

RESOLUTIONS
OF THE
ZIONIST GENERAL COUNCIL
SESSION XXXVI/3



*Jerusalem,
30th Sivan – 2nd Tammuz 5772
20th-22nd June 2012*

The Empowerment of Women in the Zionist Enterprise

1. Women in the Entities of the Zionist Congress / Integration of Women in Zionist Organizations

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4
5 **Whereas** Herzl, the founder of the Zionist movement, recognized the importance of
6 equality and instigated the right to vote for women at the Zionist Congress during a
7 period when women did not hold the right to vote; and
8

9 **Whereas** women comprise more than 51% of the population; and
10

11 **Whereas** Zionism is a movement which advocates equality and democracy, as
12 detailed in the Constitution of the World Zionist Organization; and
13

14 **Whereas** in the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel there is a
15 commitment: "**it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights**
16 **to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex...**"; and
17

18 **Whereas** the Law on the Equal Rights for Women was enacted in 5711/1951; and
19

20 **Whereas** the State of Israel is counted among the leading nations that acceded to the
21 "*Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*",
22 which entered into force in 1981; and
23

24 **Whereas** equality between the sexes in general, and the advancement of women and
25 their involvement are in the national interest of the Zionist State of Israel; and
26

27 **Whereas** women in the Diaspora play a significant role in identification with the
28 centrality of the State of Israel, the prevention of assimilation and the preservation of
29 Jewish tradition and identity; and
30

31 **Whereas** women in Israel and the Diaspora are attaining and increasingly more
32 important status in economic life; and
33

34 **Whereas** the World Zionist Organization has a commitment to implement equality
35 between the sexes and integrate women in the entities of the World Zionist
36 Organization,
37

38 **The Zionist General Council resolves:**

39 That the World Zionist Organization seeks to realize the value of equality between the
40 sexes, to break through the glass ceiling, and to integrate women into Zionist activity
41 through the following means:
42

43 **[1] Representation of Women in the World Zionist Organization**

44 To conduct advocacy programs to encourage women to take part in political /
45 communal / social activity within the entities of the Zionist movement in Israel and
46 throughout the world.

47 **In all the entities within the Zionist movement, there is to be proper**
48 **representation of women, and at least 30% representation. This resolution shall**
49 **be implemented in the course of the next four years.**
50
51

1 **[2] Education and Training of Women Towards Leadership**

2 2.a. To conduct activity in the Diaspora, in order to raise awareness of the importance
3 of the **integration** of women - through discussions, seminars, lectures and retreats.

4
5 2.b. To instigate seminars that will draw women into Zionist activity, and make them
6 aware of the existing options in all of the Zionist organizations, in terms of the
7 channels open to them.

8
9 2.c. **Training** of women towards leadership positions.

10
11 2.d. Conducting workshops for women from Israel and the Diaspora, in order to raise
12 awareness and train women to assume positions within the Zionist movement.

13
14 **[3] Promotion of Aliyah, Hebrew Language Instruction and Zionist Jewish**
15 **Education**

16 3.a. The central position of women in the family is both focal and significant in the
17 **decision-making** process, in terms of residential environment and **the choice of**
18 **educational institution for their children.**

19
20 3.b. It is **therefore** extremely important to conduct training for women in the Diaspora
21 to raise awareness and provide Zionist programming, as well as **Hebrew language**
22 **instruction for a female target population.**

23
24 3.c. During educational programs, **proper attention** will be addressed to the
25 significant contribution by women to the Zionist enterprise, in the tradition of the
26 People of Israel in the Land of Israel, during the Bible period and the Kingdoms of
27 Judah and Israel, during the *Shoah* and the struggle against Nazism, as well as during
28 the period of the renewal of the *Yishuv* (Jewish community) in *Eretz Yisrael*.

29
30 3.d. Written materials distributed by those promoting Aliyah on our behalf shall
31 include references and pay special address to providing information about women's
32 rights in Israel, in terms of laws to promote the employment of women and the
33 services available to women.

34
35 3.e. Educational material by the youth movements will place emphasis on the
36 empowerment of women and on gender equality.

37
38 **[4] Encouragement of Women and Men towards Voluntary Work**

39 The voluntary sector offers exposure to Zionist activity and there various
40 opportunities available for women and men. For this purpose, it is imperative to
41 encourage women and men towards voluntary work within Zionist entities.

42
43 **[5] Absorption of *Olot* (Women Immigrants)**

44 The absorption of *olot* will facilitate the inception of special programs through
45 enrichment, empowerment and professional training.

