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UN - Mrs. Shahani Correspondence A



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Women in Development - United Nations - Correspondence by Mrs. Shahani

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May 16, 1984

Dear Mrs. Shahani,

This is in response to your letter of April 20, 1984, reference (SD3012/23), concerning the review and appraisal of the United Nations system and specifically a report on the advancement of women in the United Nations system.

You will recall that in our letter of March 13, 1984, responding to yours of January 23, the Bank noted the problems (because of different ways of determining grade levels for staff) of responding to a questionnaire of the nature proposed. We also provided at that time, substantial documentation on the status of women in the Bank, both historical and current, as requested, with a full range of information relevant to your study.

The revised questionnaire presents the same problems, leaving us still unable to put information on the status of women in the Bank in the form required by this questionnaire. We believe, however, that the materials sent to you earlier convey the full information we are able to contribute on this subject, and unless there is some area of concern which is critical for your report and which is not covered by our earlier submission, I will assume that the latter fulfills the needs expressed in your current letter.

We thank you for your communication, and hope that our contribution will be useful in the preparation of the report to the World Conference.

Sincerely yours,

Vincent J. Riley
Adviser

UN/UNDP Liaison & Policy Coordination
International Relations Department

Mrs. Leticia R. Shahani
Secretary-General
World Conference to Review and
Appraise the Achievements of the
United Nations Decade for Women
United Nations
Vienna International Center
P.O. Box 500
A-1400 Vienna, Austria

cc: Maes: Francesca Stone (PMD)
Gloria Scott ((PPDPR) ✓

VJRiley/LPachter:rd

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REYURLET MAY 21, 1984, INVITING BANK TO INFORMAL MEETING VIENNA
12 JULY 1984, ON NATIONAL FAMILY POLICIES, REGRET BANK STAFF UNABLE
ATTEND. MRS. GLORIA SCOTT WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING MEETING
DOCUMENTS WHEN READY. REGARDS, BURNEY, INTBAFRAD

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OF
TEXT

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SUBJECT: National Family Policies Mtg. Vienna		DRAFTED BY: LPachter:rd	EXTENSION: 73595
CLEARANCES AND COPY DISTRIBUTION: cc: <u>Gloria Scott</u>		AUTHORIZED BY (Name and Signature): M.A. Burney	
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I borrowed these from
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in the States & Q and A
Comm for the Conference.

STATEMENT BY LETICIA R. SHAHANI
ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL
FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS,
AND SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE 1985 WORLD CONFERENCE
TO REVIEW AND APPRAISE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE
UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN

to the
Commission on the Status of Women acting as the Preparatory Body
for the 1985 World Conference to Review and Appraise
the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women:
Equality, Development and Peace, 2nd Session,
Vienna, 27 February - 7 March 1984

Madam Chairman, Mr. Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

I consider it a pleasure and an honour to address the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the Preparatory Body for the Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women at the opening of its second session.

I should like to reiterate my warm welcome to the members of the Commission on the Status of Women. I should also like to welcome the representatives of Member States who are present at this session as observers. In addition, I should like to extend a welcome to my colleagues from the United Nations system, the representatives of inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations. We, in the secretariat of the Conference, attach great importance to this session of the Preparatory Body. It is therefore heartening and reassuring to see a wide representation of parties concerned.

In my capacity as Secretary-General of the Conference, I am pleased to report that much has happened since the first session of the Preparatory Body last year. The Economic and Social Council in its decision 1983/132, and the General Assembly in its resolution 35/108, endorsed the recommendations of the Preparatory Body regarding the provisional agenda and documentation for the Conference. In addition, the General Assembly approved the budget for the preparatory activities for the Conference. Finally, the General Assembly decided to accept with appreciation the offer of the Government of Kenya to host the World Conference. I am sure I express the joy and pleasure many of us experience in anticipation of going to the beautiful capital of Nairobi and being welcomed by the Government and people of Kenya.

I. Provisional agenda

A. Agenda item 3

May I, at this stage, review the items of the provisional agenda. ~~Agenda~~ item 3 is entitled "Rules of Procedure of the Conference". The Preparatory Body will consider the draft provisional rules of procedure of the Conference contained in document A/CONF.116/PC/11. The draft rules have been modelled on the rules of procedure of the various United Nations conferences convened in recent years including the World Conference of the International Women's Year held in Mexico City and the mid-decade World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women held in Copenhagen.

It goes without saying that the adoption of the appropriate rules of procedure is of fundamental importance to the success of the Conference. I might add that once these are adopted, it seems incumbent upon representatives to the Nairobi Conference to become well-versed in the rules of procedure. An understanding of the mechanisms of the Conference will enable delegations to arrive at the desired goals and objectives of the Conference.

B. Agenda item 4

Coming to item 4 entitled "Outstanding questions on the organizational aspects of the Conference", I should like to draw your attention to some points. In paragraph 4, the note by the Secretary-General contained in document A/CONF.116/PC/12 refers to resolution 38/108 of the General Assembly in which the Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council regarding the provisional agenda of the Conference. The General Assembly, in the same resolution, considered that, within the framework of agenda item 7 of the provisional agenda of the Conference, as recommended by the Preparatory Body, particular attention should be paid to the problems of women in territories under racist colonial rule and in territories under foreign occupation, on the basis of appropriate documentation from the international conferences on women under the themes: equality, development and peace, held in Mexico City and in Copenhagen. It will be recalled that for the Copenhagen Conference, documentation was prepared in this connection,

on two subjects: one, the situation of women in Southern Africa, and two, the situation of Palestinian women. On the basis of discussions in the Third Committee at the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly on the above-mentioned resolution, it is my understanding that under item 7 of the provisional agenda, that is review and appraisal, the secretariat will be required to prepare an updated review on these two issues. In addition, the reports of the Mexico Conference and the Copenhagen Conference will also be made available under this item. The Preparatory Body might wish to provide clarification on this matter.

Concerning the dates of the Conference, the dates of 15-26 July 1985 were agreed upon in consultation with the Government of Kenya and the United Nations. As regards the question of whom the Secretary-General can invite to participate in the Conference, it will be noted that the formula presented in the note of the Secretary-General takes into account past practice in United Nations conferences, in particular, the two world conferences on women held in Mexico City and Copenhagen. I should also like to draw your attention to the fact that at conferences held away from United Nations Headquarters, it has been the practice to elect the head of the delegation of the host country as president. The 1985 Conference, therefore, will have the honour of having a citizen of Kenya to preside over it.

As regards the structure of the Conference, the Preparatory Body may wish to recommend that the Conference be composed of a plenary and two committees. I might add that this is based on the premise that the facilities in Nairobi meet these requirements. I am confident that the Preparatory Body is aware of the fact that the allocation of items of the provisional agenda to plenary and the two committees will have a major effect on the nature of the recommendations and conclusions of the Conference. It is my hope that the Preparatory Body will give, therefore, serious thought to the structure of the Conference and the allocation of agenda items, with a view to achieving the maximum results at the Conference itself.

C. Agenda item 5

May I now come to agenda item 5 entitled "Preparatory work on basic documentation to be submitted to the World Conference".

1. Report on the review and appraisal of the achievements of the Decade

As regards the preparation of the report on the review and appraisal of the achievements of the Decade at the national level, which is to be based on replies of Governments to the questionnaire transmitted to Member States by the secretariat last October, I should like to explain the thrust of the note by the Secretary-General, as contained in document A/CONF.116/PC/13.

The methodology and procedures for the preparation of the questionnaire and the analysis of replies of Governments have been selected so as to facilitate the full participation of the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations family, including the regional commissions. It is our hope that Governments will also encourage broad participation at the national level in order to provide comprehensive replies containing both quantitative and qualitative information on the progress achieved and obstacles encountered.

With respect to the content and structure of the report on the review and appraisal of the achievements of the Decade at the national level, it should be noted that it is largely our intention to follow the content and structure of the questionnaire so as to present in more detail the progress achieved, the obstacles encountered, and future trends and alternative strategies in respect to the various developmental sectors and issues referred to in the questionnaire.

I should like to highlight, at this juncture, the positive role played by a number of agencies and bodies of the United Nations system in the preparation of the sectoral aspects of the questionnaire; we deeply appreciate their commitment to undertake the analysis of their respective sectors. I should also like to express our gratitude to the United Nations Development Programme, including the Resident Representatives, for their effective assistance in following up action on replies to the questionnaire.

The Conference secretariat will prepare an overview of the report on the review and appraisal containing a general review and summary of progress achieved and obstacles encountered, with respect to the themes of the Decade: Equality, Development and Peace, and the sub-themes, employment, health and education.

It is in light of the foregoing that I should like to make a strong and urgent appeal for Governments to reply to the questionnaire and to meet the deadline of 29 February 1984 which is just two days away. I am pleased to note that several Governments have established national committees for their activities for the 1985 Conference, among which is the preparation of the replies to the questionnaire. This is a laudable idea and I hope that others will follow. As of 24 February we have received nine replies to the questionnaire: they are from Austria, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Federal Republic of Germany, Guatemala, Mexico, Tuvalu, Uruguay and Western Samoa. This is a short list. I should like to state that we in the Conference secretariat are worried at present about two things concerning the questionnaire: 1) that the replies will be received too late to enable the secretariat to meet the strict deadlines for the preparation of the basic documentation of the Conference; and 2) that there will not be the right proportion and combination of replies coming from developed, developing and least-developed countries. The replies of least-developed countries who may not be in a position to prepare answers to the questionnaire will be a very important element in both the review and appraisal exercise. I should like to appeal to Member States to help us solve this current and emerging problem.

2. Forward-looking strategies of implementation for the advancement of women

The objectives of the document on the forward-looking strategies as indicated in document A/CONF.116/PC/17 are to spell out measures of implementation for the advancement of women as well as concrete measures to overcome obstacles to the goals and objectives of the Decade.

A preliminary outline for this document contemplates five sections: an introduction; a section on global trends and perspectives that affect the advancement of women; three sections on national strategies of implementation of the Decade's goals of Equality, Development and Peace, including the sub-themes of employment, health and education; and a section on regional and international strategies. As I see matters evolving at this stage of conference preparations, it is my view that the forward-looking strategies, in addition to other resolutions which might be adopted at the Conference, could

form the main body of recommendations which the 1985 Conference might adopt. In essence, the forward-looking strategies as adopted by the Conference could constitute the future of the women's programme beyond 1985 at the national, regional and international levels.

The broad time frame for the strategies of implementation will be the fifteen years, from 1985 to the year 2000. It is foreseen that emphasis will be given to strategies for immediate action within a four-to-five year time frame and also within the context of longer-term perspectives, that is, up to the year 2000.

Consequently, the document will, inter alia, draw on: 1) the report of the Secretary-General on over-all socio-economic perspectives of the world economy to the year 2000 (A.37/211 and Corr. 1-4 and Add.1) as well as other related reports prepared by the secretariat; 2) the recommendations of the regional intergovernmental meetings for the Conference on the item of forward-looking strategies; 3) the world survey on the role of women in development; and 4) the report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the progress achieved during the Decade. I wish to inform you that in our inter-agency meeting which will take place from 8-9 March, members of the United Nations system will discuss, among others, the issue of forward-looking strategies.

I should like to make a strong appeal that during the discussion on item 5 of the agenda, careful thought be given by the Preparatory Body to the possible contents of the forward-looking strategies as well as to the status of the report as a document which will embody some of the major recommendations agreed upon by Member States at the Conference. In this connection, the Commission might wish to think about the institutional aspects of the forward-looking strategies (as indicated in paragraph 19 of document A/CONF.116/PC/17), including the future role of the Commission on the Status of Women and its relationship with other bodies within the United Nations system.

3. World survey on the role of women in development

The third basic document for the Conference is the world survey on the role of women in development, on which the Secretary-General has prepared a note contained in document AS/CONF.116/PC/14. The outline of the survey will consist of seven sections. The first section will comprise a summary overview. The overview will draw upon the analysis in each of the six other sections which will deal with the role of women in relation to agriculture, industry, trade and services, energy, money and finance, and science and technology. These seven chapters are being prepared by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations; the United Nations Industrial Organization; the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs including the Branch for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs; the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development; and the Institute for Training and Research for the Advancement of Women.

