



**Women's equal ownership of, access to and control over land
and the equal rights to own property and to adequate housing**

Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/13

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted in June 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights (A/CONF.157/23), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted in September 1995 by the Fourth World Conference on Women (A/CONF.177/20, chap. I), the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development held in March 1995 (A/CONF.166/9, chap. I, resolution 1), and the Habitat Agenda adopted in June 1996 by the World Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (A/CONF.165/14, chap. I, resolution 1, annex II),

Reaffirming the human right to be free from discrimination and the equal right of women and men to the enjoyment of all civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights as stipulated, *inter alia*, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Recalling resolution 42/1 of the Commission on the Status of Women of 13 March 1998,

Taking note of resolution 1999/15 of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of 25 August 1999, and recalling Sub-Commission resolutions 1998/15 of 20 August 1998 and 1997/19 of 27 August 1997,

Recognizing that laws, policies, customs and traditions that restrict women's equal access to credit and loans also prevent women from owning and inheriting land, property and housing and exclude women from participating fully in development processes, are discriminatory and may contribute to the feminization of poverty,

Recognizing also that the full and equal participation of women in all spheres of life is essential for the full and complete development of a country,

Stressing that the impact of gender-based discrimination and violence against women on women's equal ownership of, access to, and control over land and the equal rights to own property and to adequate housing is acute, particularly during complex emergency situations, reconstruction and rehabilitation,

Convinced that international, regional and local trade, finance and investment policies should be designed in such a way that they do not increase gender inequality in terms of ownership of, and access to, and control over land and the rights to own property and to adequate housing and other productive

resources and undermine women's capacity to acquire and retain these resources,

Mindful of the fact that elimination of discrimination against women requires consideration of women's specific socio-economic context,

1. *Affirms* that discrimination in law against women with respect to acquiring and securing land, property and housing, as well as financing for land, property and housing, constitutes a violation of women's human right to protection against discrimination;
2. *Reaffirms* women's right to an adequate standard of living, including adequate housing as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
3. *Also reaffirms* the obligations of States to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women by any person, organization or enterprise;
- 4 *Urges* Governments to comply fully with their international and regional obligations and commitments concerning land tenure and the equal rights of women to own property and to an adequate standard of living, including adequate housing;
5. *Reaffirms* Commission on the Status of Women resolution 42/1 which, *inter alia*, urges States to design and revise laws to ensure that women are accorded full and equal rights to own land and other property, and the right to adequate housing, including through the right to inheritance, and to undertake administrative reforms and other necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies, access to markets and information;
6. *Encourages* Governments to support the transformation of customs and traditions that discriminate against women and deny women security of tenure and equal ownership of, access to, and control over land and equal rights to own property and to adequate housing and to ensure the right of women to equal treatment in land and agrarian reform as well as in land resettlement schemes and in ownership of property and in adequate housing and to take other measures to increase land and housing availability to women living in poverty, particularly female heads of households;
7. *Also encourages* Governments, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, international agencies and non-governmental organizations to provide judges, lawyers, political and other public officials, community leaders and other concerned persons, as appropriate, with information and human rights education concerning women's equal ownership of, access to, and control over land and the equal rights to own property and to adequate housing;
8. *Recommends* that Governments encourage financial lending institutions to ensure that their policies and practices do not discriminate against women;
9. *Also recommends* that international financial institutions, regional, national and local housing financing institutions and other credit facilities promote the participation of women and take into account their views to remove discriminatory policies and practices, giving special consideration to single women and households headed by women, and that these institutions evaluate and measure progress to this end;
10. *Invites* the Secretary-General, as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to encourage all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, individually and collectively, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Centre for Human

Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women, to undertake further initiatives that promote women's equal ownership of, access to, and control over land and the equal rights to own property and to adequate housing, and allocate further resources for studying and documenting the impact of complex emergency situations, particularly with respect to women's equal rights to own land, property and adequate housing;

11. *Invites* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other relevant international organizations to address discrimination against women with respect to land, property and adequate housing in their technical cooperation programmes and field activities;

12. *Encourages* all human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and other human rights mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights regularly and systematically to take a gender perspective into account in the implementation of their mandates, including taking into account the present resolution;

13. *Encourages* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to take into account the contents of the present resolution in the development of the mandate of the United Nations housing rights programme;

14. *Decides* to consider the issue of women's equal ownership of, access to, and control over land and the equal rights to own property and to adequate housing at its fifty-seventh session under the agenda item entitled "Economic, social and cultural rights".

*52nd meeting
17 April 2000*

[Adopted without a vote. See chap. X.]