

16 February 2005

English

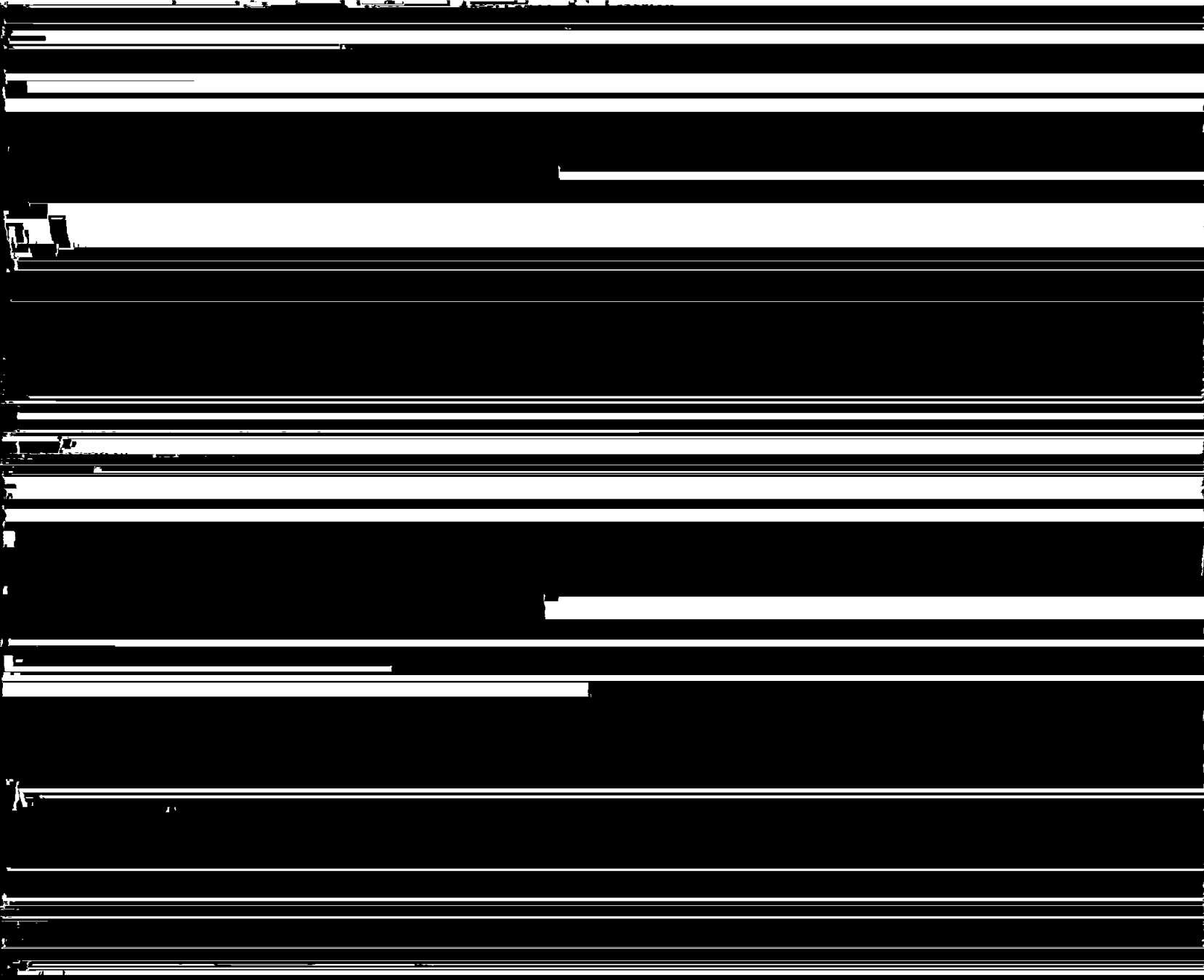
Commission on the Status of Women

Forty-ninth session

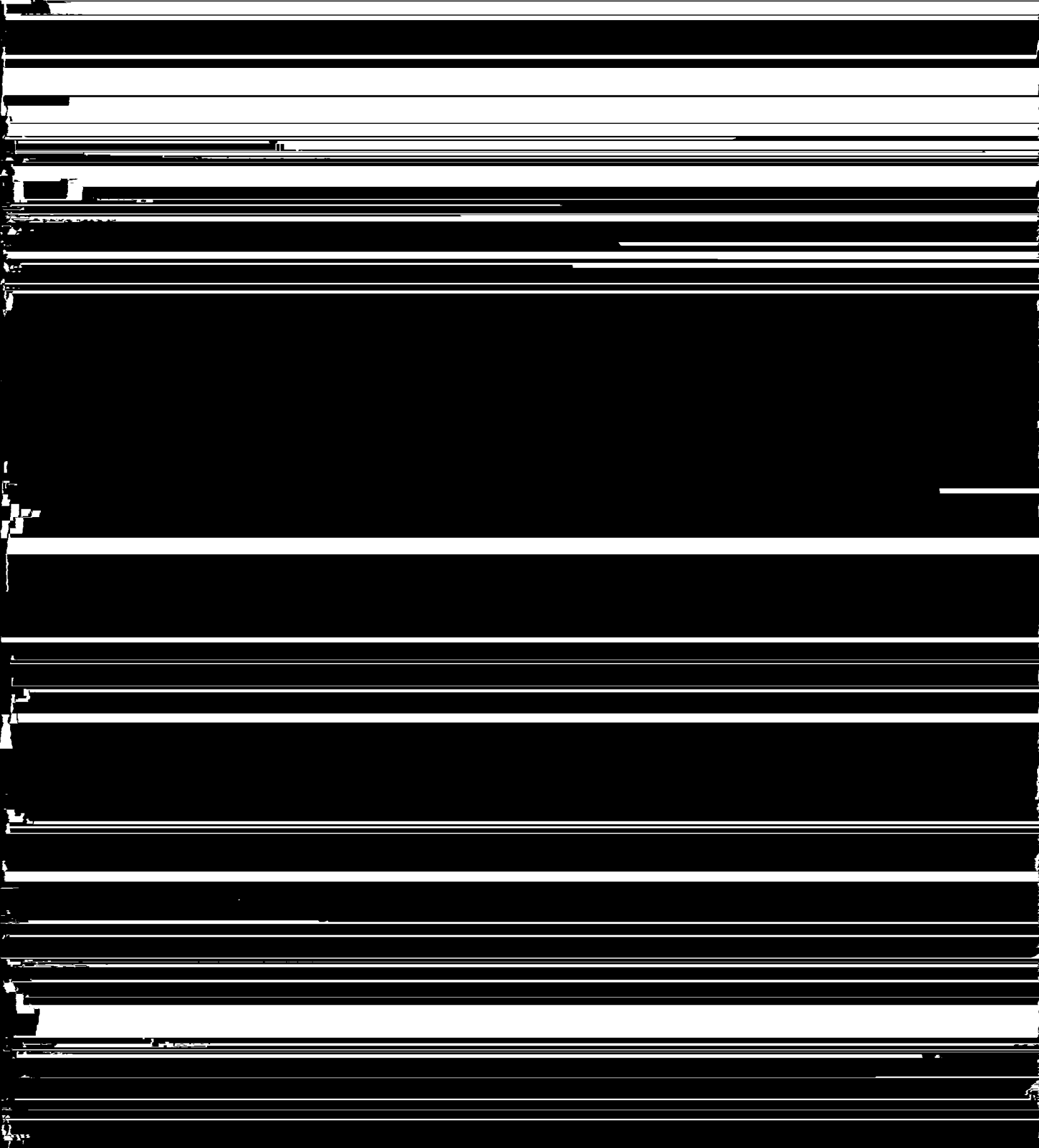
28 February – 11 March 2005

Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and

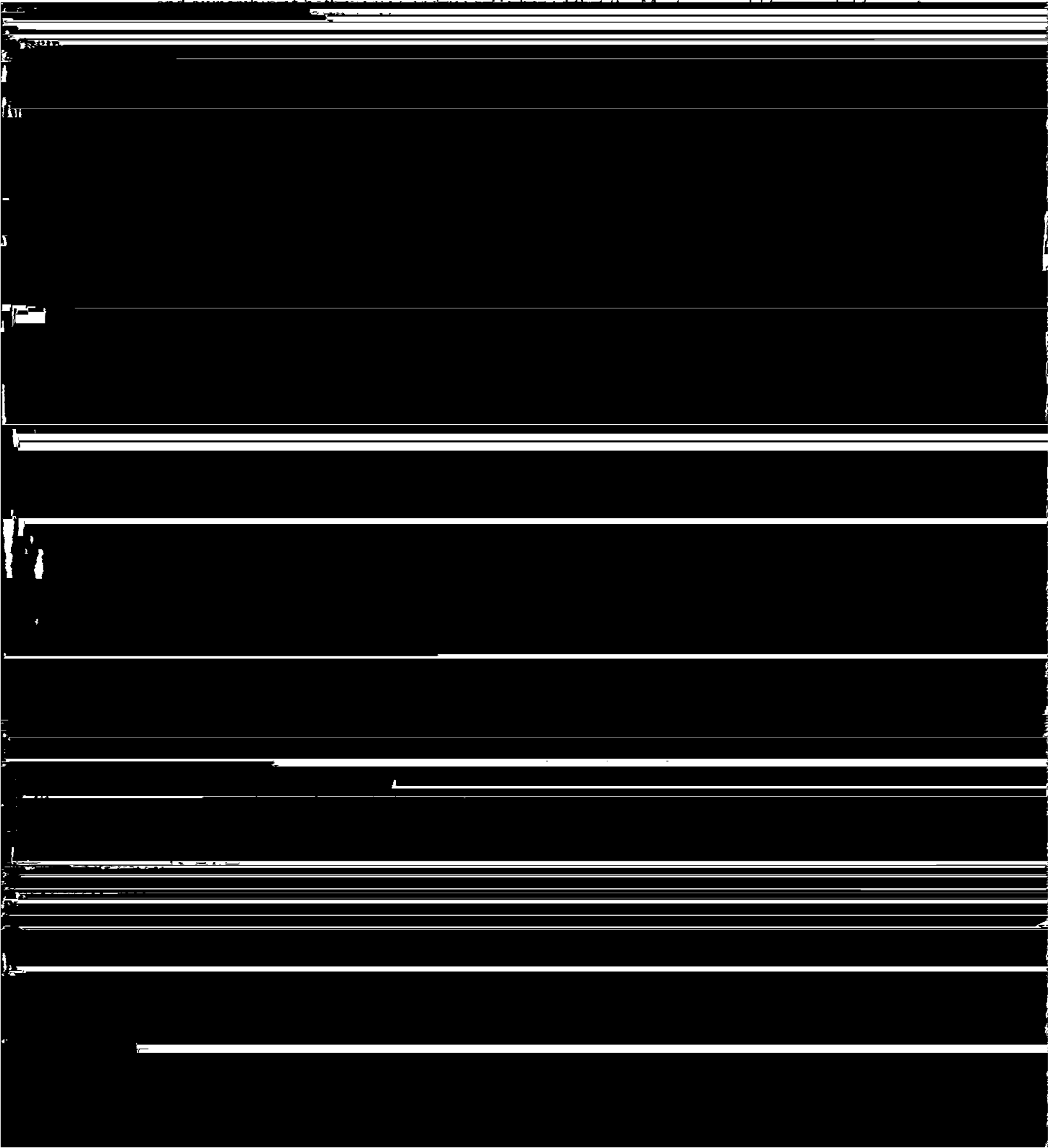


I. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING



2. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations were present: A genea

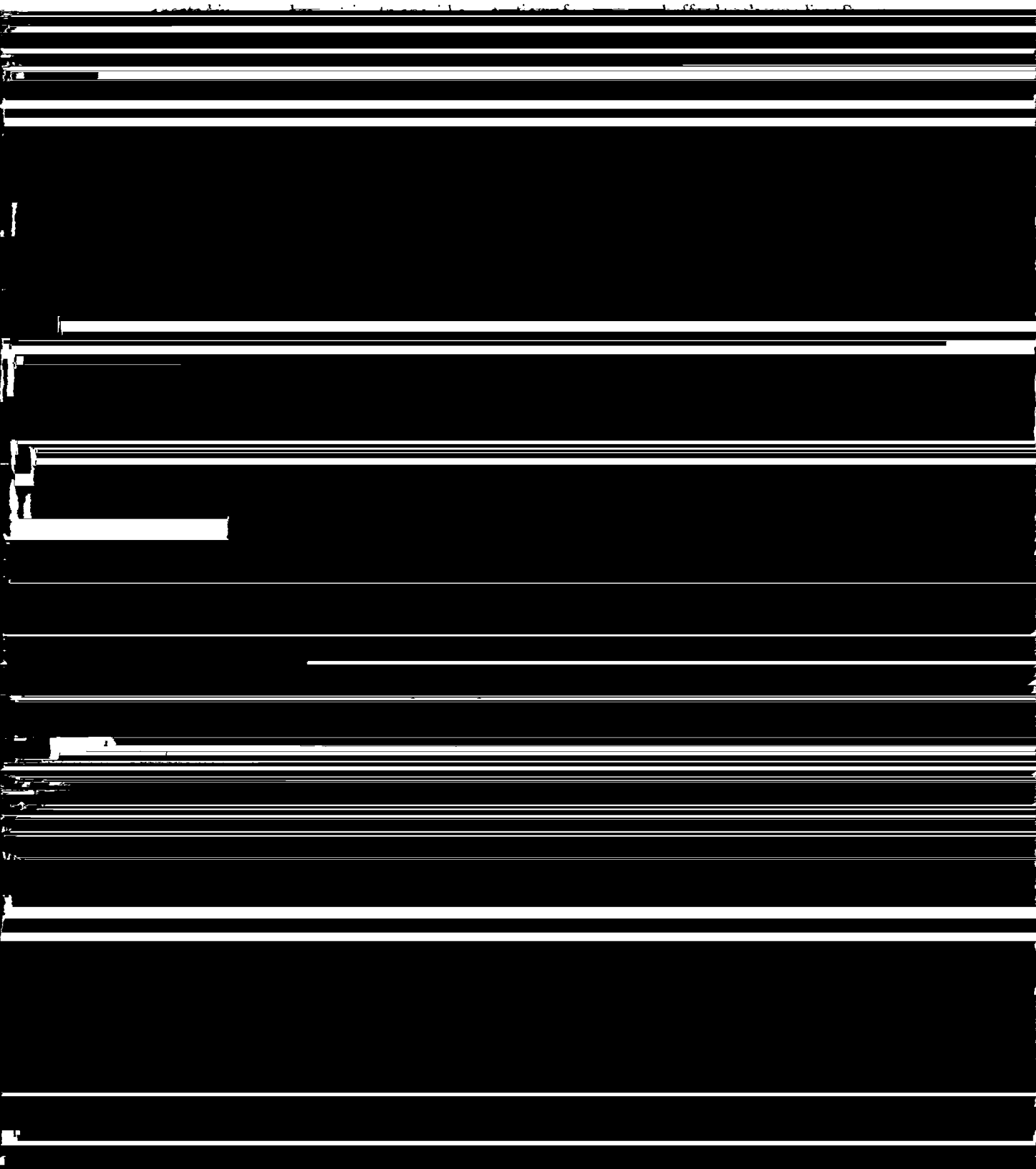
14. The Permanent Secretary reiterated the Executive Secretary's sentiment that the challenges demanded stronger and more effective partnerships and the application of strategic responses that were grounded in the relevant economic and social contexts, with the participation and ownership of both partners involved. He stated that the Mexican model of 1996