The collaboration between the Conference secretariat and the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies, has been very fruitful in this regard and the secretariat holds high expectations about the final outcome of their joint efforts. During the initial preparation of the survey, we have observed that the literature on the topics to be dealt with is fragmentary as regards women and the statistical data somewhat deficient. The world survey should, therefore, be considered as a challenging first step, and is expected to be indicative of the gaps in knowledge and the great quantity of work that remains to be done, in order to provide the foundation for a rigorous analysis to be undertaken in the future on the role of women in economic development.

4. Report on development of statistics and indicators on the situation of women

Another document which is before this body is a report of the Secretary-General entitled "Development of statistics and indicators on the situation of women and status of preparations of the compilation of selected statistics and indicators for the World Conference". I should like to congratulate the Statistical Office as well as the Institute for Training and Research for the Advancement of Women for their joint programme of work on

improving statistics and indicators on the situation of women, and for organizing the expert group meeting on improving statistics and indicators on the situation of women, in the preparation of which the Branch for the ~~Advancement of Women~~ participated. The Preparatory Body might consider ways and means of promoting the use of statistics and indicators on women in relation to its discussion on forward-looking strategies.

II. Regional and other activities

As regards regional preparatory meetings, all of which shall take place this year, I wish to inform you that the following will be held: 1) The ESCAP meeting to be hosted by the Government of Japan, in Tokyo, from 26-30 March 1984; 2) the ECA meeting to be hosted by the Government of Tanzania, in Arusha, from 3-7 September; 3) the ECE regional seminar on the role of women in economic development, to be hosted by the Government of Austria, in Vienna, from 15-19 October; 4) the ECLA meeting tentatively scheduled for November; ECLA has informed us that at the twentieth session of ECLA to be held 29 March-6 April in Lima, Peru, the invitation from the Government of Cuba to host the regional meeting will be considered; 5) the ECWA meeting to be held in Baghdad, tentatively scheduled for December.

With the exception of the ECE, all the regional commissions at their preparatory conferences, in accordance with their provisional agendas, will review and appraise the progress made in their respective regions and will propose forward-looking strategies. I would, nevertheless, wish to express the hope that the ECE, despite the more limited scope of its seminar, will nevertheless take into account how its recommendations can be considered as inputs to the third session of the Preparatory Body, in line with the structure of the recommendations to be submitted by the other regional Commissions.

Another important meeting being organized by the Conference secretariat is the inter-regional seminar on the situation of women in rural areas, to be held in Vienna, from 19-23 September. The report of this seminar, originally requested by General Assembly resolution 37/59, will be available for the Conference. This seminar is being organized in close collaboration with the

relevant specialized agencies and aims at formulating, in the context of existing trends and national activities which have been particularly successful in the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas, strategies to improve the situation of rural women in several sectors.

III. The special trust fund.

May I at this stage refer to the special trust fund for the World Conference, the establishment of which was recommended by the Preparatory Body and subsequently endorsed by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. I am happy to report that a number of countries have already made contributions or have announced their intention to support the fund. The Federal Republic of Germany, France, Japan, Madagascar, Oman and some private donors have made contributions. Up to now, the equivalent of roughly US\$ 260,000 has thus been donated. This sum is encouraging but it corresponds mostly to staff support in the form of an expert and a junior professional officer, provided by the Governments of Japan and Italy, until the end of 1985. At present, cash funds available represent less than US\$ 20,000.

Urgent requests for assistance have, for example, already been received by the Conference secretariat from the Resident Representative of Barbados to assist ten of the smaller Caribbean countries to reply to the questionnaire on review and appraisal. Our colleagues from the regional commissions, especially the Economic Commissions for Africa, Asia and Western Asia, are requesting assistance for the least developed countries to participate at the regional preparatory meetings; it is feared that without such assistance the least developed countries would not be able to attend either the regional meetings or the World Conference itself. Furthermore, any other services required for the preparations of the World Conference not provided for in the regular budget will draw upon the special trust fund.

The Preparatory Body should, I believe, face the facts. First, many of the least developed countries will not be in a position to complete the questionnaire for the review and appraisal. What kind of report, it might be asked, can be prepared in this situation when one of the objectives of the

Conference is for the international community to give attention to countries which need assistance?

In the same line of thought, we should re-examine the purpose of the regional inter-governmental preparatory meetings for which an important part of the Conference budget has been allocated if most least-developed countries and small states are not able to send delegations. The examination of the issues of review and appraisal and the forward-looking strategies at the regional level would be severely affected by such a problem. Finally, for the Conference to call itself a World Conference would be a misnomer if all countries were not present because of financial difficulties.

Since the budget for Conference preparations has already been approved, there is a need for some flexibility at this stage, to allow us to meet unforeseen problems and emergencies. All in all, distinguished delegates, we are thinking of an additional sum of about US\$ 500,000 for the special trust fund. I would like to appeal to donors to seriously consider helping to implement the mandates at this crucial stage of the Conference which, because of lack of funds, are in danger of not being fully realized.

IV. The Non-Governmental Forum

Subject to further clarification from the delegation of Kenya, I have been informed that it has been decided that the NGO Forum would be held from 1-10 July 1985 in Nairobi. I am aware that the Kenyan Committee for NGOs and the Planning Committee for NGO activities for the World Conference have been working hard to finalize plans for the NGO Forum. The NGO Planning Committee has held two meetings, one in Geneva last September, and another in New York in December. A third meeting is planned for Vienna, which will be held from 8-9 March at the Vienna International Centre. I am confident that the inputs of the non-governmental organizations before and during the World Conference will be valuable. I also wish them well in their efforts in organizing their own global forum in Nairobi. The presence here of many representatives of non-governmental organizations who are also tested friends of the Commission indicates their interest in and support for the goals of the World Conference.

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Distinguished delegates,

I believe the second session of the Preparatory Body presents an opportunity for members of the Commission to clarify and enrich their thinking on how the goals of the Decade: "Equality, Development and Peace" can be interrelated.

With regard to peace, there should be no doubt that women affect and are affected by the great political movements of our time such as the elimination of racial discrimination; the struggle against colonialism, against foreign aggression and foreign intervention; the establishment of the new international economic order. It should also not be forgotten that in many countries of the world the liberation of millions of women from bondage was closely linked with the long struggle of their countries to be free from foreign domination. Indeed, many outstanding women leaders in the world have participated courageously in their countries' fight for independence, economic nationalism and social justice. For these reasons, the issue of peace was chosen to be one of the three objectives of the Decade. In this connection, I should like to mention that 1986 has been declared the International Year of Peace by the United Nations General Assembly. This should afford the international community an opportunity to develop further its ideas on the question of peace.

The issue of development, concerned as it is with the elimination of poverty and the raising of the levels of living of the world's masses, also affects and has been affected by the role of women in development. The problems of unemployment, hunger, illiteracy, and lack of primary health care devastate the lives of millions of women who live in grinding poverty. They cry out to the United Nations for attention and help. The sub-themes: employment, education and health underline some of the basic requirements of women the world over. Linked with the subject of development are the goals of the new international economic order, the establishment of which women have a definite part.

In addition, the goal of equality and the related issue of respect for human rights of women and the elimination of discrimination against women remain important. Although much has been achieved in legislation as symbolized by the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women on the part of many Member States, the need to

initiate concrete measures and create appropriate conditions to implement the Convention in terms of the right to equal remuneration, identical legal capacity for men and women, equal rights to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children, etc. remains great. How to enable women to combine their family and career responsibilities in an ever-changing world still remains a universal problem which exists both in developed and developing countries. In addition, although legislation to eliminate discrimination exists in many countries, much remains to be done in changing attitudes as regards the position and role of women within the framework of national cultures and traditions. Furthermore, more studies are required on the applicability of United Nations standards relating to the status of women in the light of the diversity of socio-economic and cultural norms.

The challenge is to envisage the themes of equality, development and peace as closely interrelated, each affecting the other. In a spirit of collective responsibility towards the success of the Conference, Member Governments, together, even those with differing political positions could find a balanced and realistic approach to the three themes.

Within the comprehensive framework of the goals of the decade, the Preparatory Body could give thought as to how the Conference can attain its goals. Although the issues to be discussed are many, varied and multi-dimensional, the time at the disposal of the Conference is limited. The Conference, as proposed, will be held from 15-26 July but in reality there will be only eight working days; the period for the Conference in Nairobi is shorter than what was available for Copenhagen and Mexico. This Preparatory Body might wish to address itself to the question of what can be realistically achieved within this very short span of time. Therein lies a major challenge. What is at stake is the future of the women's programme after 1985 at the national, regional and international levels.

Looking back in retrospect, some thirty-eight years ago, in 1945, when the Commission on the Status of Women was designated as a nuclear sub-commission of the then nuclear Commission on Human Rights, the Preparatory Body, I am confident, realizes that the women's issue at the United Nations has gone a long way. From what was a little-known programme which had low priority within the United Nations, it has evolved over the years into a major programme receiving considerable political support. The United Nations Decade for Women itself has given birth, if I may use the imagery of

imagery of motherhood, to three institutions: the Voluntary Fund for the Decade for Women; the United Nations International Institute for Training and Research for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW); and the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). But we should not mistake these modest achievements as the culmination of the women's programme; on the contrary, the Conference should point the way to adopting a long-term programme which can consolidate and develop further the gains of the Decade.

In order that there can be a clearer idea among Member States about what can be achieved in Nairobi in a realistic and meaningful manner, it seems there is a need for constructive dialogue at the national, regional and international levels.

At the national level, there seems to be need for dialogue between women's non-governmental organizations and government national machineries and/or focal points for women. Another kind of important dialogue which could take place at the national level is between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and government national machineries for women. In this way, the women's issue can be examined from a multi-dimensional viewpoint. I am aware that such consultations sometimes take place among Member States but it is my observation that this kind of dialogue could be further developed in many ways; such a process initiated at the national level would in fact enable and encourage the effective participation of women in the promotion of international peace and co-operation.

At the regional level, it is natural to expect that the regional preparatory meetings, all of which will be held this year, will provide the forum for regional exchange and dialogue. In addition, sub-regional organizations could serve as useful vehicles for the exchange of views on common problems and aspirations.

At the international level, institutions such as the United Nations as well as the structures for the East-West, North-South, South-South dialogues, could be utilized. In addition the network for bilateral diplomacy could be used. The institutions for dialogue exist and, given the complexity and importance of the issues involved, could be utilized for the purposes of the Conference.

I place considerable emphasis on the need for dialogue which could take place before the global Conference opens in July 1985, so that misunderstanding can be avoided, misconceptions clarified, and common objectives arrived at, despite differences in political positions.

Before concluding, I wish to summarize the points I have made in this statement which would contribute to a meaningful outcome of the Conference: (a) the political will of Member States to act in a spirit of co-operation to ensure that effective recommendations for the programme for women beyond 1985 will be based on broad support; (b) dialogue at the national, regional and international levels before the Conference takes place in order to encourage consensus; (c) successful regional preparatory meetings; (d) the important role of the Host Government; (e) comprehensive replies to the questionnaire on review and appraisal submitted in time; (f) preparation of quality documentation on the part of the Conference secretariat with the participation and co-operation of the relevant members of the United Nations system; (g) the support and participation of the United Nations system; (h) the efficient organization and management of the Conference by the United Nations; (i) the contribution of inter-governmental organizations, and (j) the contribution of non-governmental organizations. To this list I would also add the important role of the media in providing the type of information which would help to foster positive results from the Conference.

As your Secretary-General, I should like to pledge our very best efforts in the Conference secretariat to carry out the mandates entrusted to us. We hope we shall have your continuing support, understanding and confidence.

Distinguished delegates, I wish you every success in your deliberations.

(p. 22)



Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.6/1984/4
23 December 1983

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Thirtieth session
Vienna, 15-24 February 1984
Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda*

REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE WORLD PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR AND THE PROGRAMME
OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR
WOMEN DURING THE PERIOD 1982-1983

MEASURES TAKEN BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF ORGANIZATIONS
AND BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, PROGRESS MADE IN THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW STRATEGIES FOR WOMEN AND WORK AIMED AT
THE FOLLOW-UP AND HARMONIZATION OF ACTIONS OF VARIOUS BODIES
OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Technical co-operation activities of the United Nations system
for the advancement of women

Progress report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report contains the information supplied by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on technical co-operation activities for the advancement of women.

* E/CN.6/1984/1.

