

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

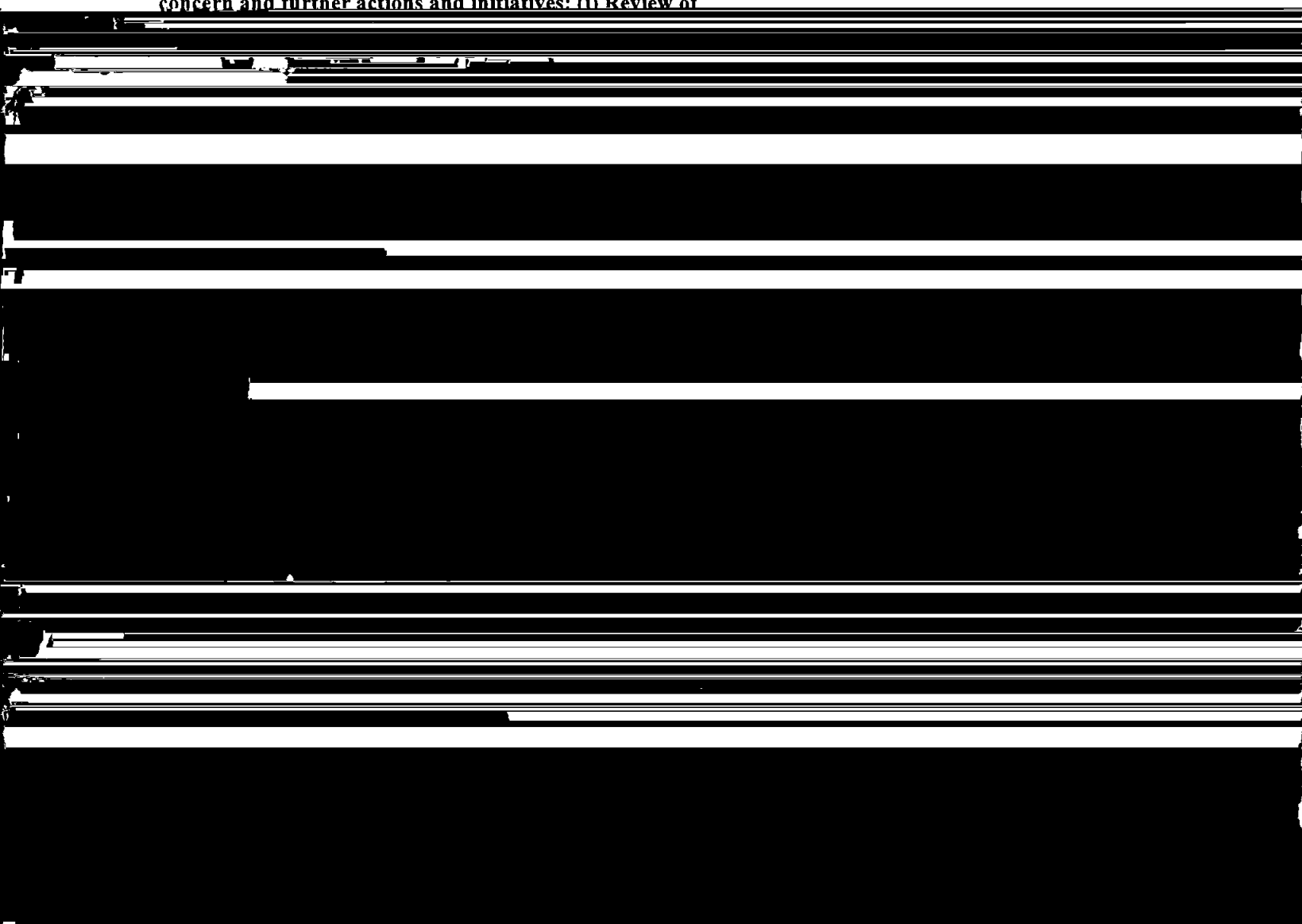
**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and
to the special session of the General Assembly entitled**

“Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace

for the twenty-first century” (c) Implementation of

strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of

concern and further actions and initiatives: (i) Review of



Summary

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) held the Arab Regional Conference Ten Years After Beijing: Call for Peace at United Nations House in Beirut during the period 8-10 July 2004, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 58/148 of 22 December 2003 in which the General Assembly recognizes the importance attached to the regional and subregional monitoring of the global and subregional platforms for action and the implementation of the outcome of the twenty-third session by regional commissions and other regional or subregional structures.