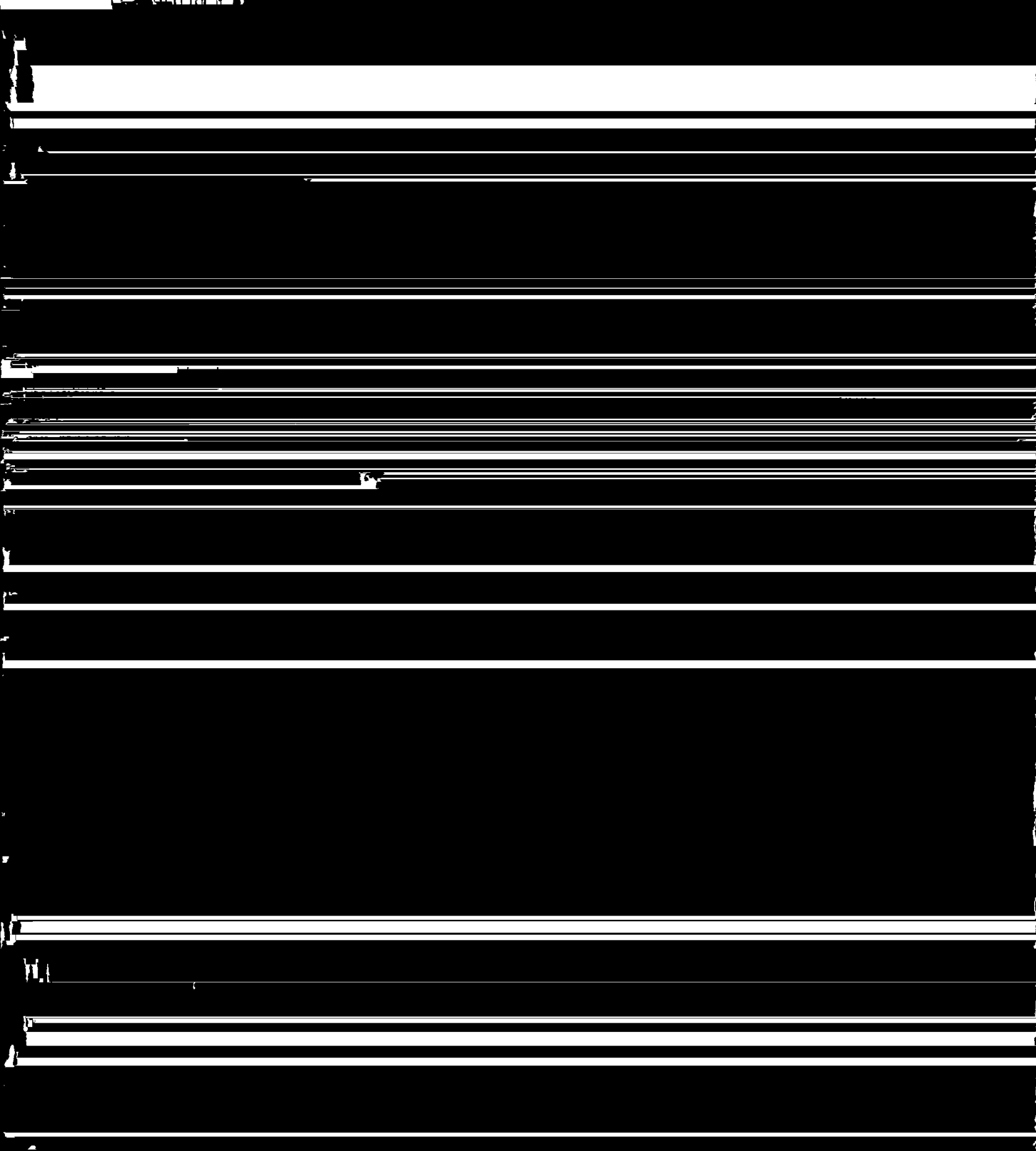
but also in health and education. Microcredit should integrate gender empowerment, family planning, responsible parenthood and women's health into the programmes to deliver other support services, such as health facilities, education, skills training and technology upgrading, to women in poverty. Programmes included poverty mapping, nationwide village funds, farmers' temporary debt suspension schemes, a cyber women information database incorporating the 12 critical areas of concern and articles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, with which to benefit all sectors working on the emancipation of

... Additionally, the programme also includes food security, maternal and child health...

33. In the area of violence in the family, some developed as well as developing countries had expanded their activities with Governments playing a strong leadership role in the formulation of policies for the prevention of domestic violence. Specific laws on domestic violence had been



institutions. In some countries, the reservation of one third of local village and municipal body and council seats for women had resulted in a "quiet revolution" as women had significantly increased their participation in grass-roots democratic institutions. In other countries, laws