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INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 1982/19 of 4 May 1982, the Economic and Social Council recommended that "the General Assembly should request all specialized agencies and other relevant organizations, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, to consider including special financial components, within existing budgetary resources, in their technical co-operation programmes for the development of women in the economic field, enhancing the entrepreneurial and technological capacity of women, particularly in the co-operative and non-traditional sectors and in developing countries", and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirtieth session on the implementation of that resolution.

2. At its thirty-seventh session, the General Assembly adopted two resolutions in which it further addressed the overall issue of technical co-operation for the advancement of women. In its resolution 37/57 of 3 December 1982, the General Assembly called upon the Secretary-General to encourage specialized agencies and regional commissions which had not yet done so to develop a comprehensive policy regarding the concerns of women, both as participants and as beneficiaries, in technical co-operation and development activities and to develop a strategy to ensure that women were an integral part of those activities. The Assembly urged those organizations to take every appropriate action within existing resources to monitor the implementation of the above-mentioned policies and strategies and to help disseminate that information upon request to Member States and other interested parties. Finally, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to carry out all the activities called for in that resolution within existing resources and to submit a progress report to it at its thirty-eighth session.

3. In its resolution 37/58 of 3 December 1982, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, called upon Governments, the organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations to pay increased attention to the need to take practical measures to implement the relevant recommendations of the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women and, in particular, to expand technical co-operation activities which would ensure women's full and equal participation, as agents and as beneficiaries, in all sectors and at all levels of development. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its thirty-eighth session on the steps taken to implement that resolution.

4. In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 37/58, and keeping in mind Assembly resolution 37/57, the Secretary-General submitted a report to the Assembly at its thirty-eighth session (A/38/146). That report contained information on the action taken by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to implement the relevant recommendations of the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women and, in particular, to expand technical co-operation activities for the advancement of women. It also provided information on the steps being taken by the Secretary-General to obtain information from Governments and organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, in that regard.

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5. The present report contains information submitted by the following organs and organizations of the United Nations system: 1/ the United Nations Secretariat (Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, Department of Public Information; United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)); United Nations bodies (voluntary programmes and funds of the United Nations: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and World Food Programme (WFP)); and research and training institutes and centres of the United Nations: United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and United Nations Asian and Pacific Development Centre; and specialized agencies of the United Nations (International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)). 1/ Replies were received from the World Food Council and the World Meteorological Organization indicating that they had no technical co-operation activities for the advancement of women funded from the regular budget. It should be noted that the reports of FAO and WHO before the Commission at its present session (E/CN.6/1984/6 and E/CN.6/1984/8) also contain information on technical co-operation activities for the advancement of women.

I. UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT

A. Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

6. The Department of Technical Co-operation for Development is essentially an executing agency for technical co-operation activities and not a financing agency. Thus, the main scope for action by the Department in relation to women in development lies in promoting and helping to formulate and implement relevant technical co-operation activities within projects and programmes falling within its areas of responsibility. On an extremely limited scale, there is some scope for action through the use of the Department's regular programme resources.

7. To encourage the inclusion of women in all development activities within its specialized fields, the Department has followed two basic approaches. First, it fosters the inclusion of women as agents and beneficiaries in as many of its projects and programmes as possible, when necessary assisting in the identification and formulation of special project activities. Secondly, arising from its responsibility for technical co-operation in the field of development planning and its related role in assisting, as requested, in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) country programming exercise, the Department is able to promote attention to women's needs on a multisectoral and interdisciplinary basis at the planning stage of overall national economic and social development. Substantive guidelines and special institutional arrangements help mobilize and direct action within the Department. To promote action at the country level, a special earmarking of regular programme resources is maintained to permit the Department for example, to provide advisory services to governments in identifying and

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formulating appropriate projects or project additions, carry out pilot activities which establish project viability, and otherwise engage in special activities in response to particular opportunities and needs related to the integration of women in development.

8. As a result of these multidimensional approaches, the Department has succeeded in developing, and assisting in the implementation of, various kinds of technical co-operation activities (mostly project additions) which help to integrate women in development. These include, for example, special training arrangements for women built around existing project training and future employment opportunities. They also include assistance for institutional changes to enhance the participation of women in decision-making and their access to the benefits of development. Another important area of work for the Department is the improvement of statistics and indicators on the situation of women. Still another area relates to income-generating activities. In all of these cases, considerable scope for specific activities geared to women results from the essential focus of all of the Department's technical co-operation programmes: strengthening national capabilities through training and institutional change.

9. The number of the Department's activities directly related to women has been growing, albeit at a slow pace. While governmental requests and support for these activities have increased, implementation of the activities is deeply affected by the decline in the resources for development. The Department can suggest specific approaches, and demonstrate their feasibility and potential for contributing to developmental goals, but it is the recipient governments that decide how their increasingly scarce developmental resources are to be used.

10. Overall, progress has been achieved in terms of identifying and successfully implementing activities responsive to the needs of women over a growing spectrum of the Department's projects. In the past, the Department's work in the fields of community development, statistics, population and integrated rural development have, in relation to other sectors, lent themselves most easily to addressing the needs of women. Activities related to women have now been extended to the fields of public administration, development planning and natural resources.

11. The Department's experience with each activity related to women provides models and lessons for identifying and implementing future activities. Given the many competing claims for resources for development, it becomes increasingly important to draw attention to the specific results of activities related to women, especially in terms of their linkages and contributions to overall development.

B. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

12. The United Nations programme of advisory services for the advancement of women administered by the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and its Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs is based primarily on General Assembly resolution 926 (X) of 14 December 1955 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1680 (LII), of 2 June 1972, in which the Assembly and the Council call for three categories of activities:

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(a) Seminars on matters related to the work programme of the Commission on the Status of Women (convened at the international, regional and national levels);

(b) Fellowships for women involved in activities designed for the advancement of women;

(c) Advisory services of experts related to projects concerned with the advancement of women (especially to the follow-up in practical ways of the recommendations of the seminars cited in subparagraph (a), at the request of governments).

13. Since the programme was established in 1955, the Department has convened or provided assistance to 31 seminars on questions pertaining to the advancement of women. Since the biennium 1978-1979, the programme has been co-ordinated closely with the regional commissions. Three regional technical seminars were planned for 1983 on the theme of forward-looking strategies of implementation for the advancement of women up to the year 2000 and were to be held as follows: Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Bangkok; Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), Santiago; and Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA), Baghdad. In 1984, another three regional seminars will be held.

14. In addition, a number of fellowships have been awarded. During the first half of the United Nations Decade for Women, 30 fellowships were given to women from Bolivia, Botswana, the Central African Republic, Egypt, India, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Swaziland, Togo and Turks and Caicos Islands to undertake activities for the advancement of women. The Secretariat, after consultation with the regional commissions, has agreed to award 12 fellowships during the period 1983-1984 to outstanding women, especially from the least developed countries in each region, to assist the regional commissions in the preparation of draft forward-looking strategies and to participate in the regional technical seminars convened by each of the regional commissions. In October 1983, two fellowships were awarded to women from China and Western Samoa, to assist ESCAP in the preparation of background papers for and to participate in the Seminar on Forward-Looking Strategies of Implementation for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific (held at Bangkok from 28 November to 2 December 1983). The Secretariat is presently making arrangements for the award of other such fellowships in 1983 and in 1984.

15. Finally, during the first half of the United Nations Decade for Women, 18 experts have been made available under this programme to governments, at their request, to advise on numerous questions regarding the advancement of women and, in many cases, as a follow-up to the recommendations of the technical seminars which have made practical proposals for action in this regard. The Secretariat is planning to provide the Governments of the least developed countries in each region, at their request, with advisory services on questions pertaining to the advancement of women, and especially to implement the recommendations of the technical and action-oriented seminars convened under this programme.

16. During the past year, the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, which is also administered by the Department, has continued to support new

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projects, as well as to put greater emphasis on monitoring and evaluation, including external evaluation, to review the achievements of ongoing projects coming to maturity. The forward-looking assessment of Fund-assisted activities was brought to its final intensive stages so that its results could be made available to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session. Furthermore, the design of the Knowledge Bank was initiated to provide easily accessible information on "what has been learned" in addition to "what has been done" through support from the Voluntary Fund. Moreover, in addition to continuing to provide programming assistance for the development of new projects and for evaluations which have been financed through the Voluntary Fund for some time, a second type of programming mission was initiated with the aim of reallocating existing project resources within UNDP-financed projects in order to make the necessary consideration for women.

17. The Consultative Committee of the Fund, at its thirteenth and fourteenth sessions, proposed policy guidelines for the use of Fund resources and reviewed requests for support. During the past year, nearly 200 requests for support were received. Of these, 98 were approved following the recommendations of the Consultative Committee for financing or for preparatory stages. Fifty-two of these were valued at more than \$US 20,000 and the remainder consisted of small-scale projects, additional input to ongoing activities or programming missions. The project proposals were widely reviewed within the United Nations system. In this regard, the recommendations of the Consultative Committee at its thirteenth and fourteenth sessions were as follows:

Region	Thirteenth session	Fourteenth session	Total projects ^{a/}	Total value (United States dollars)
Africa	14	23	37	1 619 264
Asia and the Pacific	8	12	20	994 549
Latin America and the Caribbean	10	15	25	1 350 972
Western Asia	3	6	9	650 335
Global	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>25 335</u>
TOTAL	36	56	92	4 640 704

^{a/} Exclusive of some projects financed from discretionary funds (less than \$US 20,000).

18. The projects for which assistance has been given include those on improved technologies for smoking fish in several countries, together with loan funds to improve the marketing capacities of women. Improved wood-burning stoves are an integral component of the drought control activities in the eight countries of the Sahel region, for which assistance is provided by the Fund. In Malaysia, workers' education for young women who have migrated from the countryside is also supported

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by the Fund. In Western Samoa, Sri Lanka and Swaziland, community loans are used as collateral to provide small-scale loans from development banks for income-raising group activities.

19. The Department also executes technical co-operation projects in statistics in the following fields which are of particular concern to the development of statistics on women: statistical training and population and housing censuses, household surveys and vital statistics, and general social statistics and indicators. Working in co-operation with the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, the Statistical Office is responsible for providing substantive support for all projects in statistics and statistical data processing. Within this responsibility, the Statistical Office seeks to promote the development in countries, within their major statistical programmes, such as population censuses and household surveys, of statistics suitable for monitoring the role and status of women and for assessing and planning the participation of women in development.

C. Department of Public Information

20. The Department of Public Information has only a limited involvement in technical co-operation activities. However, the following activities are worthy of mention: the Division for Economic and Social Information of the Department is organizing, with extrabudgetary resources, an international women's television series (the working title of which is "Women and development") which will enhance the role of women in economic development in two basic ways. First, it will increase the technical skills of women television producers. Twelve women producers, six from developing countries and six from developed countries, will each make one half hour of television programming on issues of concern to women in their countries. Both before and after the filming of their material, the women will meet together to exchange ideas, information and expertise. It is hoped that this experience will enable the participating producers to become more skilled in their craft.

21. Secondly, the series, which will be screened on the television networks of the 12 participating countries, will endeavour to debunk some of the stereotypes about the role of women in development. It will attempt to give a realistic portrayal of the role and concerns of women in society, thereby avoiding stereotyped attitudes about women and emphasizing the need for the full participation of women in the development process, both as agents and beneficiaries. Because of the powerful effect that television has in moulding people's attitudes, it is important that this medium accurately reflect the perspective of women. It is hoped that this series will also help to foster an awareness of the need to improve the economic condition and role of women as a necessary prerequisite for improving their status.

D. United Nations Industrial Development Organization 2/

22. During 1982, the UNIDO Inter-divisional Working Group on Integration of Women in Industrial Development continued its endeavours and, as in previous years, the main focus of its work was on the creation of increased awareness among staff

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members, both at headquarters and in the field, of the need for greater emphasis on the integration of women in development. In this connection, the Working Group was able to achieve a steady expansion during 1982 of the range of technical co-operation activities concerned with the advancement of women, including a number of programmes organized jointly with INSTRAW. The Group also participated in the evaluation of ways and means of enhancing the involvement of women in UNIDO technical co-operation programmes - an exercise aimed at increasing consciousness among senior officers in developing countries of the importance of taking into consideration the interests of women, as well as their potential, in connection with industrialization programmes.