The conference comprised three meetings, namely, the second session of the Committee on Women, the Expert Group Meeting to Follow Up on the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing + 10) and the second meeting of the Consultative Committee for Non-Governmental Organizations at ESCWA.

The conference was organized around four seminars on the role of women in Arab parliaments,

I. RESOLUTIONS ISSUED BY THE CONFERENCE

1. The Committee on Women adopted the following two resolutions at its second session:

A. RESOLUTION ON THE ARAB REGIONAL CONFERENCE TEN YEARS AFTER BEIJING: CALL FOR PEACE

The Committee on Women of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/9 of 18 July 2003 on the establishment within the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) of a committee on women responsible, inter alia, for following up global and regional conferences and the participation of member countries therein and coordinating the endeavours of member countries and regional organizations with regard to implementation of the resolutions and recommendations adopted at such conferences,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 58/148 of 22 December 2003, in which the Assembly recognized the importance attached to the regional and subregional monitoring of the



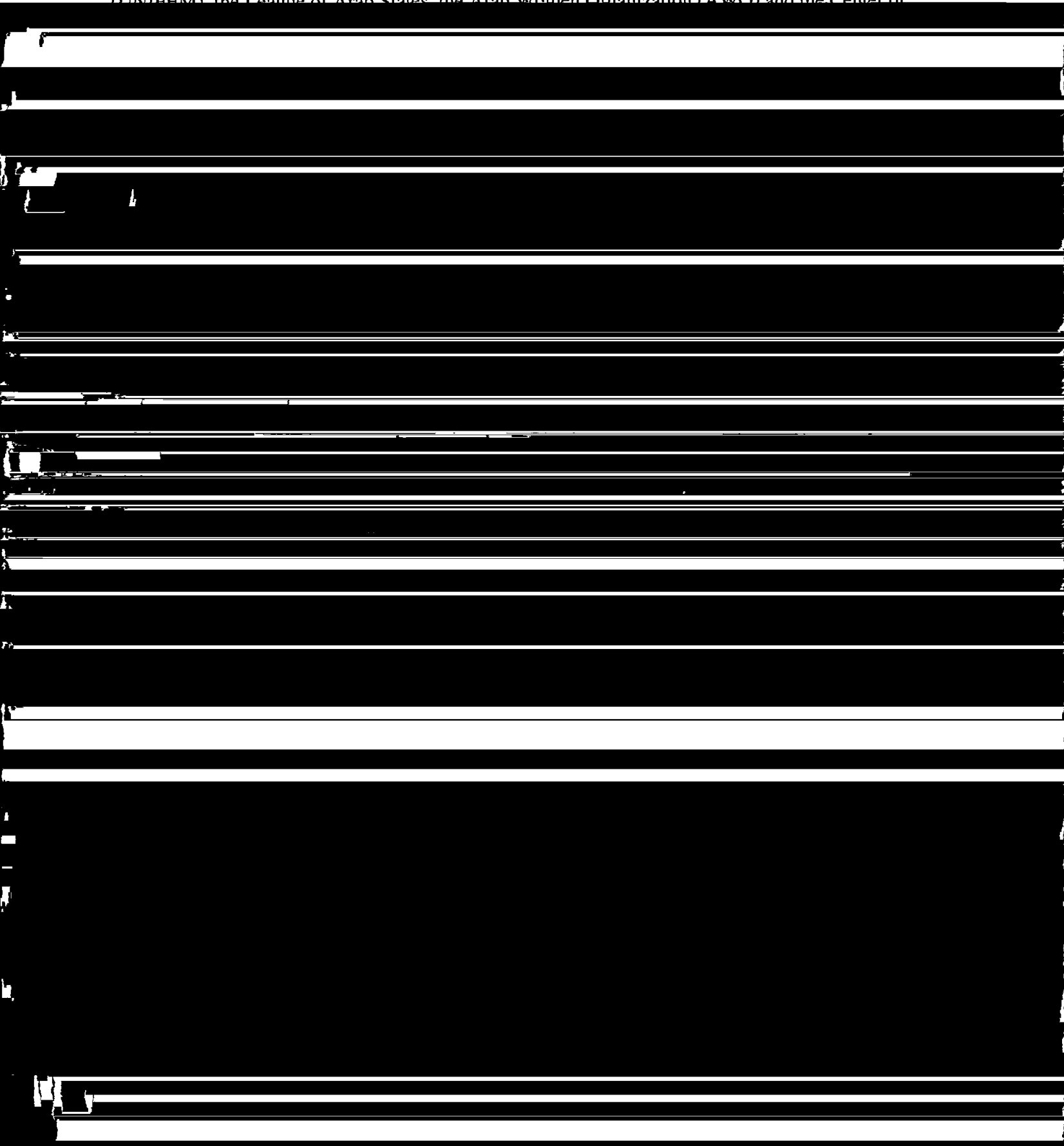
4. *Urges* all governments to strengthen national machineries for women by the allocation