46
47
48
49 **2. Abstention from Initiating, Funding, or Participation in Events**
50 **where there is Gender Separation**

51
52 **Whereas** in the past year the number of incidents of separation between women and
53 men in the public domain has multiplied; and

54
55 **Whereas** it has been proved that this separation was, in many cases, enforced, and
56 such separation thus signifies the exclusion of women,

57

1 **The Zionist General Council resolves:**

2 That the World Zionist Organization opposes forced gender separation in public
3 places, while recognizing circumstances requiring carefully tailored limited
4 accommodations of gender separation to meet legitimate religious issues.

5
6 **3. Representation of Women at Events**

7
8 **Whereas** women constitute approximately one half of the Jewish people and they, as
9 individuals and as members of women's organizations and other Zionist organizations,
10 play an important role in Zionist activity and the revival of the Jewish people in its
11 land,

12
13 **The Zionist General Council resolves:**

14 That the World Zionist Organization shall implement proper representation of women
15 (representation, as a goal, of at least 40% of each gender) as spokespersons and
16 participants at all events of the National Institutions at which the World Zionist
17 Organization is a partner.

18
19 **4. Support for the Recommendation of the Israel Government's**
20 **Attorney General to Fund and Recognize Reform and Conservative**
21 **Rabbis in Regional Councils**

22
23 **Whereas** the WZO holds that, as expressed in the Declaration of Independence of the
24 State of Israel, there shall be no discrimination based on gender and that this is a
25 central Zionist value; and

26
27 **Whereas we hold that the decision in the case of Rabbi Miri Gold is a landmark**
28 **achievement of empowering women within Israel to assume leadership roles; and**
29

30 **Whereas** the WZO holds that providing role models for women is one of the most
31 important tools for empowerment of women; and

32
33 **Whereas** the theme of this year's Zionists General Council is "Empowering Women
34 in the Zionist Enterprise" and it is therefore urgent to deal with this new, important
35 development on a timely basis,

36
37 **The Zionist General Council resolves:**

38 To commend the Israel Government's Attorney General's recommendation to fund
39 and recognize Reform and Conservative rabbis in regional councils, and calls upon
40 the Israeli government to increase the number of women assuming leadership
41 positions.

42
43 **5. Initiation and Funding of Projects to Advance the Status of**
44 **Women and Prevent their Exclusion from the Public Domain**

45
46 **Whereas** in the past year the number of incidents of exclusion of women and gender
47 separation in the public domain has multiplied,

48
49 **The Zionist General Council resolves:**

1 That the World Zionist Organization shall initiate and fund projects to advance the
2 status of women and to prevent separation instigated in a coercive manner and/or
3 separation which means the exclusion of women from the public domain.
4

5 **6. Proper Representation of Women in State and Public Broadcasting**

6
7 **Whereas** some operative public broadcasting entities Israel decline to integrate
8 women in the transmission schedule as broadcasters, presenters and artists; and
9

10 **The Zionist General Council resolves:**

11 That the Zionist Executive shall work with the Government of Israel for the proper
12 representation of women in state and public broadcasting, and including broadcasting
13 under the aegis of the Second Channel Authority for Television and Radio
14 Broadcasting.
15

16 **7. Advancement of Gender Equality in the Israel Defense Forces**

17
18 **The Zionist General Council resolves:**

19 That the World Zionist Organization, in partnership with the IDF, shall initiate
20 workshops to promote gender equality among officers and within the standing army.
21

22
23 **8. International Women's Rights Day and Women in Zionist Activity**

24
25 **Whereas** International Women's Rights Day has been observed in the West since the
26 1970s; and
27

28 **Whereas** by the year 2011 more than 100 nations and many non-governmental
29 organizations have agreed to annually observe March 8th as International Women's
30 Rights Day; and
31

32 **Whereas** such an annual observance helps focus both national and organizational
33 attention to the ongoing struggle of women for full equality in every sphere of life;
34 and
35

36 **Whereas it is not by chance** that it was decided to hold the present General Council
37 under the banner of: *The Empowerment of Women in Zionism*; and
38

39 **Whereas the woman's place** in Judaism and Zionism is insufficiently emphasized
40 and highlighted - this, despite their important and well-known contribution and
41 mobilization at a personal level and, of course, within the framework of the large
42 women's Zionist organizations; and
43

44 **Whereas insufficient space and time** have been given to the story and study of
45 Zionist and Jewish women in the *Shoah* and the Resistance movement, the (Zionist)
46 underground and in the IDF, in *Aliyah* operations, education and absorption,
47 settlement, or in the course and struggles of Zionism in general;
48

49 **To all of the above**, it should be added that the last Congress resolved that, from the
50 next Zionist Congress, one third of the delegates must be women; moreover, it was
51 resolved that at least one third of the General Council members must be women and,
52 similarly, one third of the Extended Zionist Executive shall be women.