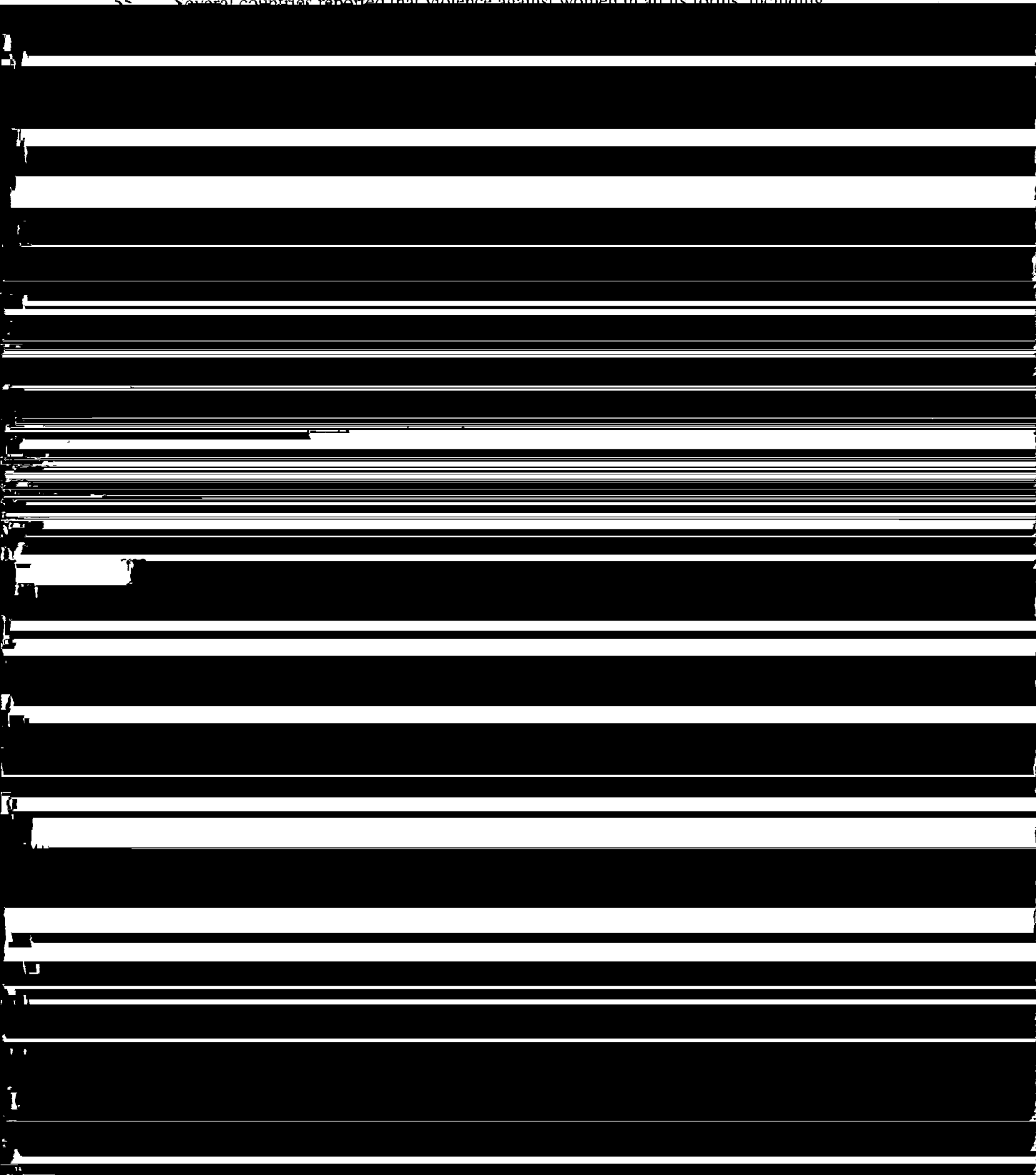


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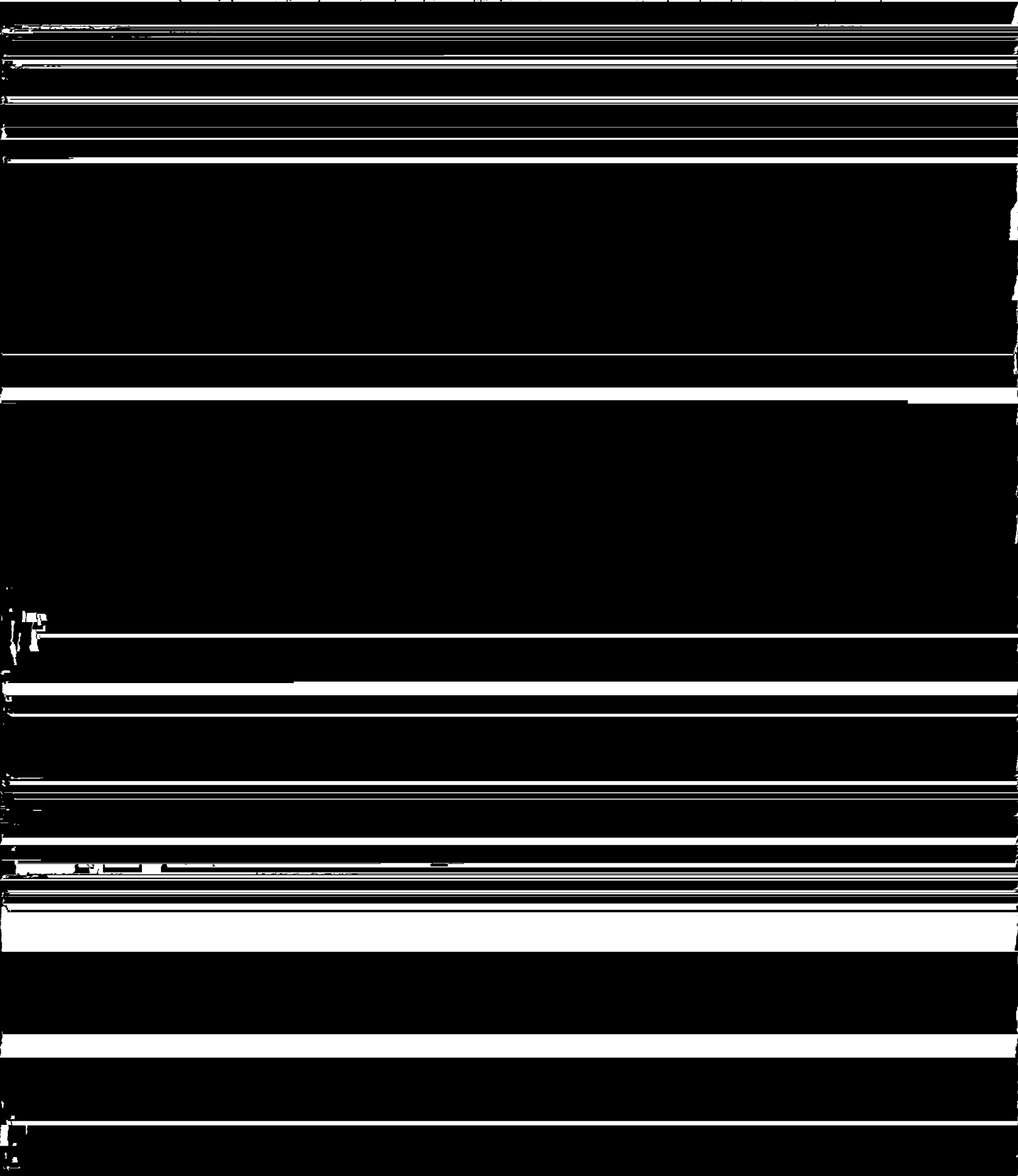
such as parental perceptions and society's attitudes towards women's education and skill formation and lack of reproductive health choices. External shocks and economic crises compounded those difficulties and had a discouraging effect on women's education.

