

that both priorities noted are consistent with the consensus views of Member States as expressed at the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the U.N. Decade for Women and at the Special Session on Africa and by the General Assembly in its subsequent resolutions adopted by consensus.

With respect to the broader issues of reform, my delegation is pleased at the commitment and sense of urgency that the Secretary-General has shown in implementing Resolution 41/213. We urge him to continue this implementation and to continue keeping Member States informed through periodic progress reports. The progress report and its updates already issued are clear and lucid statements of actions taken to date and of future proposals which my delegation has found very useful.

My delegation is pleased with the restructuring already undertaken in the political sector, the important steps taken in the economic and social sectors and the proposed re-structuring of the Department of Public Information. We are pleased at the appointment of three women Under-Secretaries-General since the beginning of the year and at the number of appointments of other senior women managers. We note that this has been done while reducing by some 15 percent the number of ASG's and USG's as a first step towards the agreed target of 25 percent.

With respect to reform of the Secretariat structure in the economic and social sectors we expect further changes following completion of work by the ECOSOC Special Commission studying the structure and functioning of the intergovernmental machinery in the economic and social fields.

Mr. Chairman,

I should now like to comment briefly on several other aspects of the items under discussion.

First, the contingency fund adopted by the General Assembly last year will provide a greater degree of certainty and stability to the initial budget estimates of the Secretary-General by providing a financial facility to accommodate add-ons and revised estimates without raising the overall level of resources required. My delegation welcomes the analysis and background work contained in the reports of the Secretary-General, the report of ACABQ which provides recommendations and observations on the establishment, scope and operation of a contingency fund and the proposal of the Secretary-General to include a contingency fund in the programme budget for the 1988-89 biennium.