23. Technical co-operation activities related to the integration of women in industrial development can be divided into two categories. The first category consists of projects of a general nature which have a decisive impact on the employment and advancement of women; the second comprises projects specifically tailored to promote the integration of women in development.

24. Indicative of the first category of projects are the UNIDO programmes in the field of textiles and export-processing zones. In 1982, UNIDO undertook three projects in the garment industry, in which a high proportion of female labour is employed: expertise was provided to the South Indian Textile Research Association, the Textile Development Centre at Alexandria, Egypt, and the Société d'économie mixte in Senegal. These projects are expected to promote both the garment industry and female employment in these countries, while at the same time strengthening the technical and managerial skills of women working in the industry.

25. A large-scale project was formulated by UNIDO in co-operation with the Government of Viet Nam, which was aimed at improving the maintenance procedures and production management practices in selected textile factories in the south of that country. It is estimated that 60-70 per cent of the labour employed in this industry are women. The project, which has a UNDP input of \$2 million, encompasses the reconditioning of machinery, the setting up of maintenance schemes, as well as the introduction of training programmes in which a high percentage of women will participate.

26. In the field of export-processing zones, UNIDO continued to provide assistance to the Greater Colombo Economic Commission of Sri Lanka and, in 1982, introduced the second phase of this project. Assistance was focused on strengthening the Katunayake industrial processing zone and included the provision of advice to the Commission on regulations directed at ensuring optimal working conditions in the zone. The zone employs 25,000 people, of which approximately 80 per cent are women. While stimulating the export earnings of the country, the project is also creating greater employment opportunities for women.

27. Another project was formulated in 1982 for the Gambia, where a group of 250 villagers in the Dalsilami area - most of whom are women - are producing sea salt by antiquated methods. UNIDO will be offering assistance over the next two years to improve production methods, introduce a transport system for marketing the salt and to train rural villagers in sea-salt production. The project will assist the Government in achieving its objective of self-sufficiency in salt production; the Gambia currently imports 90 per cent of its salt requirements from Senegal.

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28. The above projects are illustrative of the UNIDO technical co-operation activities that have an impact on the employment and advancement of women; they do not provide, however, an exhaustive description of this type of activities.

29. A number of projects specifically designed to advance the integration of women were formulated and implemented during 1982. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has committed itself to a programme of rural industrialization, with heavy emphasis placed on small-scale production. As part of this programme, UNIDO, in co-operation with the Tanzanian Small Industries Development Organization, has formulated a project to assist the development of ceramic technologies for rural areas. The purpose of this project is to recommend appropriately scaled technology for pottery and ceramics, identify major sources of raw materials and markets and prepare small-scale prototypes of locally produced machinery to be employed by the model-village pottery units. Since pottery traditionally and almost exclusively is a woman's craft in the United Republic of Tanzania, the project will serve to upgrade the skills of female potters in the rural areas. The project for the development of a leather goods unit at Isanga, approved in 1982, was also tailored to upgrading the skills of women in the rural areas of the United Republic of Tanzania.

E. United Nations Environment Programme

30. Through its Industry and Environment Office, UNEP has proposed with other agencies to involve women in two projects for the preparation of: (a) guidelines on post-harvest food-loss activities; and (b) an overview of traditional post-harvest technology for perishable tropical staple foods. In addition, UNEP, through its Regional Office for Africa, has specific programmes which are intended to involve women in national and regional environmental management programmes.

II. UNITED NATIONS BODIES

A. Voluntary programmes and funds

1. United Nations Children's Fund 3/

31. During the biennium 1982-1983, UNICEF searched for innovative low-cost solutions to problems in developing countries, especially in the fields of child nutrition and primary health care which, together, offer the potential for a "child health revolution" in a relatively short span of years. It is within the context of the "basic services strategy" for providing women and children with a range of community-based health, educational, water and sanitation, and social welfare services that UNICEF is pursuing the "child health revolution". The key element in this basic services strategy is community participation, and UNICEF has emphasized that the integration of women in community-based services is especially important, since their participation can have a significant impact on the quality of life for their children.

32. In this context, UNICEF technical co-operation activities for the advancement of children and women are extended through a multisectoral approach encompassing both the technical and social elements of programmes. For 1982, UNICEF reported a total expenditure of \$213.1 million (United States dollars) on the following programmes by sector: basic health (\$51 million); water supply (\$60.1 million); nutrition (\$19 million); social services for children (\$15.6 million); formal and non-formal education (\$29.1 million); planning and project support services (\$22 million); and emergency relief (\$16.3 million). The greatest increase in expenditure was for water supply (\$33.6 million more in 1982 than in 1978) and numerous technical co-operation projects in this sector have had a significant impact on the advancement of women.

33. For example, UNICEF described one major project for the Mueda plateau in northern Mozambique. Traditionally, women on this plateau have had to trudge for miles to fetch water. A \$US 3.5 million project, half of which was financed by UNICEF, was undertaken to pump water to standpipes in 35 villages on this plateau.

2. United Nations Development Programme

34. On the basis of its mandate as a funding and co-ordinating organization for technical co-operation, and in accordance with the numerous decisions of the General Assembly and the governing bodies of the United Nations system, in particular those of its Governing Council, UNDP continues to promote the participation of women, as agents and beneficiaries, in the technical co-operation activities supported by it. Since the allocation of UNDP resources for such activities is determined by country programmes prepared by recipient Governments, it is not possible for UNDP to include "special financial components ... for the development of women in the economic field", as recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1982/19. In view of the common need to include women as active participants in all stages of development programmes if these are to achieve their intended objectives, UNDP programming procedures do not constitute an obstacle to promotional activities. On the contrary, there is ample opportunity to take account of the role that women should play during the design and technical appraisal of project proposals.

35. Since the preparation of an earlier report (A/36/485), in response to paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 35/137 of 11 December 1980, UNDP has undertaken a new study of the integration of women in development (DP/1982/16). This study is a follow-up to UNDP Evaluation Study No. 3, Rural Women's Participation in Development (summarized in document DP/453) which was a joint inter-agency undertaking. Consequently, the more recent report also contains input from all relevant member organizations of the United Nations development system namely, FAO, the IFAD, ILO, UNESCO, UNIDO, the World Bank, WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP. To avoid duplication, the present summary is limited to UNDP activities in the areas not covered by that report.

36. On the basis of a first attempt to quantify the participation of women in UNDP-supported projects, it was estimated that close to \$29 million had been explicitly devoted to such activities during the seven-year period 1974-1980.

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Since this constitutes no more than 0.9 per cent of the total assistance provided by UNDP during that period, it was concluded that there was room for a substantial increase in the participation of women in development. At the same time, it should be noted that many factors tended to, and are likely to continue to keep the participation of women in UNDP-supported development projects at a relatively low level. At this stage, a few of these factors may be identified. First of all, the participation of women, was narrowly defined as their direct participation in the design and implementation of project activities, or their specific identification as intended beneficiaries. The goal was, in other words, to try to obtain a rough measure of the growing but still very limited deliberate efforts made to bring women into the mainstream of societal change and development. Women may, of course, benefit indirectly from many developmental changes, although often not to the same extent as men. (Conversely, development and change may easily be a negative factor in people's lives, an experience that tends to affect women particularly severely.) No attempt was made to measure this indirect impact. Secondly, women's issues as defined often do not enter into the development projects supported by UNDP. A growing number of countries have, for example, decided to use the limited amount of UNDP resources available to them for high-technology projects. While women may play important roles in such projects, there is usually no opportunity to provide special assistance to women in such projects. A very large proportion of UNDP assistance would be affected by considerations such as these. In addition, to the extent that special resources become available for technical assistance to women, it seems inevitable that governments will try to utilize these first and reserve UNDP funds for other purposes.

37. It may be noted that the sectoral distribution of the number of and allocations for projects clearly puts agriculture, forestry and fishing in the leading position. It was found that 18.5 per cent of all projects estimated to involve women actively were in this sector and that close to 27 per cent of the financial resources were allocated to it. Although no comparative figures are available at this time, UNDP feels confident in suggesting that these figures indicate a significant increase that may be attributed to the growing awareness of the important role of women in agriculture and in rural development in general.

38. To be able to assess these matters with greater precision, UNDP has initiated further studies which will update earlier estimates and which are also likely to modify the results. Research in this area is a rather costly and time-consuming undertaking since activities involving women span all sectors and usually appear as integrated components in many diverse kinds of projects.

39. A key finding of the evaluation study, Rural Women's Participation in Development, was that special programming assistance was required if the goal to increase women's participation in development were to be realized. This would require action in three main areas, namely, staff training, the institutionalization of procedures to ensure the participation of women in project activities, and the provision of guidelines and instructions to field staff. In respect of staff training, two main types of activities have been undertaken by UNDP. In the autumn of 1980, UNDP was, on the basis of prior inter-organizational consultations, instrumental in bringing the need for staff training in relation to

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women in development to the attention of the Sub-Committee on Staff Training of the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. After a fruitful discussion of the subject, the Sub-Committee agreed "that there was a need to give increased attention to these problems. It would be for each organization to act, within the resource constraints which governed all training activities, to review possible activities aimed at fostering a better awareness of the problems of women in development. It also agreed that organizations should wherever possible consult with each other on suitable methods of achieving this goal ...". 4/

40. The implementation of this recommendation can take different forms and had, in fact, begun before the subject of women in development was taken up by the Sub-Committee on Staff Training. Thus, UNDP has for some years included sessions on the participation of women in development in its training courses for programming staff of various categories. UNDP has also suggested to its field offices that collaboration with United Nations-affiliated research and training institutes in the undertaking of relevant seminars and workshops, and with certain projects, in particular regional undertakings with a training component, may offer suitable training opportunities.

41. In February 1983, the Staff Training Programme of UNDP offered for the first time, in close collaboration with the World Bank, a workshop devoted exclusively to the subject of women in development. Using an analytical framework especially designed by the Bank, the participants systematically examined project-design issues from the point of view of women's role and activities in the relevant areas. The workshop met with great interest and was judged very useful by the participants.

42. In respect of the institutionalization of procedures to ensure the participation of women in project activities and the issuance of guidelines and instructions to all relevant staff, UNDP has not felt any need to take any action beyond that indicated in the previous report (A/36/485).

43. In addition, UNDP has been able to provide special programming assistance to four southern African countries through a Junior Professional Officer, whose post is financed by the Government of Denmark and who is stationed at Lusaka, Zambia. By means of periodic visits she is also working in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Negotiations are under way with a view to extending this type of service to other regions through the assistance of other Governments. UNDP is also providing four women's affairs officers through its regional programme in Africa to the multinational programming and operational centres at Gisenyi, Lusaka, Niamey and Yaoundé.

44. Apart from promoting the participation of women in development projects supported by it, UNDP plays an important and substantive role in the management of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women. Thus, all Fund-supported projects at the country level, which currently constitute about 90 per cent of all assisted projects, are processed and appraised by the more than 110 UNDP field offices. In addition, UNDP headquarters staff, technical advisers and area specialists are involved in the appraisal of both regional and national

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projects. Finally, once a country-level project has been approved, UNDP assumes responsibility for its implementation for a fee of 1.5 per cent, a purely nominal charge. A mutual advantage of this close collaboration is that it facilitates the joint efforts of UNDP and the Fund to promote the participation of women, together with men, in the larger-scale technical co-operation programme of UNDP.

45. UNDP is playing an active role in the activities of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, the inter-organizational Steering Committee for which is chaired by the Deputy Administrator of UNDP. Efforts to safeguard women's interests in projects and programmes initiated under the aegis of the Decade cover a variety of activities, including substantive input into the work of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Women that was created in 1982. Since June 1983, preparatory work has been under way on an interregional project entitled "Promotion and support for women's participation in the Water Decade", which is funded by the Government of Norway. The objective of the project is to promote awareness and support among Governments and development agencies of the value of involving the community or end-users, particularly women, in the planning, execution and subsequent maintenance of water supply and sanitation schemes. The preparatory phase is dedicated to information gathering and detailed planning of the next three-to-four-year phase of the project, the implementation of which is expected to begin in early 1984.

46. For the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women to be held in 1985, UNDP is participating in an inter-organizational evaluation study of technical co-operation that will be presented to the Conference. Since UNDP has been asked to co-ordinate the study, it may also be appropriate to provide herein a brief summary of the undertaking. In so doing, it has no intention of in any way pre-empting the subject.