D. Violence against women

55 Several countries reported that violence against women in all its forms, including



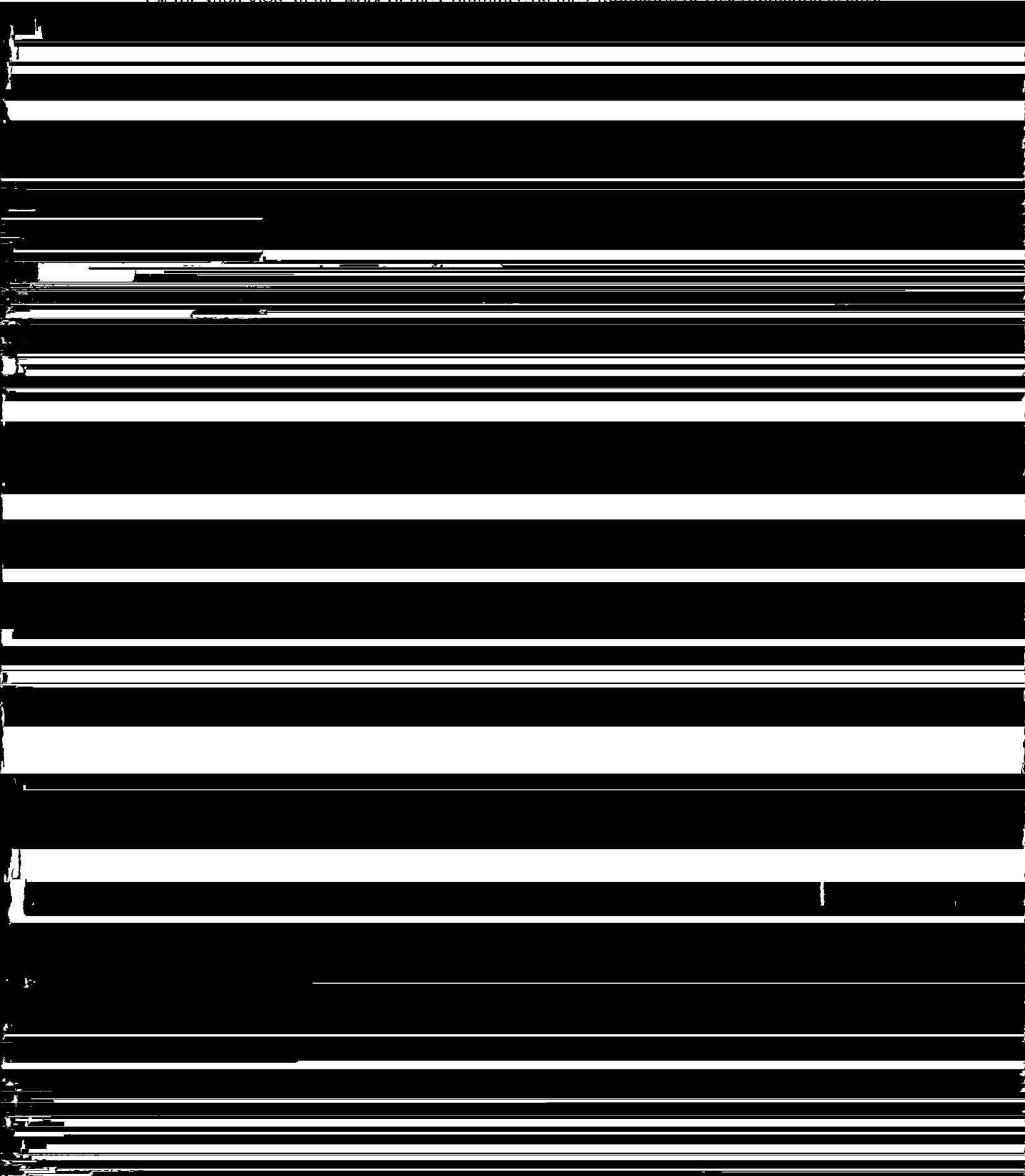
were drawn up in accordance with international labour standards. Additional fundamental elements of women's economic empowerment were freedom from fear of traffickers of women



women's political participation and the persisting institutional barriers that existed across various socio-political institutions, such as lack of a critical mass of women in politics. The stereotypical

traditional conceptions of gender inequality and lack of training and mentoring of women

69. It was pointed out that the strengthened involvement of countries, particularly in the Pacific subregion, in the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against



V. ADOPTION OF THE BANGKOK COMMUNIQUÉ

80. The draft Bangkok Communiqué, a forward-looking statement reaffirming the Beijing Platform for Action and the further measures of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, was brought to the plenary for review.