impact on the living conditions of Palestinian women and the Palestinian people as a whole. The continuing occupation by Israel persists, with the confiscation and settlement of land, demolition of houses, expropriation of agricultural lands, partition of Palestinian territory and construction of the

implemented in the coming ten years in order to empower women, improve their conditions and increase their participation in political, economic and social life requires the following:

10. Urging governments to formulate strategies and programmes for the empowerment of

41. Coordination between ESCWA, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the League of Arab States, the Arab Women Organization (AWO) and the Center of

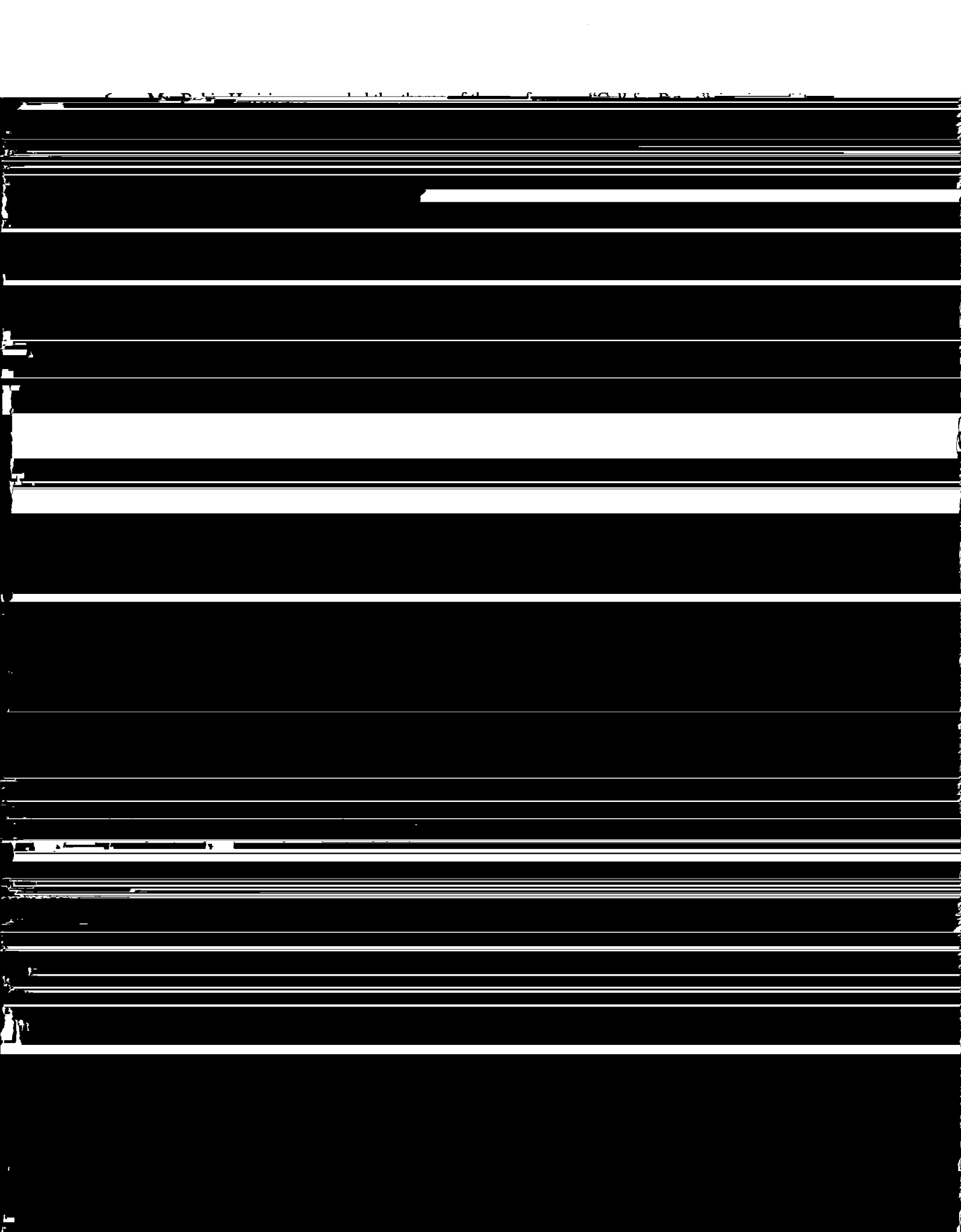


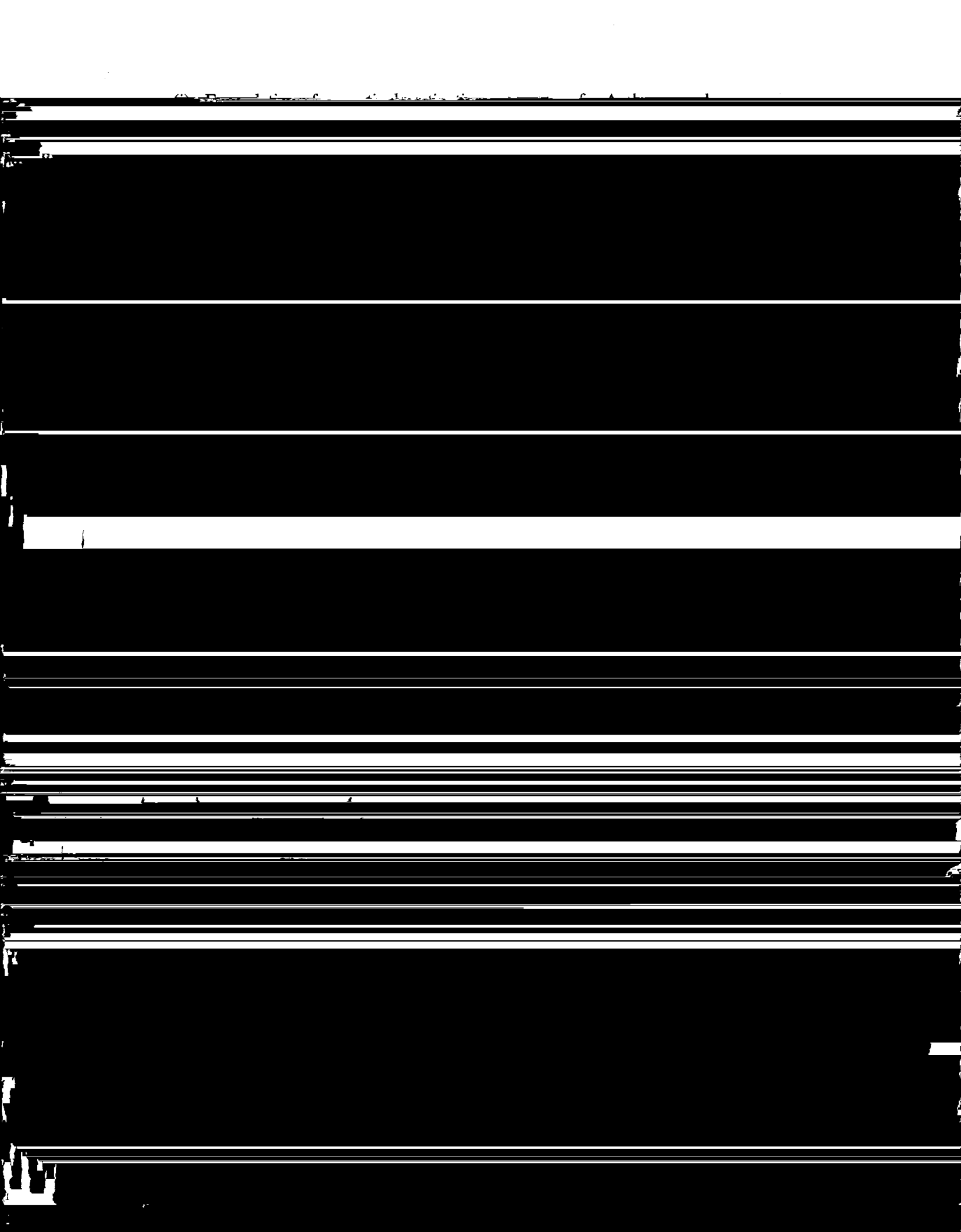
representative of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the World Network for Literacy and Adult Education also spoke.

