

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Session document*

13 June 2000

B5-0564/2000

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

further to the Council and Commission statements

pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by the following Members: Miet SMET, Maria Antonia AVILES PEREA,  
Christa KLASS and Astrid LULLING

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the outcome of the Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”, 5-9 June 2000

**European Parliament resolution on Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the statements made by the Council and the Commission on the outcome of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on “Women 2000: Gender equality, development and peace for the 21<sup>st</sup> century” held from 5 to 9 June 2000;
  - having regard to the contributions from the Portuguese Presidency on behalf of the Union and most of the Associated Countries and from the Commission during the Special Session;
  - having regard to its resolution on the follow-up to the Beijing Action Platform (2000/2020(INI)), especially the request not to accept renegotiation of the agreed Platform for Action and its 12 critical areas (women and poverty; education and training; women and health; violence; women and armed conflict; women and the economy; advancement of women; women in power and decision-making; human rights of women; women and media; women and environment; the girl child);
- A. underlining the importance of the Special Session of the UN General Assembly in generating and strengthening worldwide political support for gender equality, development and peace, which represent a big step forward for all women in the world:
- B. welcoming the contributions made by all the Member States and especially by the Portuguese Presidency, which influenced the results to a large extent by mediating between third countries’ opposing views on major issues;
- C. appreciating the role played by the Commission in the preparatory work of the Special Session as well as during the negotiations;
- D. recognising the fact that NGOs provided a major input to obtain concrete and positive results;
- E. welcoming the outcome of the Special Session, although expectations with regard to further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action were not fully met;
- F. noting with satisfaction that in the majority of the countries substantial progress in the implementation process of the Beijing Platform for Action has been made in areas such as human rights of women, violence against women, poverty, work and economic life, reconciliation of work and family, education and training, family, health, groups with special needs (disabled, migrants, older women and indigenous people), role of men, peace-building, media, mainstreaming and gender perspective etc;

- G. regretting nevertheless that in some countries women remain oppressed and still lack fundamental human rights;
- H. expressing its concern that total agreement could not be achieved on certain key issues, in particular sexual rights and discrimination based on gender such as mentioned in Article 13 of the Amsterdam Treaty;
- I. regretting the fact that individual countries and groups of countries on certain issues and under the influence of specific NGOs tried to weaken or backtrack on commitments made in Beijing in 1995;
1. Calls on the Council, Member States and the Commission to take full account of the content of the outcome document of the Special Session as well as of the European Parliament resolution on the follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action, and requests speedy implementation of the agreed further actions and initiatives in Member States;
  2. Welcomes the adoption by the Commission of the proposal for a fifth action programme (Community Support Programme on a Community framework strategy on gender equality) as a useful instrument for the implementation of the Beijing +5, and urges that adequate funding be made available for the programme;
  3. Calls on the Council, Member States and the Commission to draw conclusions from the outcome of the Special Session as regards the consequences for gender aspects within its respective development policies and to draw special attention to the serious economic and social consequences in African and Asian countries hit by the sexually transmitted diseases HIV/AIDS;
  4. Requests the Commission to present a further progress report to Parliament on implementation in the Union on the basis of reports from Member States within two and a half years;
  5. Invites the applicant countries in close cooperation with the EU to present a report on the implementation of the outcome in the twelve critical areas;
  6. Reiterates its request that a fifth UN World Conference on women be organised in five years;
  7. Requests the Council and the Commission to consult and involve in time the European Parliament's competent committees as well as Parliaments from Member States and associated countries at the earliest possible stage of the preparations for such a conference;
  8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, Commission, Governments of the EU Member States and the UN Secretary-General.