47. The evaluation study was initiated as a result of a series of consultations among representatives of a number of organizations that together represent a very large part of the United Nations development system. On an informal basis, the consultations were begun during the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women held in 1980. Final agreement on the undertaking was reached in March 1983. The participants include FAO, IFAD, ILO, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, the World Bank, WFP and WHO.

48. The key objective of the study is to evaluate the means, modalities and effects of the efforts made to promote a more active and deliberate involvement of women in development, based on governmental projects and programmes supported by the participating organizations. Specifically, the evaluation will be concerned with the achievements of technical co-operation projects in four countries, of which three (Rwanda, Indonesia and Haiti) were also included in the evaluation study, Rural Women's Participation in Development, while Democratic Yemen will be substituted for the fourth country (Syrian Arab Republic) in the previous study. The evaluation will mainly be based on field studies of ongoing projects.

49. The ultimate purpose of the study is to formulate recommendations for improved strategies for technical co-operation activities aimed at promoting the participation of women in development.

50. The joint evaluation study is not meant to take the place of individual agency reports. The intention is rather to demonstrate that the system, through collaboration and by virtue of the complementarity of the mandates of its member organizations, can and, it is hoped, does offer effective technical assistance to member governments. It is expected that it will be possible to show that even in the short period of the Decade - short, given the nature of the problem - the collectivity of the effort made by the system has contributed significantly to the increased participation of women in development in the countries in question.

51. The report to be issued on the study will mainly contain the case studies of the four countries covered. The case studies will present sectoral reviews, preceded by a country profile, which will provide a wider perspective of the development problems within which to judge the project evaluations.

52. Sectors to be covered by the evaluation include the following: rural development; agriculture; forestry and fisheries; transport; education and training; energy; industrial development; employment; drinking water supply and sanitation; communication and information; scientific and technological training and research; population policies and trends in relation to development; health; nutrition; and institutions and administration.

53. One chapter of the report will summarize the key findings and recommendations of the study, both generally and by sector. Findings of special relevance to governments and to the United Nations will be dealt with separately.

54. UNDP will publish the report on the study as part of its thematic evaluation programme.

3. United Nations Fund for Population Activities

55. The scope of UNFPA support for various population and development-related programmes of developing countries is based on: (a) the needs as perceived by the national Governments; (b) the directives for programme support as established by the Governing Council of UNDP; and (c) the availability of funds. The basis for developing a comprehensive population programme for each country is the conducting of a needs assessment and programme development exercise. This could be considered as a joint planning effort involving the Government and UNFPA. From this early stage, the needs and situation of women in the country concerned constitute one of the major areas for review and discussion. Once these needs are identified, the actual programme development takes place. Within this context, activities benefiting women, as well as enhancing their participation, can be divided into three major categories:

(a) Projects aimed at increasing the socio-economic opportunities for women. These are usually part of a comprehensive programme, the objective of which is to provide women with some educational and training opportunities. The areas covered include health, child care, nutrition, family planning and skill development. It has been shown that these types of activities are all closely related to the status of women, their fertility behaviour and the well-being of their families;

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(b) Projects aimed at enhancing the participation of women in non-traditional jobs. Among these are training in various aspects of health and family planning information and delivery systems, and the management and supervisory aspects of such activities;

(c) Projects for women as beneficiaries. These include such components as family planning information, education and communication, as well as services. The educational component is divided into two major sections: education for girls attending schools and that for women out of school.

56. Special efforts have been made, including the preparation of specific guidelines, to ensure that within these categories of projects women are given the opportunity to participate in the various stages of planning, as well as in the implementation of the activities.

57. The financial support provided by UNFPA to the above-mentioned types of activities constitutes more than three quarters of its programmable funds.

B. Research and training institutes and centres

1. United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

58. The work programme of INSTRAW implemented during the biennium 1982-1983, as well as that envisaged for the biennium 1984-1985, contains a number of projects that correspond particularly to the aims of Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/19. Some of these projects are:

(a) A research project for maximizing the utilization of available statistics and indicators on the situation of women. In this regard, two studies were completed by consultants of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in April 1983. The second phase of this project will comprise a series of follow-up activities to the research findings which will focus on training at the regional level;

(b) Preparations are under way for a seminar to be held in December 1983 on the incorporation of women in development planning. High-level national planning officers will meet to discuss the problems encountered in the integration of women in the economic and social development planning process. They will also examine the possible means to ensure the full participation and integration of women in development planning;

(c) The Institute launched its fellowship programme in 1983. The aim of this programme is to increase women's skills and to help them to acquire new ones. The Institute allocated and spent \$50,000 for the fellowship programme in the year 1983. The programme was carried out mainly in co-operation with the regional commissions to train women from the regions;

(d) INSTRAW and UNIDO are carrying out two projects on training women entrepreneurs and preparing methodological guidelines to incorporate women in industrial programme activities;

(e) INSTRAW is participating in a joint inter-agency task force on enhancing the role of women in the implementation of the objectives of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade and is preparing for an interregional seminar on the role of women and the Decade, which is to be held in 1984.

2. United Nations Asian and Pacific Development Centre

59. The Management Board of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Development Centre, at its second meeting held at Kuala Lumpur from 18 to 20 August 1981, approved the work plan for the Centre's programme on the integration of women in development. The two projects selected for implementation during 1982-1984 are:

(a) Adopting planning methods to integrate women in development programmes (including fostering the participation of women in decision-making processes and structures);

(b) Training courses in business management for women.

60. The two projects were selected keeping in view the urgent need of governments to devise appropriate strategies and policies for enhancing the participation of women in development. Their immediate objective is to assist the member and associate member countries of ESCAP:

(a) To appreciate the need to improve the relevance and realism of their development plans by integrating women into such plans and to take appropriate measures in that connection;

(b) To provide opportunities for women as individuals and as groups to improve their functions as producers and entrepreneurs and thus promote their self-reliance.

61. During the period July-October 1982, two reports were completed under the programme on the integration of women in development. The reports, entitled "Women and development planning" and "Note on the training of women in business management", elaborated the research and training agenda of the two projects. In this regard, the Centre presented its schedule of meetings and training programmes for the advancement of women:

(a) National training course on women in business management (Dhaka, Bangladesh, March 1983);

(b) Regional consultative meeting on planning methods to integrate women in development (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, April 1983);

(c) Subregional training course on women in business management (Dhaka, Bangladesh, July 1983);

(d) Planner's meeting on women and national development plans (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, November 1983);

(e) Subregional training course on women in business management (Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, February 1984);

(f) Expert group meeting on revaluation of women's work (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, April 1984);

(g) Regional workshop on women's participation in decision-making processes and structures (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, May 1984).

C. Joint United Nations/FAO programme: World Food Programme

62. Among the priorities of WFP during the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women are the following: overcoming constraints to the participation of women in WFP-assisted projects; designing projects partly or primarily for women; monitoring the progress made in achieving these goals; and evaluating the impact of food aid on women beneficiaries, both in terms of the direct benefits from project activities, such as the construction of wells, nutritional programmes, fuel-wood lots, and in terms of the nutritional and economic improvement in women's status.

63. The Programme has appointed a staff member to undertake, as part of her duties, the role of focal point on women in development activities. An inter-divisional working group meets periodically to monitor the progress made in incorporating women into WFP-assisted project activities. Training seminars for headquarters and field staff have included discussions of the topic of women in development.

64. Instructions and guidelines have been issued which direct the inclusion of specific reference to women beneficiaries and activities to benefit them in all project documents, field reports and progress reports. In project formulation, increasing attention is being paid to the role of women in food production. In that sector, WFP-assisted projects specifically aimed at women beneficiaries are being implemented in, among other countries, Guatemala, Honduras and the Gambia. Economic activities for women, including handicrafts and small animal husbandry, are being provided with WFP food aid in such countries as Bolivia, Egypt, Guatemala, Algeria and Indonesia.

65. The terms of reference of WFP inter-agency evaluation missions include the participation of women in development. The members of such missions include specialists in that area when a significant proportion of project activities include women as beneficiaries. For example, a WFP/ILO mission visited Egypt in February-March 1983 to evaluate the women's economic activities component of a large-scale settlement and land reclamation project.

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IV. SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

A. International Labour Organisation

66. A questionnaire was sent out at the beginning of 1982 to all ILO regional and area offices, which were asked to obtain replies from experts engaged in the implementation of technical co-operation projects; 141 replies to the questionnaire were received and processed. 5/ The replies relate only to projects which were operational at the time of the survey.

67. The total budget for all the projects in question was \$187,105,262, broken down by region as follows: interregional: \$1,219,867; Asia: \$100,460,087; Africa: \$41,782,586; Latin America: \$26,576,510; Europe: \$1,949,667; Middle East: \$15,116,545.

68. Resources for projects targeted exclusively to women and for the "women's" components of other projects amounted to \$8,437,003, broken down by region as follows: interregional: \$587,000; Asia: \$3,545,834; Africa: \$1,768,206; Latin America: \$151,300; Europe: \$175,000; Middle East: \$2,119,663. At the global level, the budget for activities concerned solely with women represented 4.5 per cent of the overall budget, which is obviously very little when one considers that in 1975 women accounted for 32.8 per cent of the active population in the least developed regions alone (35 per cent worldwide) 6/ and that 30.8 per cent of the projected increase in the active population in those same regions between 1980 and 1985 is linked to the increased economic activity of women. 7/ It should not be inferred from these figures, however, that the technical co-operation activities of ILO affect only 4 women for every 100 men. That would be too simplistic a view of the way in which technical co-operation influences national institutions and its ultimate impact on the life of the local people. Nevertheless, given the great disparity which exists in many countries between the condition of men and that of women, owing in particular to the lag in the participation of girls and women in education and vocational training, and the considerable role which women play in the economic life of their countries, that proportion was not very high.

69. Regions differ substantially with respect to the share of resources allocated for activities for the advancement of women: 3.52 per cent for Asia; 4.23 per cent for Africa; 0.56 per cent for Latin America; 14.02 per cent for Europe; and 14.02 per cent for the Middle East. The factors which come into play in this connection are many and varied: better prospects for financing in some regions (the Middle East and Europe, in particular); varying degrees of resistance on the part of Governments; the existence of large-scale projects which help to increase this proportion (such as the SIDA/ECA/ILO project on the development of handicrafts in Africa, which accounted for 44.7 per cent of the total budget of "women's" projects and components in Africa, and the SIDA project on vocational training for women in India, the budget of which represents 73.5 per cent of all resources allocated for such projects in Asia); distance from headquarters, making exploratory missions more difficult; language barrier; etc.

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70. Where there were "women's" components in projects, their budgets were generally modest and accounted for between 6.4 per cent in the case of a project on population and employment in Africa and 49.3 per cent for a project aimed at developing co-operatives in Turkey, the average being around 11 per cent of the budget for the projects under consideration.

71. Among the findings of the study was that many of the projects covered by the survey were very general in nature and, as such, did not facilitate an identification of beneficiaries by sex. Projects designed to improve an employment service, develop labour statistics or devise a social security system, for example, are very general in scope and transcend any limited category of workers. They are also intended to have an impact well beyond the duration of the project, extending over several generations of workers, men and women alike. Thus, one project involving the establishment of a national vocational training service cannot be judged solely by the effect it has had on the few national officials who worked with the experts or benefited from their training. If the project has been well designed and adapted to the country's needs, future generations of young people will be the ultimate beneficiaries, and it will be impossible to determine how many will have been affected by it or break down that number by sex.