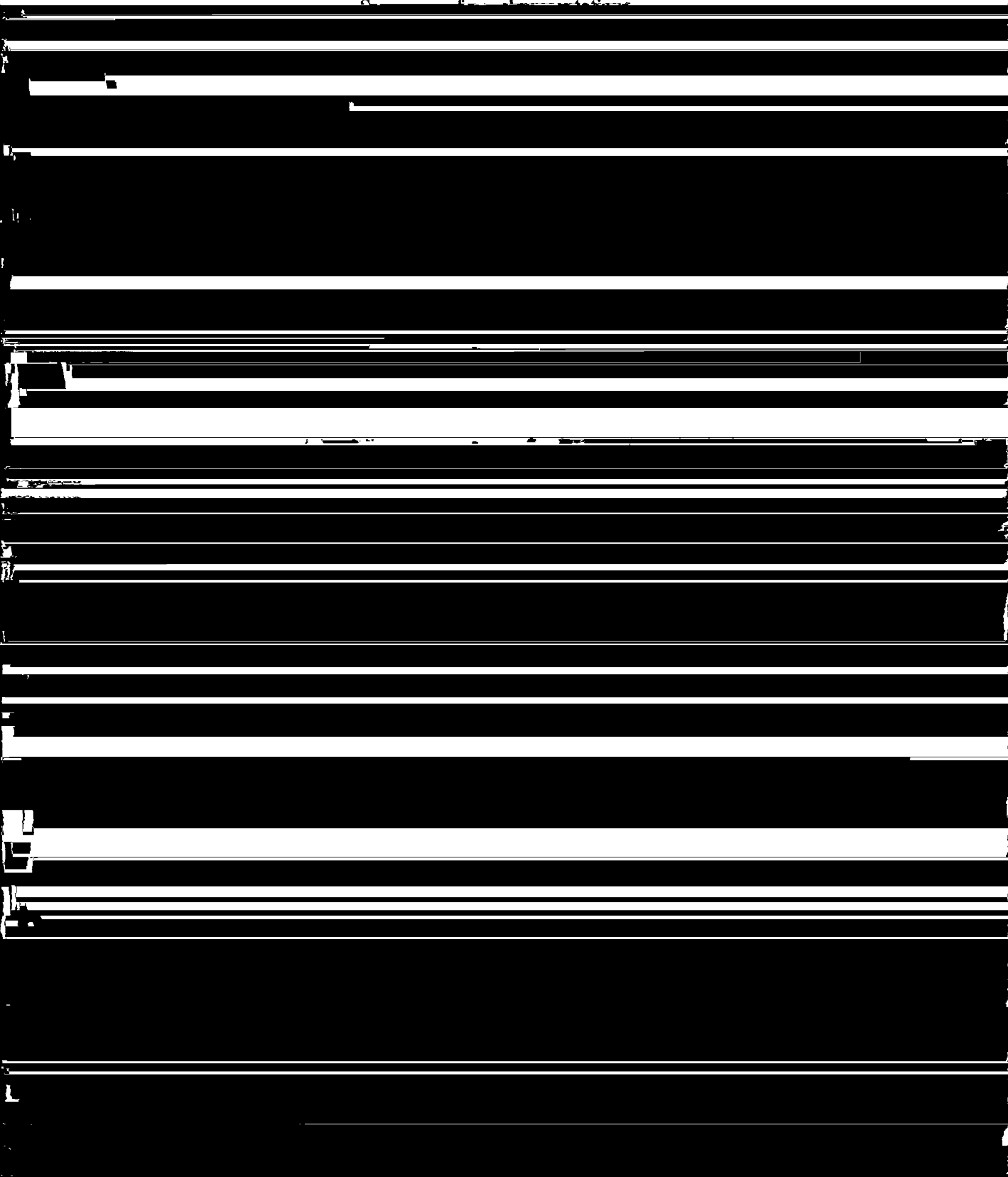
81. The Communiqué called for the fuller implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the further measures of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

- The insufficient catalytic role of national machineries for the advancement of women in the national planning and policy-making process.
- The lack of policies, legislations and programmes to protect women migrant workers' human rights.
- The lack of reproductive health information and services or care to women, particularly young women and adolescents.
- The lack of regional cooperation and partnership initiatives for combating trafficking in persons, HIV/AIDS and promoting the protection of women migrant workers and global market mechanisms.

- Protecting women and children in situations arising from militarism, war and armed conflict, and in particular, from the use of rape and sexual violence and hostage-taking as a strategy of war.
- Mainstreaming of women in environmental decision-making at all levels in the context of environmental degradation and pollution, climate change, and their impact on gender.

