

Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, to continue addressing the problem of trafficking in women and girls and recommend measures to combat such phenomena.

### Resolutions of the Commission on the Status of Women

The CSW adopted a resolution on human rights and **land rights discrimination** (42/1) in which the CSW, *inter alia*: expressed grave concern that in many countries the treatment accorded to women reflects the inequality between women and men; noted that, in situations of poverty, women are disproportionately affected and have the least access to productive resources, food, health, education, training and opportunities for employment and other needs; recognized that secure land rights are key rights for the economic empowerment of women; called upon states to: (a) set goals and develop and implement gender-sensitive strategies for addressing the rights and needs of women; (b) generate social support to change the social and cultural patterns of conduct of women and men; (c) develop innovative activities at all levels, including human rights education, to increase women's awareness of their human rights and the mechanisms that are available to protect and enforce women's full enjoyment of them; and (d) ensure women's equal rights with men in the areas of education, health and nutrition, and provide equal access to programmes of continuing education, including adult and functional literacy programmes. The CSW urged states to: (a) design and revise laws to ensure that women are accorded full and equal rights to own land and other property, including through the right to inheritance; and (b) undertake administrative reforms and other necessary measures to give women the same rights as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies, access to markets and information. The CSW also: called upon the High Commissioner for Human Rights to increase awareness that land rights discrimination is a violation of human rights and that, in addressing the right to development, secure land tenure for women should be taken into account; and requested the Secretary-General to ensure that all organizations and bodies of the UN system, individually and collectively, in particular the UNDP, take into account land rights discrimination and its negative impact on women in all poverty eradication programmes and policies.

The CSW also adopted a resolution (42/4) on **older women and support systems: gender and caregiving**. The Commission, *inter alia*: noted that gender difference in life expectancy rises with age and that two-thirds of the very old are women; noted that, traditionally, women are relied upon as caregivers at all ages and that they make an essential but often unrecognized and unremunerated contribution to society and the economy; referred to the Expert Group Meeting on Caregiving and Older Persons: Gender Dimensions, (Malta, 30 November to 2 December 1997); invited states to consider implementing, at the national level, as appropriate, the recommendations contained in the annex to the res-

olution, which are based on the report of the Secretary-General of the meeting in Malta and the views expressed in the CSW by states; and requested the Secretary-General to take into account these recommendations when preparing the 1999 report on key global issues regarding the differential impact of population ageing on men and women.

The recommendations contained in the Annex to the resolution touched on a number of areas, including: research needs relative to support systems for older persons; economic security; education and empowerment; and the well-being of caregivers.

The CSW also adopted a resolution on violence against women migrant workers (42/3) that essentially mirrors the main points in the resolution adopted by the Commission on Human Rights.

### Resolutions of the General Assembly

#### Traffic in women and girls

The General Assembly adopted by consensus a resolution on the traffic in women and girls (A/C.3/53/L.10) in which it referred to a number of points included in the resolution adopted by the Commission on Human Rights. The GA also, *inter alia*: welcomed the inclusion of gender-related crimes in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court; expressed deep concern about the unabated use of new information technologies, including the Internet, for purposes of prostitution, child pornography, paedophilia, trafficking in women as brides, and sex tourism; stressed again the need for governments to provide standard humanitarian treatment to trafficked persons consistent with human rights standards; invited governments to take steps, including witness protection programmes, to enable women who are victims of trafficking to make complaints to the police and be available when required by the criminal justice system, and to ensure that during this time women have access to social, medical, financial and legal assistance, and protection, as appropriate; invited governments to encourage Internet service providers to adopt or strengthen self-regulatory measures to promote the responsible use of the Internet with a view to eliminating trafficking in women and girls; and again invited governments, with the support of the UN, to formulate training manuals for law enforcement and medical personnel and judicial officers who handle cases of trafficked women and girls with a view to sensitizing them to the special needs of victims.

#### Traditional or customary practices

The 1998 GA adopted by consensus a resolution on traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls (A/C.3/53/L.11) in which it, *inter alia*: reaffirmed that some traditional or customary practices constitute a form of violence against women and girls and a serious violation of their human rights; expressed concern at the continuing large-scale existence of such practices; and welcomed, *inter alia*, the work carried out by the Special Ambassador for the Elimination of Female