72. The replies from the experts, nevertheless, clearly showed that, in seeking to integrate women in technical co-operation projects, a kind of vicious circle was encountered. Many projects provided assistance to countries to improve governmental machinery, training institutions, co-operatives, the operation of rural and professional organizations, and so on, and yet the number of women associated with such machinery, institutions and organizations was very small, with the result that women were virtually excluded from the scope of a great many projects. The gap between their knowledge and skills and those of men, far from being narrowed by international assistance, may thus be perpetuated, if not widened. 8/

B. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

73. Numerous technical co-operation projects for the advancement of women are executed by FAO in such fields as economic and social issues (women and food systems in Africa; community action for disadvantaged rural women; rural organizations and the role of women; planning and policy analysis; statistics; population in rural development; household energy and technology; food policy and nutrition); agriculture (women and land and water development: women and village irrigation and water management training; animal production and health; credit and marketing programmes for women; plant production and protection); fisheries (women's co-operatives and the improvement of their fish handling, drying and marketing; women and income-generating skills for fishery handling and processing; fish products and increasing protein consumption among women refugees; and guidelines on the inclusion of women's activities in fisheries projects); and forestry (role of women in dealing with forestry-related problems of poor rural communities; fuel wood and energy development for the advancement of women). 9/

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74. There has recently been a considerable broadening of emphasis in FAO activities for the advancement of women in the economic and social areas. The implicit assumption of the former approach was that rural women were mainly home-makers whose role in economic production was secondary and did not merit separate study. FAO activities in this area have gradually been redirected to an approach which views women in their multiple roles as parents, providers and producers. Thus, the technical assistance it provides to governments is now aimed at helping them achieve more benefits from the economic, as well as the social and reproductive role of women. Another main aim is to help governments to formulate their policies and planning using relevant base-line data which so often have been lacking and which are particularly important for the newly established "national machineries for women".

C. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization 10/

75. Under its participation programme, UNESCO has undertaken action-oriented projects related to the participation of women in development and population activities, financed by UNFPA. Examples of these projects are the work with the Syrian Women's Federation, the Union des femmes maliennes, the activities with the social welfare centres for women in Bahrain and the launching of the women's features services. All of these projects have ensured the active participation of women on a status equal to others in the community. The projects in the Syrian Arab Republic, Mali and Bahrain have helped women in those countries to undertake training for handling community-level activities of concern to them, for example, maternal and childcare, nutrition and income-generating activities, and participation in the mass media programmes. The project for the women's features services is run by women and all of its correspondents and feature writers have been women. The features have dealt with various aspects of the status of women in traditional societies, the problems they face, the misunderstanding which exists as to their true role in society, the potential contribution they can make to development, as well as population-related issues. Over 1,200 articles and features have thus far been published in newspapers and magazines and many broadcasting organizations have used this material in their programming.

76. In addition, UNESCO is providing assistance in five experimental educational projects designed to prepare girls and women for broader participation in socio-economic development in Democratic Yemen, Ghana, Nepal, Bangladesh and Togo; the projects in the latter three countries are being financed from extrabudgetary funds.

77. In addition, UNESCO has co-operated with a number of member States in educational projects designed to increase the participation of women in development. This co-operation has taken the form of providing: (a) a consultant to carry out a study on the situation of women and their role in economic and social development (Brazil); (b) assistance related to a summer course for 21 women from rural areas on the theme "Traditions and innovations" (Haiti); (c) assistance with regard to equipment for centres for the advancement of women, particularly in the field of training and further training (Guinea); (d) equipment for teaching about and the application of new technologies related to production of basic goods

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(Guyana); (e) assistance for a training course for those in charge of women in rural areas (Syrian Arab Republic); (f) assistance for a subregional workshop on women's education and training for development (Lesotho); and (g) a consultant to assist the General Secretariat for the Status of Women in preparing and implementing programmes of non-formal education for women in rural areas (Zaire).

78. It should be added that UNESCO is endeavouring to promote the widest possible participation by women in all of its training activities. In the fellowship programme in particular, a certain increase may be noted in the number of fellowships awarded to women: 17.29 per cent in 1981, 20.58 per cent in 1982 and 23.36 per cent in 1983. About 50 per cent of these fellowships are awarded to women from the Asian region. The fellowships are mainly concerned with education, and then with the natural sciences and the social and human sciences. On the other hand, few fellowships are awarded to women in the fields of culture and communication. The fact remains that the number of women receiving fellowships is still very low compared with the number of men. It is important in this connection that governments should make a greater effort to nominate more women as candidates for the training courses, seminars, exchange programmes, fellowships and the like, organized or administered by UNESCO, in order to attain a fair balance between women and men as quickly as possible.

D. World Bank

79. In paragraph I of its resolution 1982/19, the Economic and Social Council recommended that the General Assembly should request the specialized agencies to consider including special financial components in their technical co-operation programmes specifically directed to women. The World Bank reported that its budgetary and operational procedures do not allow for separate financial allocations to be made for special population groups, including women. However, the World Bank indicated that all of its assisted technical co-operation projects are carefully monitored by its Adviser on Women and Development to ensure: (a) that adequate consideration is given to the participation of women and to the sharing of benefits; (b) the minimal adverse impact on women; and (c) that its staff, as well as borrowers, are aware of such issues in the appraisal and implementation of projects.

80. Consequently, in the area of women and development, the World Bank has provided technical assistance, mainly through staff support, in the identification of issues dealt with in lending activities (i.e., project preparation and implementation). For example, in 1983, a \$10 million second technical co-operation project in the United Republic of Cameroon included a component for the socio-economic development of women.

81. The Bank further reported that it would submit a report on its efforts during the United Nations Decade for Women to ensure the involvement of women in its technical co-operation projects. The Bank also related that, in collaboration with UNDP and other agencies, it was evaluating projects in selected countries for inclusion in a report to be submitted to the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women. It likewise

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reported that it intends to prepare a photographic essay illustrating the roles of women in development.

82. Among its activities, the Bank cited training projects including the continuation of a series of women-in-development workshops for bank staff; studies and profiles of rural women in Bangladesh, Brazil and Kenya and in related rural development activities; education and non-formal education provided through project work and an agricultural training and visiting system. It noted several projects that included activities related to women. The Bank stated that it encouraged the systematic review of projects as regards their impact on women and the integration of women in the development process. The role of women in development had been given particular consideration in social sector lending (i.e., population, health and nutritional projects). Finally, the Bank reported that it was currently designing guidelines for the consideration of issues relating to women and development in the appraisal of its projects.

E. World Health Organization

83. The aim of WHO activities related to women, health and development is the integration or incorporation of a women's dimension within ongoing programmes rather than the creation of a separate programme.

84. A meeting of the focal points for women, health and development within WHO was held in August 1982. The group formulated the following objectives and groups of activities, as part of the Health for All strategies: 11/

(a) Improve women's health status:

- (i) Review and identify problems;
- (ii) Give greater visibility to women's health priorities;
- (iii) Raise the level of awareness of the interrelationships between women, health and development;
- (iv) Define women's perspectives within the Health for All strategies;

(b) Increase resources for women's health:

- (i) Promote expanded primary health care that is appropriate to women;
- (ii) Encourage social legislation, services and other measures to support women;
- (iii) Promote health care for women as workers;

(c) Facilitate women's health care roles:

- (i) Define the extent and value of women's roles at all levels;

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- (ii) Promote the means to lessen the burden of women's health work;
 - (iii) Promote action to increase the participation of women in decision-making and policy development at all levels;
 - (iv) Promote equal opportunities for women in education, training, remuneration etc., as health care providers;
 - (v) Encourage and support the mobilization and organization of women in health and primary health care;
- (d) Promote equality in health development:
- (i) Identify and promote the responsibilities of men in primary health care, both in the family and the community;
 - (ii) Improve health educational materials in order to reflect the roles of men.

F. International Fund for Agricultural Development

85. The mandate of IFAD is to reach and benefit directly the most vulnerable of the rural population, the small and landless farmers whose role in agriculture and food production is predominant in most of the developing countries. Women cannot be disassociated from this target group. IFAD is fully aware of the importance of the role of women in rural development. The responsibilities of women in the food cycle - production, processing, marketing, storage, selection, preparation and nutrition - are well recognized. IFAD in its lending policies and criteria specifically provides that the promotion of the role of women in food production will also receive attention.

86. While the financial activities of IFAD are focused on the rural poor as a whole, attention is given both to activities related to the integration of women in development and to ensuring that these activities have a positive impact on the economic and social betterment of rural women. IFAD is also aware of the need to focus on rural women not only as part of the rural poor but as a social group. Thus the IFAD operational guidelines on monitoring and evaluation speak of both inter-household and intra-household differentials in project effects and impact. Intra-household variations in effects and impact are not difficult to study but can be extremely time-consuming and costly, especially for a project-based monitoring and ongoing evaluation team. The most important aspects to be studied will usually be the effect of the project on the labour input of various household members (especially in communities in which there is a rigid demarcation of male and female roles), and the differential health and nutrition standards among women and children.

87. Where a large number of holdings are small and uneconomic, the supply of input and the provision of incentives will not be sufficient to ensure progress unless the problem of organizing and directly reaching the rural poor, including women, is

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resolved. Also, the involvement and active participation of the rural poor, including women, is fundamental to the success of rural development. As stated in the Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, "Rural development strategies can realize their full potential only through the motivation, active involvement and organization at the grass-roots level of rural people, with special emphasis on the least advantaged, in conceptualizing and designing policies and programmes and in creating administrative, social and economic institutions, including co-operative and other voluntary forms of organization for implementing and evaluating them". 12/

88. IFAD has funded projects which included such components as the training of groups of village women to prepare them for administering the facilities to be provided for collective use at the village level and to develop their skill in jobs and handicrafts which can supplement family income and strengthen their position in the community. Some other projects provide for the local organization of agricultural and community work to ensure the active participation of all concerned, to give all members of household equal access to land resources, water, credit and the input to agricultural production, and thereby help to promote the further participation of women in the development process.

89. With the active participation of women at the village level, an efficient marketing system can minimize losses between the production and consumption centres, thus ensuring a better return to producers and reasonable prices for the consumers.

90. Increased attention has been paid by IFAD to livestock development projects which help to develop the dairy and cattle industry, increase the supply of locally produced livestock feeds and thus improve rural resources. Poultry meat and egg production, using captive flock techniques, can be managed by rural women and is generally quite profitable around large towns.

91. IFAD has been giving and will continue to give special attention to measures to improve the status of rural women and to ensure their full participation in the development process, both as agents and beneficiaries of development. IFAD encourages women to participate and contribute on an equal basis with men in rural development and to share fully in the improved conditions of life in rural areas. With the aim of women's betterment, many of the projects financed by IFAD have components for the development of the water supply and the domestic woodland, as well as the improvement of the health and nutritional levels of the local population. IFAD has also financed small maternity hospitals, dispensaries, village wells and the establishment of cereal banks through the village development funds, all of which have a direct bearing on women.

92. One good example of an IFAD-funded project with significant components of women's participation is the Grameen Bank Scheme component of the small farmers agricultural credit project in Bangladesh, which concentrates on the landless. The basic idea is to make credit available to the landless who have no access to conventional credit because they have few or no tangible collateral assets. The credit is made available to them against group liability when they form voluntary informal groups for income-generating activities. Since about one half of the

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population of Bangladesh is landless, the Grameen Bank Scheme represents a major experiment for alleviating the poverty of the poorest segments of the rural population. The Grameen Bank Scheme began in November 1979. As of May 1982, a total number of 4,886 groups with a total membership of 24,276 landless farmers have been formed. Of those receiving loans, 21,558 (nearly 40 per cent) were landless women who received 28 per cent of the total amount disbursed (taka 17.8 million).

93. Similarly, in the small farmers' development project in Nepal and the agricultural marketing and credit project in Lesotho, components relating to the role of women in development are well developed. The Jahaly and Pacharr smallholders project in the Gambia introduces the technology and management necessary to improve rice production while it eases the workload of women as both farmers and mothers by building, equipping and staffing two day-care centres for children. Many other projects financed by IFAD include components designed to involve and benefit rural women.

Notes

1/ For the United Nations Asian and Pacific Development Centre and for FAO, UNESCO and WHO, the information was extracted from that already available.

2/ The information contained in this section has been largely extracted from the report of the Executive Director of UNIDO, entitled "Integration of women in development: UNIDO activities in 1982 designed to secure greater involvement of women in industrial development" (ID/B/298).

3/ The information contained in this section has been extracted from Facts about UNICEF, 1983 (document available from UNICEF) and The State of the World's Children, 1982-83 (document available from UNICEF; also published by Oxford University Press, 1982).

4/ ACC/1980/PER/43, para. 17.

5/ "The impact of technical co-operation activities on women" (ILO/W.7/1983).

6/ Source: "The participation of women in economic activity in the world" (Geneva, International Labour Organisation, 1980).

7/ International Labour Office, Labour force estimates and projections, 1950-2000, 2nd edition (1977), vol. IV, table 5 and vol.V, table 5.

8/ ILO/W.7/1983.

9/ See also the report of FAO on its activities of special interest to women (E/CN.6/1984/6).

10/ See also "UNESCO's contribution towards improving the status of women: report of the Director-General" (22 C/17).