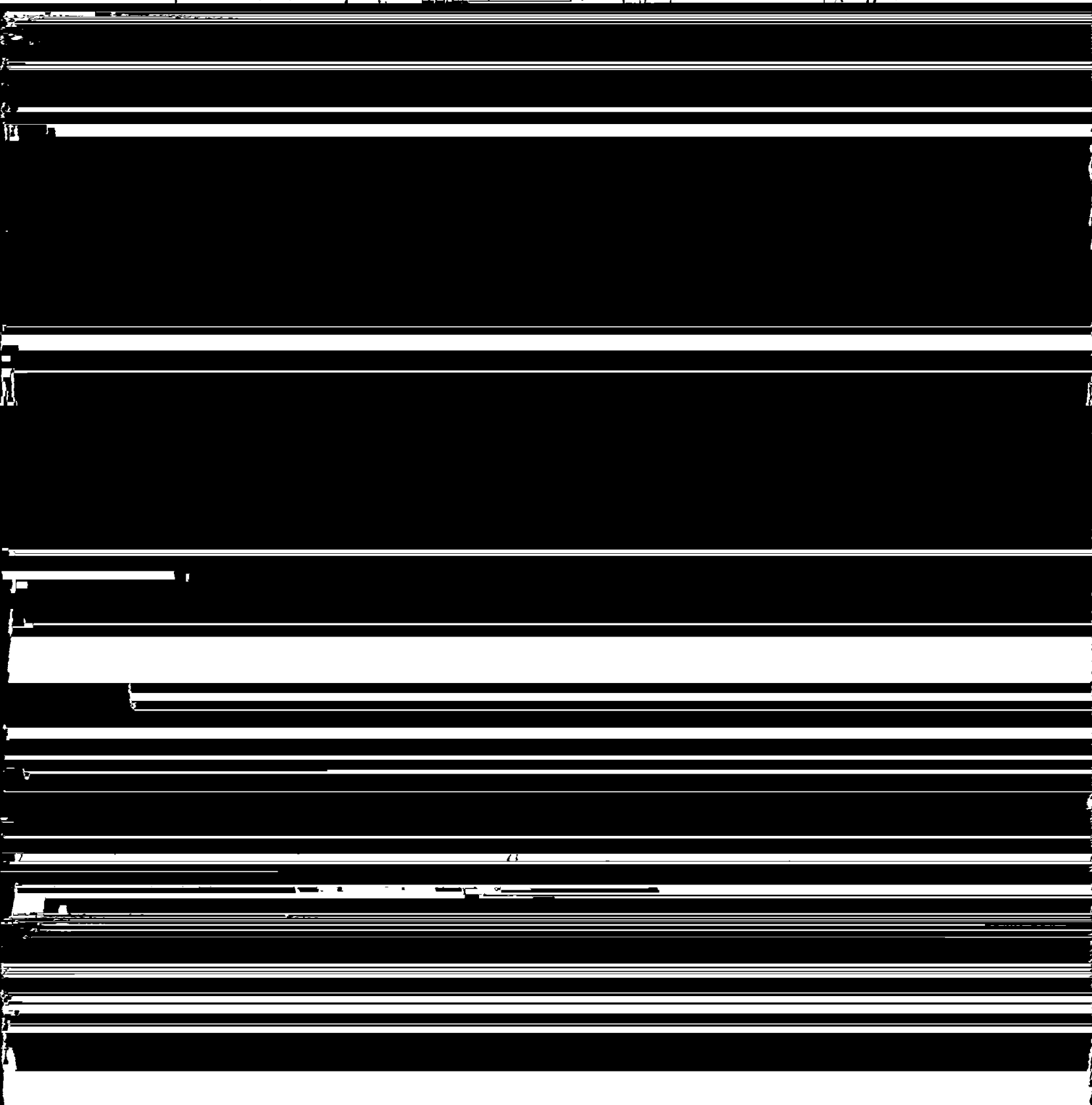
FURTHERMORE, WE RECOGNIZE the importance of ensuring linkages and cross-fertilization with commitments to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of

Annex I



must also work towards women's economic empowerment as well as women's sexual autonomy to combat violence against women in the region. Trafficking must be seen as an aspect of migration. Strong laws and policies were needed to combat trafficking, yet that should not hinder regular economic migration or women's rights to cross borders in search of economic opportunities or to escape negative conditions in their own communities.

Ms. Nancy Hafkin noted that gender differences continued to be largely ignored in information



Such a rights-based approach recognized women as rights holders with the strength and capacity to make a social and economic contribution, on a basis of equality with all other women and men. A rights-based approach should be incorporated in working towards both the Millennium Development Goals and the Beijing Platform for Action in analysis and programming on issues such as poverty, women's access to land and other productive resources, education and health. It was also critical to adopt that approach in responding to violence against women perpetrated in the family and community and in situations of armed conflict.

Ms. Shireen Lateef illustrated why working in partnership was important in promoting gender equality. In particular, she focused on the value of regional cooperation. Regional cooperation provided a vital opportunity for all stakeholders to share knowledge, expertise, tools, strategies and good practices for a greater impact at all levels, across the region, between subregions, within a subregion, and between countries, and involving all actors, Governments, civil society organizations, international organizations, development partners, academic institutions, women and men. Partnerships and cooperation avoided duplication of efforts, helped to replicate good practices and contributed towards mutual and collective solutions. Partnerships provided an

effective mechanism addressing common needs and shared objectives. HIV/AIDS

Annex II
Explanation of position by the United States of America

- The United States is pleased that ESCAP member States were able to work together to prepare this Meeting's outcome document and Bangkok Communiqué. We are joining

