

5) **RESOLUTION ON VALUING PARENTING**

*Proposed by the New Zealand Federation of University Women*

The 26<sup>th</sup> Conference resolves:

that in recognition that people are a country's major resource and that to develop this resource effectively strong family structures are required, national federations and associations should continue to lobby their respective governments to value the status and role of parenting by:

1. **promoting the importance of ongoing educational opportunities for employment, voluntary work, leisure and family living including conflict resolution;**
2. **encouraging employers to make adequate provision for the recognition of the family responsibilities of their employees;**
3. **recognizing the work carried out by community-based services which support parents, children and young people.**

***Supporting statement:***

1. *While internationally countries are compared and judged on the basis of their economic growth, within countries the population is equally concerned about human growth and development and socialization. The Resolution aims to bring together national and individual interests in support of both these objectives and also reaffirms the following Resolutions passed by IFUW:*

*Resolution 14 1965 regarding opportunities in their country for graduate women who wish to return to professional work;*

*Resolution 8 1986 regarding how women can achieve the aim of advancing their status through paid work, voluntary work and other forms of social activities;*

*Resolution 2 1995 reaffirming the right to co-management between men and women in all areas, whether social, professional, economic, cultural or political.*

2. *In the Agreed Conclusions on Education and Training, signed by 74 governmental representatives and NGOs at the Forty-first Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York in March 1997, it was agreed that the linkage between education policies and labour market policies needed to be highlighted; that new allocation of responsibilities within the family need to be recognized; that adult education with a wide focus and woman-friendly was needed, and that training for establishing alliances between all partners, state employers etc needed to be improved.*
3. *At the New Zealand Population Conference held in Wellington 12-14 November 1997, Professor Ian Pool, Professor of Demography and Director of Population Studies at Waikato University, spoke of the need to integrate population factors into policy; recognizing both fiscal capacity and fiscal burden. It was pointed out that the fiscal capacity is enhanced when people are trained, skilled and working in paid or voluntary employment. At the same time it was acknowledged that, with young adults (in NZ) reproducing at 2.1 births per couple, it is necessary for both adults to be in employment, thus creating a need for employer and community support.*