

implementing agreed conclusions related to mainstreaming; requested all human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and other human rights mechanisms of the Commission and Sub-Commission regularly and systematically to take into account a gender perspective; drew attention to the need to develop practical strategies to implement the recommendations made by the 1995 meeting of the expert group looking at the integration of a gender perspective; urged states to limit the extent of any reservations to the Women's Convention, formulate such reservations as precisely and narrowly as possible, regularly review those reservations and withdraw reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention; and, urged all relevant organs, bodies and agencies of the UN to bear in mind, *inter alia*, the need for expertise in human rights issues affecting women in the recruitment of staff.

Also under agenda item 9, the Commission adopted by consensus a resolution on **the elimination of violence against women** (1998/52) in which the Commission, *inter alia*, noted General Assembly resolution 52/99 (12 December 1997) reaffirming that traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls are a form of violence against women and girls and a violation of human rights; reiterated that acts of sexual violence in times of armed conflict are grave breaches of international humanitarian law; condemned all acts of gender-based violence against women and called for its elimination in the family, the general community and where perpetrated and/or condoned by the state; emphasized the duty of governments to refrain from engaging in violence against women and to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish acts of violence against women; emphasized the duty of governments to provide access to just and effective remedies and specialized assistance, including medical care; condemned all human rights violations affecting women in situations of armed conflict and recognized them to be violations of international human rights and humanitarian law; requested governments to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur; called on states to work actively to ratify and/or implement international human rights norms and instruments as they relate to violence against women; and called on states to condemn violence against women and not invoke custom, tradition or practices in the name of religion to avoid their obligations to eliminate such violence. The Commission called on states to: (a) enact, amend or repeal laws to maximize an effective response to cases of violence against women and girls; (b) protect children and especially girls in situations of armed conflict against participation, recruitment, rape and sexual exploitation and abuse; (c) improve, create or develop training programmes for authorities in order to avoid the abuse of power leading to violence against women, mainstream a gender perspective into national immigration and asylum policies, and reaffirm that rape, systematic rape and sexual slavery in armed conflict constitute war crimes and may constitute crimes against humanity and an act of genocide; (d) take account of the impact of armed conflict on the health of all women and introduce measures to address the full range of issues

related to women's health needs; (e) eradicate traditional or customary practices, particularly female genital mutilation, that are harmful to or discriminatory against women and are violations of human rights affecting women; and (f) develop and implement national legislation and policies prohibiting such practices, prosecute the perpetrators and introduce awareness-raising programmes, education and training.

Under agenda item 11, the Commission adopted by consensus a resolution on **violence against women migrant workers** (1998/17). The Commission, *inter alia*: noted the large number of women from developing countries and some countries with economies in transition who become migrant workers as a consequence of, *inter alia*, poverty and unemployment in their home countries; acknowledged the duty of sending states to work for conditions that provide employment and security to their citizens; encouraged CEDAW to consider developing a general recommendation on the situation of women migrant workers; called on concerned governments, particularly those of sending and receiving countries, to put in place penal and criminal sanctions to punish perpetrators of violence against women migrant workers and, to the extent possible, provide victims with the full range of immediate assistance; invited states, specifically sending and receiving states, to consider adopting appropriate legal measures against intermediaries who deliberately encourage the clandestine movement of workers and who exploit women migrant workers; and, encouraged states to consider ratifying the Convention on the rights of migrant workers and their families as well as the 1926 Slavery Convention.

Under agenda item 15 the Commission adopted by consensus a resolution on **trafficking in women and girls** (1998/30). The Commission, *inter alia*: noted with concern the increasing number of women and girls who are being victimized by traffickers; acknowledged that trafficking also victimized boys; stressed the urgent need to eliminate all forms of sexual violence and trafficking, including trafficking for prostitution; welcomed efforts to implement the recommendations of the World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children; and called on governments to criminalize trafficking in women and girls in all its forms and penalize all the offenders involved. The Commission called on governments of countries of origin, transit and destination to: (a) consider the ratification and enforcement of international conventions on trafficking in persons and slavery; (b) take appropriate measures to address root factors that encourage trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercial sex; (c) allocate resources to provide comprehensive programmes designed to heal and rehabilitate victims of trafficking, including through job training, legal assistance and health care; and (d) consider enacting legislation aimed at preventing sex tourism and trafficking, with special emphasis on the protection of young women and children. The Commission invited the Special Rapporteurs on violence against women and the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, as well as the