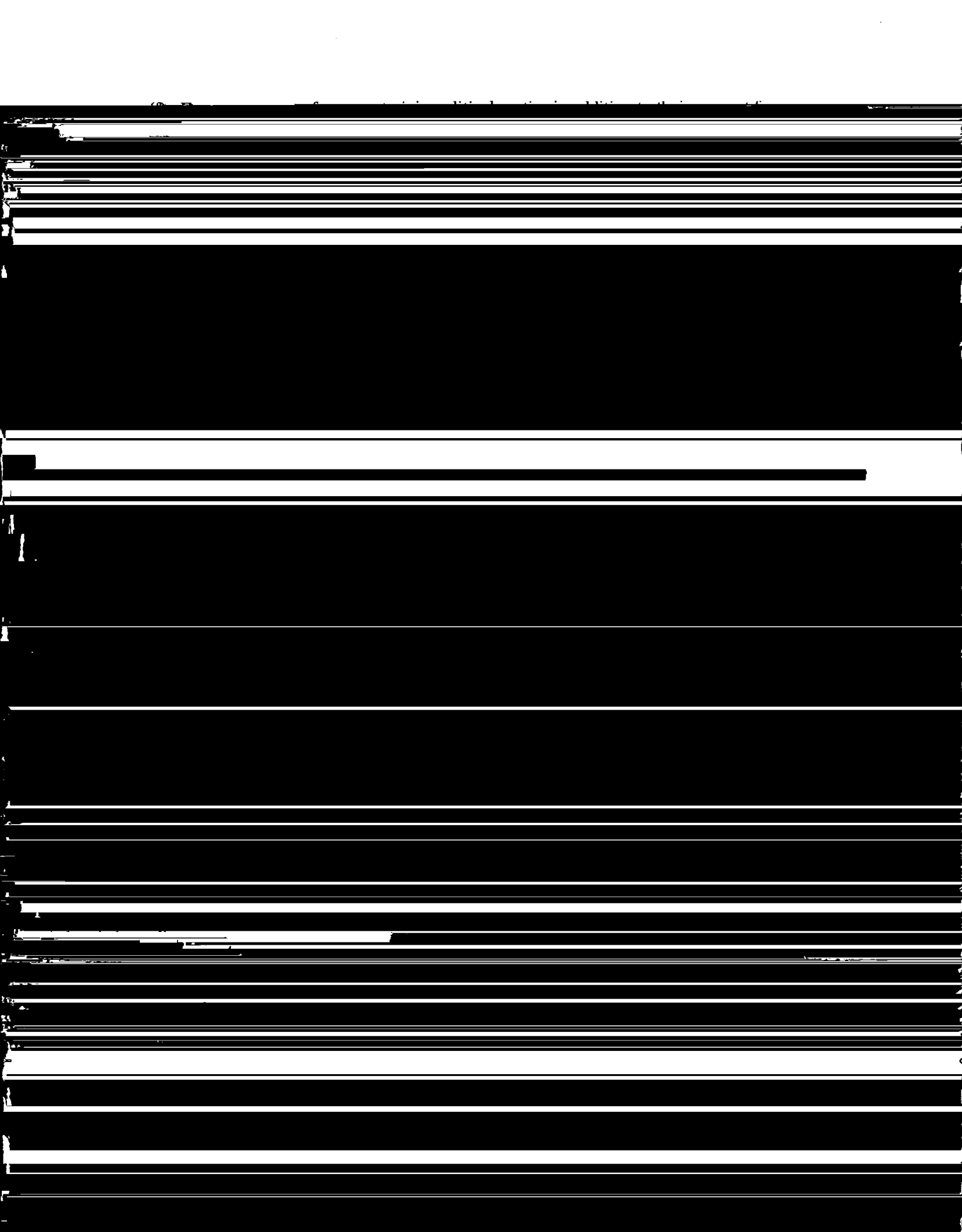
3. In addition to discussion of the possibility of the Arab North African countries becoming members of ESCWA, the following main points were raised:

