professional levels, in accordance with measures being undertaken to promote the advancement of women within the Secretariat;

(b) World Disarmament Campaign

(i) To invite the Secretary-General, in organizing the programmes of the World Disarmament Campaign, to place increased emphasis on the participation of women in meetings, speaking engagements and expert panels;