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11/ These objectives and activities are viewed as forming part of the ongoing programmes of WHO, including those concerned with technical co-operation activities for the advancement of women. See also the report of WHO on its activities of special interest to women (E/CN.6/1984/8).

12/ Report of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Rome, 12-20 July 1979 (WCARRD/REP, part one; also circulated under cover of a note by the Secretary-General (A/34/485)).

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.6/1984/3
16 January 1984

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Thirtieth session
Vienna, 15-24 February 1984
Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda*

REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE WORLD PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OBJECTIVES
OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR AND THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR
THE SECOND HALF OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN DURING THE
PERIOD 1982-1983

MEASURES TAKEN BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF ORGANIZATIONS
AND BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, PROGRESS MADE IN THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW STRATEGIES FOR WOMEN AND WORK AIMED AT
THE FOLLOW-UP AND HARMONIZATION OF ACTIONS OF VARIOUS BODIES
OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Implementation of new strategies for women and work
aimed at the follow-up and harmonization of action
of the various bodies of the United Nations system

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report has been prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/38 of 2 May 1980 and contains a review of the progress made in the implementation of new strategies for women and in the activities of the United Nations Secretariat aimed at the follow-up and harmonization of action of the various bodies of the United Nations system which contribute to the promotion of the rights of women.

* E/CN.6/1984/1.

UNITED
NATIONS

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INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/38 of 2 May 1980, in which the Council requested the Branch for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat to provide, for each session of the Commission on the Status of Women, a progress report on implementation of new strategies for women and on its work aimed at the follow-up and harmonization of activities of the various bodies of the United Nations system, including institutes and regional commissions, which contribute to the promotion of the rights of women.
2. Section I of the present report contains a review of the promotion of major new strategies adopted by the General Assembly as a result of the recommendations made by its subsidiary bodies and by related special conferences convened under the aegis of the United Nations system. Section II contains a survey of the relevant action taken by the specialized agencies and the organizations of the United Nations system to implement new strategies for women. Section III contains a summary of aspects of the activities of the Branch for the Advancement of Women aimed at the follow-up and harmonization of activities of the various bodies of the United Nations system, including institutes and regional commissions, which contribute to the promotion of the rights of women.
3. A number of the specialized agencies and the organizations of the United Nations system indicated that they would provide such information to the Commission acting as the Preparatory Body for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace at its third session, in connection with the preparatory work on the review and appraisal and the elaboration of the report on forward-looking strategies of implementation for the advancement of women during the period up to the year 2000.
4. As part of the process of prior consultation for the preparation of medium-term plans and programme budgets, the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization drew the attention of the United Nations Secretariat to the specific sections of their respective plans which concerned new strategies for women. This information is summarized in section II of the present report. It should be noted that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization have submitted separate reports on their respective activities for the advancement of women to the Commission on the Status of Women at its present session (see E/CN.6/1984/6 and E/CN.6/1984/8) which also refer to new strategies for women as set forth in their medium-term plans. The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women has also provided information.
5. Finally, in section III of the present report there is a brief discussion of the action taken by the Branch for the Advancement of Women aimed at the follow-up and harmonization of activities which contribute to the promotion of women's rights under the five categories of activities set forth in part three of the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women. 1/

I. ACTION TAKEN BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND RELATED SPECIAL CONFERENCES TO IMPLEMENT NEW STRATEGIES FOR WOMEN

6. It should be recalled that, during the first half of the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1980), the principal new strategies for women were embodied in the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975, 2/ and the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year, 3/ both of which were adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975. Subsequently, during the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women (1980-1985), the principal new strategies for women at the international level were set forth in the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, 1/ adopted by the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held at Copenhagen from 14 to 30 July 1980 and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 35/136 of 11 December 1980. In addition, regional plans of action for the integration of women in development had been adopted, prior to the 1975 World Conference, for Asia and the Pacific 4/ and for Africa, 5/ and were subsequently adopted for Latin America 6/ and Western Asia. 7/ The regional plans of action were reviewed by regional meetings held as part of the preparations for the 1980 World Conference, and regional programmes of action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women were formulated. 8/ Subsequently, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women 9/ entered into force on 3 September 1981.

7. The above constituted the major new strategies for women at the international and regional levels prior to the period under review in the present report (1982-1983).

8. It should also be recalled that there have been other recommendations made by intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations and special conferences convened under the aegis of the United Nations which, while not solely concerned with the advancement of women, nevertheless make specific reference to women or certain strategies of direct relevance to the advancement of women and their role in development.

9. For instance, of particular relevance to the first half of the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1980) were the following: the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade; 10/ the Declaration and Programme of Action on the establishment of a New International Economic Order 11/ and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. 12/ In addition, relevant strategies were also adopted in 1974 by the World Food Conference and the World Population Conference. 13/

10. In 1976, world conferences were held on human settlements, on employment, income distribution, social development and the international division of labour and on economic development between developing countries. In 1977, world conferences were convened on water and on desertification; in 1978, on the struggle against racism and racial discrimination, on technical co-operation between developing countries and on primary health care; and in 1979, on agrarian reform

and rural development and on science and technology for development. Information on the recommendations of relevance to the advancement of women made by these conferences is contained in document A/CONF.94/19 and Corr.1-2 which was submitted to the Copenhagen Conference in 1980. In addition, note should also be taken of the activities undertaken as a follow-up to the International Year of the Child (1979) and to the proclamation in 1980 of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990).

11. Similarly, for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women (1980-1985), the following international instruments are of particular relevance: the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, 14/ the resolution on women and industrialization adopted by the Third General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, 15/ the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy 16/ and the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries. 17/

12. It should also be noted that in the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, 18/ adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/52 of 3 December 1982, it is stated that:

"The consequences of deficiencies and disablement are particularly serious for women. There are a great many countries where women are subjected to social, cultural and economic disadvantages which impede their access to, for example, health care, education, vocational training and employment. If, in addition, they are physically or mentally disabled their chances of overcoming their disablement are diminished, which makes it all the more difficult for them to take part in community life. In families, the responsibility for caring for a disabled parent often lies with women, which considerably limits their freedom and their possibilities of taking part in other activities." 19/

13. In terms of prevention, attention is drawn in the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons to the fact that most developing countries have yet to establish a system for the early detection and prevention of impairment through periodic health examinations, particularly for pregnant women, infants and young children. Furthermore, in terms of national action, the World Programme of Action sets forth guidelines for co-ordinated programmes of prevention of impairment, disability and handicap at all levels of society and notes, in this regard, the role of women. Finally, it addresses the question of community action and cites the importance of enlisting "the active participation of local government bodies, agencies and community organizations, such as citizen's groups, trade unions, women's organizations, consumer organizations, service clubs, religious bodies, political parties and parents' associations."

14. In the foreword to the Vienna International Plan of Action on Aging, 20/ adopted by the World Assembly on Aging in 1982 and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/51 of 3 December 1982, it is acknowledged that the Plan of Action should be considered an integral component of the major strategies and programmes formulated by the international community. It is further stated that the question of aging and the aging of populations is directly related to the attainment of the objectives of, inter alia, the World Plan of Action for the

Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year and the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women. In the introduction to the Plan of Action, evidence is cited that women will increasingly constitute the majority of the world's elderly population. It is also stated that men of the age of 60 could expect an average of over 17 years of further life in the developed regions by 2025 and of over 16 years in the developing regions. Women could expect about an additional 21 and 18 years, respectively. In addition, concerning principles, the Plan of Action states that "Governments, non-governmental organizations and all concerned have a special responsibility to the most vulnerable among the elderly, particularly the poor, of whom many are women and from rural areas". Regarding recommendations for action, the Plan addresses the impact of aging on development and states that the interrelationship between the employment and income needs of the young and the elderly raises particularly acute problems for women, whose longer life expectancy may mean an old age aggravated by economic need, isolation and with little or no prospects for paid employment. The Plan of Action contains a series of recommendations in areas of concern to aging individuals and since women constitute the majority of the elderly, all of these recommendations deserve special attention (health and nutrition, protection of elderly consumers, housing and environment, family, social welfare, income security and employment, and education). For women involved in the treatment of aging, the Plan of Action contains further recommendations dealing with data collection and analysis, training and education, and research. Finally, there is a series of recommendations for implementation at the international and regional levels, and provision is made for the assessment, review and appraisal of the Plan of Action.

15. Another strategy for the advance of women is contained in the Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace and Co-operation. 21/ The General Assembly, in proclaiming that Declaration, recalled that the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975, states that women have a vital role to play in the promotion of peace in all spheres of life: in the family, the community, the nation and the world. However, the Assembly also noted that, despite progress towards the achievement of equality between men and women, considerable discrimination against women continued to exist, thereby impeding the active participation of women in promoting international peace and co-operation. In this context, the Declaration contains 14 articles which address various political, economic, social, cultural, religious and legal aspects of the issue and conclude by urging Governments, non-governmental and international organizations, including the United Nations and the specialized agencies, as well as individuals to do all in their power to promote the implementation of the principles contained in the Declaration.

16. In this context, it should be noted that article 12 of the Declaration stresses the practical application of these principles to specific problems:

"All appropriate measures shall be taken to provide practical opportunities for the effective participation of women in promoting international peace and co-operation, economic development and social progress including, to that end:

(a) The promotion of an equitable representation of women in governmental and non-governmental functions;

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(b) The promotion of equality of opportunities for women to enter diplomatic service;

(c) The appointment or nomination of women, on an equal basis with men, as members of delegations to national, regional or international meetings;

(d) Support for increased employment of women at all levels in the secretariats of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, in conformity with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations".

17. The work programme of the United Nations Secretariat for 1984-1985 includes a subprogramme on the participation of women in international co-operation and peace, of which one element is concerned with the strengthening of the role of women in peace-building. In carrying out this work, the Secretariat embarked on a series of studies in preparation for the holding of an ad hoc expert group meeting to identify priority areas for the role of women in peace-building. The meeting of the expert group was held at Vienna from 5 to 9 December 1983.

18. As regards new strategies, it should be noted that the Secretary-General submits biennial reports to the General Assembly on United Nations personnel questions which treat many of the issues raised by article 12 of the Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace and Co-operation (especially subpara. (d) thereof regarding the employment of women in the United Nations Secretariat) and has been requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/235 B of 21 December 1982, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), to invite organizations to continue to provide updated information on the recruitment, promotion and assignment of women in each organization, and to invite, through ACC, the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system that have not already done so similarly to take concrete steps to guarantee compliance with policy directives concerning the recruitment, promotion, career development and training of women, as well as other aspects of the employment of women.

19. As a result of the Secretary-General's concern for the child-care needs of the United Nations community, a task force on child care was established in May 1982. The task force succeeded in its efforts to implement a child-care programme for United Nations Headquarters, as announced by the Assistant Secretary-General for Personnel Services in an information circular (ST/IC/83/58) of 1 September 1983. The United Nations Child-Care Centre, Inc., began operation on 17 October 1983 as an independent not-for-profit organization. Initial funding for the Centre was made available through the United Nations, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

20. Finally, in addition to the strategies and follow-up activities cited above, a number of events in the biennium 1984-1985 are expected to have relevance to the formulation of new strategies for women. In August 1984, the International Conference on Population will be held at Mexico City. Likewise, it is anticipated that both the various meetings and activities associated with the International Youth Year (1985) and the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (1985) will touch upon such areas as young women, and women as offenders and as victims of crime.

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II. ACTION TAKEN BY THE ORGANS AND ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM TO IMPLEMENT NEW STRATEGIES FOR WOMEN

21. The present section contains information on the action taken by various organs and organizations of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Secretariat, to implement new strategies for women. It should be noted that further information is contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the views of specialized agencies, organs and organizations of the United Nations system on preparations for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (A/CONF.116/PC/4 and Corr.1), which was submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the Preparatory Body for the Conference at its first session.

A. United Nations Secretariat

22. In evolving strategies for the integration of women in development through technical co-operation activities, for which the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development is the executing agency, the Secretariat has focused on two main approaches: (a) the inclusion of women as participants and beneficiaries in ongoing technical co-operation activities, whenever possible, throughout its varied fields of responsibility and (b) taking due account of the potential contribution and interests of women, whenever possible, in technical co-operation activities in the field of development planning. These approaches, which accord with the basic thrust of strategies in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and the Copenhagen Programme of Action at the international level, have been adopted by the Secretariat because they represent the most workable and potentially useful way of furthering the integration of women in development in the context of the Secretariat's responsibilities.