(a) The important pioneering role played by women in areas damaged by war and conflicts;

(b) Intense unness with regard to the violence and danger present in the region;







14. The seminar was chaired by Ms. Bouthaina Shaaban, Minister for Expatriates in the Syrian Arab Republic. The main speakers were Ms. Asma Khader, Minister of State and Government Spokesperson for Media and Culture in Jordan, Mr. Hisham Sharabi, Chairman of the Center for Policy and Analysis on Palestine and Ms. Iqbal Barakah, Editor-in-Chief of Hawwa magazine, from Egypt.

15. Ms. Shaaban opened the seminar by emphasizing that the struggle today was taking place, above all, at the level of media and culture. She noted the issuance of the consultative opinion of the International Court of Justice ruling on the demolition of the wall in the West Bank and emphasized that this opinion indicated that the struggle would certainly lead to victory and that public opinion was in favour of Arab rights. She also noted that the balance of civilization, ethics and justice weighed in favour of the Arab world, even if the balance of force was against

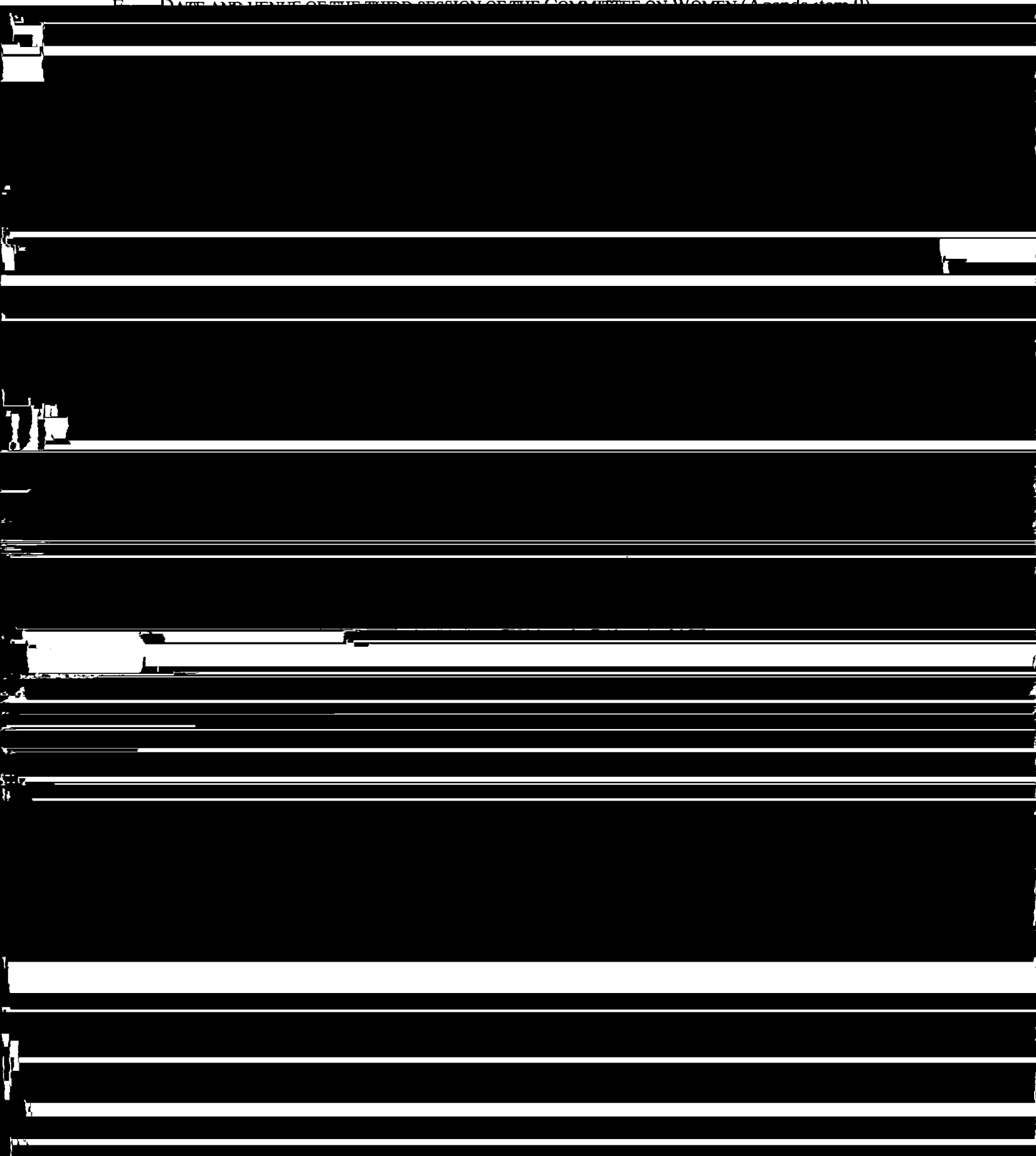
- (h) Establishment of media mechanisms in institutions and organizations concerned with women and strengthening media institutions;
- (i) Establishment of an Arab association for women in the media and a specialized centre for women and media studies;
- (j) Organization of training and professional skills programmes for Arab women in the

(l) Enactment of advanced modern laws and legislation in order to protect Arab women in

(m) Establishment of an Arab network for ~~cross-monitoring and response to sensitive~~

