

Milestones in United Nations Support of Women's Rights

- 1945 – UN Charter became the first international legal document to affirm the equality of all human beings, referring specifically to “the equal rights of men and women”
- 1975 – First UN World Conference for the Advancement of Women took place in Mexico. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) was born at this conference.
- 1979 – Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was adopted by the General Assembly.
- 1980 – Second World Conference on Women held in Copenhagen.
- 1985 – Third UN World Conference on Women held in Nairobi. 15,000 women from every region of the world celebrated a decade of efforts towards the advancement of women.
- 1992 – UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) recognizes the key role of women in the preservation and management of the environment.
- 1993 – World Conference on Human Rights, in Vienna, integrates violence against women and other women's issues into the overall human rights agenda.
- 1995 – Fourth World Conference on Women, in Beijing, adopts a Platform for Action.
- 2000 – UN General Assembly Special Session, "Women 2000: Gender, Equality, Development and Peace for the 21st Century." More than 180 nations gather to assess how far the world has come in achieving the goals of gender equality that were agreed upon in the Beijing Platform for Action.
 - UN Millennium Summit in New York is attended by over 150 world leaders who sign the Millennium Declaration and commit to adopting the Millennium Development Goals, including the goal to promote gender equality and empower women.

For more information, see: www.un.org/womenwatch/daw

Excerpts from the Beijing Declaration

1. We, the Governments participating in the Fourth World Conference on Women,
2. Gathered here in Beijing in September 1995, the year of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations,
3. Determined to advance the goals of **equality, development and peace for all women everywhere** in the interest of all humanity,
4. Acknowledging the voices of all women everywhere and taking note of the diversity of women and their roles and circumstances, honoring the women who paved the way and inspired by the hope present in the world's youth,
5. Recognize that the status of women has advanced in some important respects in the past decade but that **progress has been uneven, inequalities between women and men have persisted** and major obstacles remain, with serious consequences for the well-being of all people,
6. Also recognize that **this situation is exacerbated by the increasing poverty** that is affecting the lives of the majority of the world's people, in particular women and children, with origins in both the national and international domains ...

