

system, to identify emerging issues, trends and new approaches affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men, and to review and appraise progress achieved and problems encountered in implementation of critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action:

(a) Should strengthen its cooperation with other relevant bodies of the United Nations system, including other functional commissions and their respective secretariats;

(b) Should monitor progress on the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women;

(c) Should make relevant documents available, through the Economic and Social Council, to other functional commissions and relevant United Nations expert bodies and mechanisms in order to assist in the integration of a gender perspective in their work;

(d) Notes, bearing in mind the role of the Economic and Social Council in overall coordination, that increased dialogue between the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, the chairpersons and secretariats, as appropriate, of the other functional commissions, other subsidiary bodies and related bodies, including the relevant executive boards, would assist in identifying issues that could be addressed under the agenda item on emerging issues and trends;

(e) Encourages the voluntary presentation of national information and suggests that such information should address the priority issues identified by the Commission on the Status of Women in its programme of work, bearing in mind that Governments are to develop comprehensive implementation strategies or national plans of action, including time-bound targets and benchmarks for monitoring, in order to implement the Platform for Action fully;

(f) Encourages States to submit national reports by the year 2000 for the comprehensive quinquennial review and appraisal of the implementation of the Platform for Action in the year 2000.

Agreed conclusions 1996/2. Women and the media\*

1. The Beijing Platform for Action identifies women and the media as one of 12 critical areas of concern. As stated in the Beijing Platform for Action, gender stereotyping in advertising and the media is one of the factors of inequality that influences attitudes towards equality between women and men. Through a series of dialogues on the subject during its fortieth session, the Commission on the Status of Women examined measures to be used for increasing the participation and access of women to expression and decision-making in and through the media and new technologies of communication. Everywhere the potential exists for the media to make a far greater contribution to the advancement of women. The conclusions emanating from the Commission's dialogue contain proposals for successful implementation of the strategic objectives and actions in the Platform for Action, taking into consideration the importance of implementing all the elements of the Platform.

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\* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 89-91.





16. To the extent consistent with freedom of expression, Governments should take effective measures or institute such measures, including appropriate legislation against pornography and the projection of violence against women and children in the media.

E. Women and global communications

17. Advances in information technology have opened up boundaries. The role of women in global communication networks needs to be strengthened. Barriers to such information technology and to women's involvement at every level of its development should be reduced.

Agreed conclusions 1996/3. Child and dependant care, including  
sharing of work and family  
responsibilities \*

1. Questions relating to child and dependant care, to sharing of family tasks and responsibilities and to unremunerated work must be taken fully into account in mainstreaming a gender perspective, in gender analysis and in all other relevant methodologies used to promote equality between men and women.

2. The main lines of action suggested in order to reduce the burden of family responsibilities on women and bring about the sharing of these responsibilities are set out below.

A. Recognizing change

3. Economic, social and demographic changes - particularly the growing participation of women in economic and social life, the evolving nature of family structures, the feminization of poverty and the link that exists with unremunerated work - and their impact on the capacity of families to ensure the care of children and dependants, as well as the sharing of family responsibilities, including for domestic work, is an issue that affects not only women but society as a whole.

4. As was emphasized in the first plans and strategies drawn up at the national level for the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, the sharing of family responsibilities and their reconciliation with professional life must constitute a priority objective.

B. Increasing the role of men in family responsibilities

5. Family responsibilities rest equally with men and with women. Greater participation of men in family responsibilities, including domestic work and child and dependant care, would contribute to the welfare of children, women and men themselves. Even though this change is bound to be slow and difficult, it remains essential.

6. These changes, which imply a change in outlook, can be encouraged by Governments, notably through education and by promoting greater access on the part of men to activities hitherto regarded as women's activities.

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\* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 92-95.