1
2 **The General Council therefore resolves:**

3 1. To instruct all the Zionist Federations in the world to conduct special events
4 (seminars, retreats, convocations) to mark Zionist Women's Day.
5

6 2. The World Zionist Organization adopt March 8th each year as an ongoing
7 opportunity to celebrate the contribution of women to Zionism and to educate about
8 the struggle.
9

10 3. To organize programs to broaden women's ranks in Zionism across the board:
11 at universities, Jewish schools, through special seminars for young mothers, and
12 dedicated tours to Israel that lay emphasis on the place of and activity by women.
13

14 **9. Creating a Zionist Curriculum on the Activities and Achievements**
15 **of Women**

16
17 **Whereas** the role of women within Zionist activities, throughout the history of the
18 Zionist enterprise, has been one both of outstanding leadership and achievement as
19 well as of an ongoing struggle for full access to positions of leadership; and
20

21 **Whereas** the Zionist General Council chose to single out both the struggle of women
22 and the achievements of women within the Zionist Movement; and
23

24 **Whereas** the strength, relevance and reach of the World Zionist Organization demand
25 the full and equal participation of women; and
26

27 **Whereas** the World Zionist Organization has access to unique educational resources
28 through the Herzl Center,
29

30 **The Zionist General Council resolves:**

31 That the World Zionist Organization shall establish a budget and commission the
32 shaping of a Zionist curriculum within existing programs that will encourage Zionist
33 women's leadership in Israel and in the Diaspora, while focusing on the achievements
34 and struggles of women in the Zionist Movement in Jewish communities of both East
35 and West.
36

37 **10. Monitoring the Status of Women within Zionist Institutions and**
38 **Organizations**

39
40 **Whereas** we celebrate the historic achievements and leadership by women within the
41 Zionist Movement, its organizations and institutions; and
42

43 **Whereas** we acknowledge that without careful monitoring of the progress of women
44 in achieving and maintaining full and equal status, even today's achievements may be
45 weakened;
46

47 **The Zionist General Council resolves:**

48 That a formal report on and analysis of the status of women within Zionist
49 organizations and institutions shall prepared for and presented to the next gathering of
50 the World Zionist Congress, and that that report and analysis be prepared by a
51 committee of the Zionist General Council that is fully representative of all streams

1 and organizations. The Comptroller shall also be requested to consider examining the
2 subject. This report shall specifically relate to, among other things:

- 3
- 4 1. The advancement of women
- 5 2. The status of equal pay for women
- 6 3. Equal representation in leadership positions
- 7 4. Any other key issues affecting the equality of women.
- 8
- 9

10 **Constitutional Amendments**

11 **11. Equality in the WZO**

12 **Whereas Article 7 (b)** of the *World Zionist Organization Constitution* embraces the
13 principles of justice, equality and democracy and against discrimination; and

14 **Whereas** equality of gender and sexual orientation are crucial principles of justice,
15 equality and democracy,

16 **Therefore be it resolved that:**

17 1. **Article 7 (b)** of the *WZO Constitution* be amended to now read: "act according
18 to the basic principles of justice, equality and democracy, prevent the
19 membership of bodies or individuals that adhere to or advocate discrimination
20 based on origin, nationality, race, **gender or sexual orientation** and conduct its
21 affairs, having regard to the protection of the requirements of all members of
22 the Federation."

23 2. **Article 21, Section 1** be amended to now read: "No elections to Congress shall
24 be held in the State of Israel. The Committee for Determining the
25 Representation shall appoint the delegates in accordance with the relative
26 strength of the Zionist parties in the last Knesset elected prior to the opening
27 of the Congress. A party in the Knesset which adheres to or advocates
28 discrimination based on origin, nationality, race, **gender or sexual orientation**
29 shall not be represented at Congress."

30 3. **Article 2A** be amended to now read: "Zionism is a movement which adheres to
31 the basic principles of justice, equality and democracy and which rejects
32 discrimination based on origin, nationality, race, **gender or sexual orientation.**"

33 **12. Working Procedures of the Zionist Executive**

34 **Whereas Article 40** of the *Constitution of the Zionist Organization* addresses the
35 powers and functions of the Executive; and

36 **Whereas** the Zionist Organization is composed of representatives of Israeli and
37 Diaspora Jewry; and

38 **Whereas** the 36th Zionist Congress and the General Council have expressed their
39 sincere and genuine commitment to deepening ongoing cooperation between the
40 Zionist leadership in Israel and in the Diaspora,

41 **The Zionist General Council resolves:**

1 To add to **Article 40, Section 4**, of the Constitution, a small section:

2
3 **Section 4**

4 After the words: "The Inner Executive and the Outer Executive shall each
5 determine for themselves the conduct of their affairs"

6 The following words: "**in such a manner that will facilitate partnership and full
7 participation of the Members of the Inner Executive from Diaspora Jewry.**"

