EVOLUTION OF UN TRANSFORMATION: GENDER ASPECT

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The worldview paradigm of the second half of the twentieth century determined the value orientations of human development as universal norms, actualizing the problem of the relationship between the general and the individual. It is the UN that presents the universals of gender policy, reflecting European values and principles, which were determined by the basic for human behavior, the structure of social relations, and common for both men and women.

To consolidate these rights at both the international and national levels, the organization has developed a number of international legal documents that have become the basis for the process of establishing equality for women at all levels of world development. First of all, it should be noted that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), Geneva Convention for the Protection of Civilians in Time of War (1949), Convention on Equal Remuneration for Men and Women for Work of Equal Value (1951), Convention on the Political Rights of Women (1952), The Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960), the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Age of Marriage and Registration of Marriages (1962), and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), the adoption of which was based on a long-term collection of information on the status of women around the world and was aimed at initiating the legislative consolidation by states of the legal and civil rights of women.

Under the influence of the feminist movement of the UN General Assembly, a number of World Conferences were held: the World Conference on Women in Mexico City (1975), the World Conference on Women in Copenhagen (1980), the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the UN Decade of Women: Equality, Development and Peace in Nairobi (1985) [8,9,10]. It should be emphasized that the Strategies and Action Plans developed at the conferences listed above have gone through several stages in their development - from looking at women almost exclusively in terms of their development needs to recognizing their significant contribution to the development process in general, striving to expand their rights and opportunities for full participation in all spheres of activity at all levels.

However, historical experience has shown that the traditional principles and methods of struggle for women's rights at the international and national levels proved to be ineffective, as evidenced by gender studies. Since the general principle of equality without distinction between men and women, properly justified in law,
often entails latent discrimination against the latter. Due to the difference in the social roles of men and women, de jure equality often leads to de facto discrimination, and the allocation of women’s rights to a special category of legal regulation, as was customary, to some extent limits their application within the framework of a social group.

The international community has finally recognized the need to shift the focus from the problem of the legal status of women to the problem of gender equality, to rethink the entire social structure and relations between men and women. The first step towards the implementation of this concept was the holding of the Beijing World Conference under the auspices of the UN in 1995, where the gender approach to the issue of equality between men and women was first tested at the international level [11]. Thus, the Beijing conference testified to the weakening of the influence of feminism on the world women’s movement and the transition from the struggle for women’s rights to the search for gender harmony.

The Beijing conference can be called the final link in the chain of world conferences and a concrete call to action for joint efforts at all levels, using an integrated approach to address a wide range of gender issues. The history of the past 25 years since the Beijing Conference allows us to recognize the existence of variable ways to achieve gender balance in society.

The historical dynamics in the context of which the UN activities developed led to the transformation of this organization into a truly international one, covering global gender problems, which opens up prospects for their solution at a qualitatively new level.

Sociocultural determinants of gender values and stereotypes of behavior that have developed in the context of certain national and regional traditions actualize the need to comprehend a new gender universal concept, dialectically combining the general and the singular, which will allow it to create a balance of gender relations.

References:

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