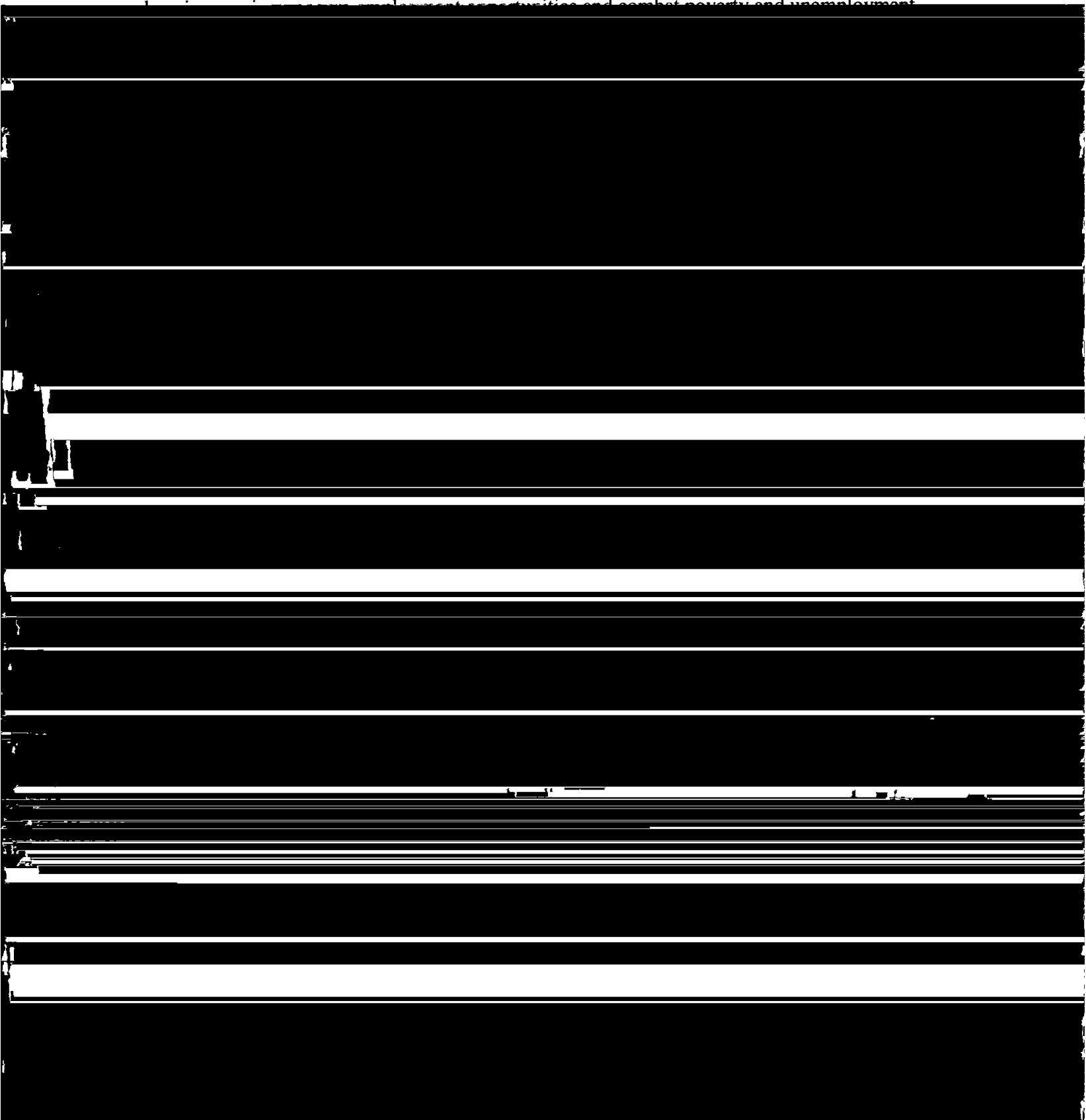
includes the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007, in order to provide information on the above-mentioned subprogramme.

F. DATE AND VENUE OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN (Agenda item 9)



of the conference. She focused on concern for women and children in the wars in the region that led to an increase in the number of victims, most of which were women. The Executive Secretary spoke of the negative impact of the tensions in the Arab region, including the decline in the investment and growth rates, the reduction of national income in the region during the past twenty years and the rise in the unemployment rate. She noted the numerous positive measures that had been taken in the region for the benefit of women and also noted the obstacles that continued to confront the progress of women. She emphasized the need to provide education and

employment opportunities and combat poverty and unemployment



Commission and other States Members of the United Nations; representatives of United Nations programmes, bodies and organizations; and observers from other inter-governmental, governmental and NGOs. A large number of women ministers and parliamentarians also

8. Proposed strategic framework for the Centre for Women for the biennium 2006-2007.

10. Other matters.

11. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Women on its second session and the Beirut Declaration on Arab Women Ten Years After Beijing: Call for Peace.

32. During the same session, the Committee adopted the proposed organization of work presented in document E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/L.2.

F. DOCUMENTS

33. A list of the documents presented during the Arab Regional Conference Ten Years After Beijing: Call for Peace is attached as annex II to the present report.