8
9 **13. The Interval between Congress and Congress***

10
11 **Whereas** the World Zionist Organization is a movement which engages in Zionist
12 activity in Israel and the Diaspora, which incorporates the enhancement of Zionist-
13 Jewish education, fostering Aliyah and countering Antisemitism in Israel and the
14 Diaspora; and

15
16 **Whereas** it is paramount to enhance organizational stability within the Zionist
17 movement for a period of several years; and

18
19 **Whereas** the political activity that commences two years prior to the Congress places
20 a heavy strain on the managerial and organizational framework in terms of its
21 extensive and valued Zionist activities; and

22
23 **Whereas** the convening of the Congress entails considerable logistical activity which
24 incurs high financial costs; and

25
26 **Whereas** there have been structural changes in the Zionist movement and there is a
27 need to examine the organizational structure and consider the adjustment of
28 democratic processes within the Zionist movement; and

29
30 **Whereas** the good of the Zionist movement and its efficacy compel an adjustment of
31 the Constitution to the above-described circumstances,

32
33 **The Zionist General Council resolves:**

34 That, for the good of the Zionist movement and its efficacy, the interval between
35 Congresses be increased to five years, instead of four years, and this to commence
36 from the 36th Zionist Congress.

37
38 **The proposed change to the Constitution is formulated as follows:**

39 In **Article 13** of the *Constitution of the World Zionist Organization*, the words: "four
40 years" shall be deleted and replaced by the insertion of: "**five years**".

41
42 Article 13 – "Intervals between Congress and Congress" will thus read as follows:

43
44 *Article 13*

45
Intervals between Congress and Congress "An Ordinary Congress shall meet at least once in **five years** at a place and time determined by the Council. It shall be convened by the Executive."

The validity of the amendment shall commence from the 36th Congress.

46 ****This resolution was accepted with knowledge of Resolution 15 below.***

Organizational Matters

14. Elections

In accordance with **Article 43, Section 2** of the *Constitution of the World Zionist Organization*, the Zionist General Council elects Mr. Zvi (Quito) Hasson as a Member of the Zionist Executive, instead of Mr. Francis Weitz, who has resigned.

In accordance with **Article 43, Section 2** of the *Constitution of the World Zionist Organization*, the Zionist General Council elects Mr. Drew Teitelbaum as a Member of the Zionist Executive, instead of Mr. Ofer Gutman, who has resigned.

In accordance with **Article 35, Section 2** of the *Constitution of the World Zionist Organization*, the Zionist General Council elects Ms. Einav Ayalon as a deputy Member of the Presidium on behalf of the Confederation, instead of Mr. Michael Freeman, who has resigned.

In accordance with **Section 35, Article 2** of the *Constitution of the World Zionist Organization*, the Zionist General Council elects Mr. Moshe Cohen as a deputy Member of the Presidium on behalf of the Confederation, instead of Mr. Mauricio Balter.

In accordance with **Article 35, Section 2** of the *Constitution of the World Zionist Organization*, the Zionist General Council elects Ms. Hannah Melamed as a Member of the Presidium on behalf of World Emunah, instead of Ms. Naomi Liebler, who has resigned.

In accordance with the provisions of **Article 32, Section 3(h)** of the *Constitution of the World Zionist Organization*, the Zionist General Council elects the following persons as Honorary Fellows:

1. Paula Edelstein
2. Benzion Givoni
3. Haya Shamir
4. Arik Yoffe.

15. Postponement of the 37th Zionist Congress

The Zionist General Council resolves:

In accordance with **Article 16** of the *Constitution of the World Zionist Organization*, pursuant to hearing the Executive and the extraordinary circumstances as detailed to the Zionist General Council in discussion held on 22nd June, 2012, to postpone the convening of the 37th Zionist Congress to October, 2015. The precise date shall be determined by the Presidium of the General Council, together with the Zionist Executive.

The validity of this resolution shall be conditional, as determined in the above-mentioned discussion of the General Council, upon the signature of the agreement between the World Zionist Organization and Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael in the matter of the budget of the World Zionist Organization by 15th August, 2012.

1 **16. Establishment of Mandate Committee**

2
3 In accordance with **Article 31** of the *Constitution of the World Zionist Organization*,
4 the Zionist General Council charges the Executive and the Presidium jointly to
5 establish the Committee for determining the number of Mandates, in compliance with
6 the provisions of **Article 18** of the *Constitution of the World Zionist Organization*
7
8

9 **17. Acceptance of the Zionist Federation of Panama as a Member of**
10 **the World Zionist Organization**

11
12 In accordance with **Article 5, Section 2(a)** of the *Constitution of the World Zionist*
13 *Organization*, on the basis of the proposal from the Extended Executive,
14

15 **The Zionist General Council resolves:**

16 To accept the Zionist Federation of Panama as a Member of the World Zionist
17 Organization.