23. The attention given to women's concerns has been most successful in terms of extending project-related training opportunities to women, and thus directly or indirectly extending improved employment opportunities to women. The Secretariat has also been able to foster the greater participation of women in development activities within their communities through the promotion of popular participation, especially in projects that focus on the rural population or action at the local level. To some extent, the Secretariat has been able to provide input to new policy orientations that benefit women.

24. It has proved more difficult, however, to address women's interests and potential contributions through multisectoral interdisciplinary approaches linked to the development planning and programming process. Nevertheless, the Secretariat has provided this kind of assistance to a number of countries. The results of this approach, namely, the adoption of a comprehensive set of actions on behalf of women that are designed to be complementary and mutually reinforcing, clearly have great value in promoting the integration of women into basic aspects of the development process.

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25. It is the Secretariat's view that the present strategies remain adequate and relevant. Above all, there is a need to find workable ways to increase the scope and the depth of the action taken to implement such strategies.

B. International Research and Training Institute
for the Advancement of Women

26. The work programme of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) is focused on forward-looking studies, such as the role of women in energy, food systems, development planning, management techniques and decision-making processes; their actual and potential power in society; and the linkages between the macro-economy and micro-economy and their effects on women.

27. In this regard, it is considered by INSTRAW that new strategies for women or any forward-looking plans for the advancement of women should include these issues. In general, it is felt that the focus in the forthcoming strategy should be on practical developmental problems facing women in their daily life, in both rural and urban areas.

C. International Labour Organisation

28. The new strategies of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) for women, as reflected in its medium-term plan, 1982-1987, and its programme for 1984-1985 are summarized below.

29. The objectives of ILO, as established in its medium-term plan, are: (a) to bring about a better understanding of the nature and degree of discrimination against women in employment and of its harmful consequences on economic and social development; (b) to maximize equality of treatment between the sexes; and (c) to facilitate the entry of women into working life, particularly through appropriate training arrangements in developing and industrialized countries. In the design of work items related explicitly or implicitly to women workers, account has also been taken of the action taken by the World Conference of the International Women's Year and of activities undertaken in other United Nations organizations relating to the United Nations Decade for Women, 1976-1985. The present proposals include separate provision for a contribution to the work of the United Nations system as a whole in the preparations for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the Decade.

30. Some of the proposals relating to women are made within the context of the developing regions. These proposals include one which would give practical support to the national co-ordinating units responsible for training women for employment, and another on special approaches and measures to bring training to the poorest rural women. Proposed work items relating to particular categories of women include one on the training of women refugees (with special reference to Africa) and another on the vocational rehabilitation of disabled women.

31. Apart from the work items mentioned above which relate directly to women

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workers, many others are of particular relevance to women workers because of the large proportion of women employed in the sectors or occupations concerned. For example, work is proposed on the problems of office workers in relation especially to visual-display units, and research is planned on the conditions of service of teachers in developing countries, and on job classification and salary structures for nursing personnel.

32. Although the needs of women workers are taken into account in the design and implementation of work items throughout the technical sector and in the regions, the co-ordinating programme, which comprises two subprogrammes, remains essential. One subprogramme has the objective of promoting a wider awareness of the problems of women workers as well as policies to improve their situation. The second concerns co-ordination both within the International Labour Office and between ILO and other United Nations agencies.

D. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

33. The second medium-term plan for 1984-1989 of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) includes a major programme, entitled "The status of women", which covers all activities of the plan that are expressly concerned with women.

34. It becomes clear, at the end of the analysis introducing this major programme, that the situation of women is bound up with all of the problems besetting the societies in which they live. The question of the status of women, therefore, cannot be dealt with in isolation. Moreover, no national or international development strategy should be formulated, implemented or assessed without due consideration given to the specific nature of the problems presented by the situation and status of women, their own contribution and their own point of view on the future of our societies, since women account for 50 per cent of the world's working population.

35. It was, therefore, found necessary to include the study and treatment of questions relating to women in the set of major programmes and programmes of the UNESCO medium-term plan. In this connection, a twofold strategy of action is proposed for the period 1984-1989.

36. On the one hand, it is planned to continue, and to strengthen and broaden, the activities undertaken under the first medium-term plan with a view to eliminating forms of discrimination based on sex, reducing inequalities between men and women, and promoting full participation by women in political, economic, social and cultural life and access by women to responsibilities. These activities have been combined in two programmes (programme II.4, Equality of educational opportunity for girls and women, and programme XIII.4, Elimination of discrimination based on sex) and two subprogrammes (subprogramme III.2, Contribution of the media to promoting equality between women and men and strengthening women's access to and participation in communication, and subprogramme VI.5, Studies on the status of women and development of new approaches).

37. On the other hand - and this is one of the innovations of the medium-term plan - it is planned to include in the biennial programmes and budgets of UNESCO specific provisions that spell out the measures and practical action to be taken with respect to women under each programme in order to take into consideration their particular situation and to see that they not only benefit from but also take full part in all of the activities of the Organization.

38. This twofold strategy is calculated to make a truly effective contribution to the improvement of the status of women. That status affects every aspect of the life of societies, since it calls for a new vision of the roles of men and women in all fields of human activity.

III. ACTION TAKEN BY THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT AIMED AT
THE FOLLOW-UP AND HARMONIZATION OF ACTIVITIES OF THE
VARIOUS BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM WHICH
CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROMOTION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS

39. Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, 32/138 of 16 December 1977 and 34/204 of 19 December 1979 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/3 of 16 April 1980, the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women contains a recommendation that at the international level "Co-ordination and co-operation among the specialized agencies and United Nations bodies should be effected by increasing use of the Inter-Agency Programme for the Decade for Women and of the Branch for the Advancement of Women".

40. During the first half of the Decade, an interorganizational programme for the United Nations Decade for Women, based on both a conceptual and programmatic framework was agreed upon at an ad hoc inter-agency meeting, held at Geneva in 1976. In that programme, ongoing and planned activities of the United Nations system relating to women were synthesized in accordance with the following classification of objectives: (a) technical co-operation, training and advisory services; (b) elaboration and review of international standards; (c) research, data collection and analysis; (d) dissemination of information and experience; and (e) review and appraisal of the progress made and the obstacles encountered. The relevant activities of the United Nations Secretariat are reported below under each of these five categories.

A. Technical co-operation, training and advisory services

41. There are three principal vehicles through which the Secretariat can undertake technical co-operation, training and advisory service activities related to women. First, the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, for the management of which the General Assembly adopted criteria that included support for technical co-operation activities, the development and/or strengthening of regional and international programmes, and the development and implementation of joint interorganizational programmes for the advancement of women. The Fund supports, for example, the United Nations interorganizational follow-up projects to the United Nations Decade for Women in the African region.

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42. The United Nations regional Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Development in Africa (set up in 1978 and for which services are provided by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)) has: (a) reviewed the synthesis of activities prepared by the United Nations system; (b) extracted those elements relating to Africa; (c) updated this inventory on a periodic basis for the African region; and (d) identified gaps and problem areas in which interorganizational co-operation is needed. As a result of this comprehensive review, two projects were sponsored by the ECA Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Development with support from the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women.

43. One of these projects is aimed at promoting village technologies in the Ivory Coast for the processing, preserving and marketing of fish to increase women's incomes and to lighten their burdens, to maintain product quality and to facilitate distribution under better conditions. Under the other project, women are trained in production, organization, management and marketing for self-employment in small-scale businesses and industries (in Swaziland, Botswana, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Lesotho, Senegal and the Ivory Coast), under the African Women's Task Force (a volunteer corps of skilled women who assist others through a regional programme of technical co-operation among developing countries).

44. The Fund is also participating in an interorganizational evaluation study of technical co-operation projects for the advancement of women that will be presented to the 1985 World Conference. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been designated as the co-ordinator of the study in which the following are also participating: the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The evaluation will concern the achievements of technical co-operation in four countries: Rwanda, Indonesia, Haiti and Democratic Yemen. The ultimate purpose of the study is to formulate recommendations for improved strategies for technical co-operation activities aimed at promoting the participation of women in development.

45. Secondly, the Secretariat has recently revived the United Nations Programme of Advisory Services for the Advancement of Women, based on the guidelines set forth by the General Assembly in its resolution 926 (X) of 14 December 1955 and the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1680 (LII) of 2 June 1972 regarding seminars, fellowships and expert missions for the advancement of women. In 1983, it was agreed that the regional commissions would fund six regional seminars on new strategies for women, bringing together 60 experts and 12 fellowship trainees. The Secretariat is also planning to organize expert missions to provide the Governments of the least developed countries in each region, at their request, with advisory services on questions pertaining to the advancement of women. The regional representatives of specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system will be invited to participate in these meetings and in follow-up missions in order to harmonize the system-wide planning of new strategies for women at the regional and country levels.

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46. Finally, the Secretariat prepares reports for submission to the General Assembly which contain reviews of the technical co-operation activities for the advancement of women undertaken in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 35/137 of 11 December 1980 and 37/57 and 37/58 of 3 December 1982, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/37 of 2 May 1980. Representatives of the Secretariat meet regularly with the resident co-ordinators of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, on the occasion of the latter's missions to the United Nations Office at Vienna, to discuss mutual issues related to Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/12 of 6 May 1981 in which the Council recognized that the resident co-ordinators of the operational activities for development of the United Nations should ensure co-ordination among the organizations of the United Nations system for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women.

B. Elaboration and review of international standards

47. It should be recalled that the Secretariat provides services to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, established in accordance with article 17, paragraph 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. In addition, the Secretariat will promote the implementation of the Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace and Co-operation, 20/ articles 12 and 14 of which refer directly to the United Nations and the specialized agencies regarding the implementation of the principles set forth in the Declaration. The Secretariat also co-operates with the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system in the preparation of studies and compendia of international standards, as requested by the Commission on the Status of Women.

C. Research, data collection and analysis

48. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 36/74 of 4 December 1981, the Secretariat has co-operated with several organizations and agencies of the United Nations system in the preparation of a world survey on the role of women in development. At the first session of an inter-agency meeting on the preparations for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women (Vienna, 21-22 February 1983), the participating agencies and organizations agreed on an outline for the world survey. At the same meeting, agreement was also reached on system-wide co-operation in the preparation of the survey.

D. Dissemination of information and experience

49. During the past biennium, the Secretariat has become actively involved in the work of the Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC) Non-Governmental Organizations' Sub-Group on Women and Development which has been concerned with the preparation of development education kits issues pertaining to the advancement of women. The Sub-Group was established as a joint undertaking of representatives of international women's non-governmental organizations in 1980 as a follow-up to the

World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women and the Non-Governmental Organizations' Forum (which met concurrently with the Conference). At its first meeting in 1980, the Sub-Group decided that all participating organizations and agencies would contribute to the preparation and distribution of all kits (e.g., financially or materially) and that the responsibility for each kit would be taken by the agency or organization most concerned.

50. The first kit, on "Women and disability", was prepared by ILO as lead agency, in co-operation with the United Nations Secretariat, UNICEF, UNDP, WHO, the International Foundation for Development Alternatives (IFDA), the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), the World Foundation of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), the World Council of Churches (WCC), and with financial assistance from the Danish International Development Agency and the Swedish International Development Agency, in connection with the International Year of Disabled Persons (1981). The second kit, on "Women, health and development" was prepared by WHO as lead agency, in co-operation with the United Nations Secretariat, UNICEF, UNDP, ILO, FAO, IFDA, LWF, WAGGGS, WCC and the Worldwide Young Women's Christian Association (WYWCA). Each kit was designed to serve development education purposes, to make people aware of questions concerned with the advancement of women and to encourage individuals or groups to stimulate creative action with regard to the problems cited in the kits. In each case, the material in the kit consisted of: (a) simplified narratives on (i) the objectives and potential use of the kit by individuals or groups in classrooms for student review, in volunteer discussion groups and seminars and in strategies for action; and (ii) the substantive points presented in each kit, together with photographs and illustrations; and (b) additional material, including background articles, a selected bibliography (printed and audio-visual materials) and a list of the organizations concerned with the issues addressed in the kit. Each kit also contained an evaluation form.

51. At a meeting of the Sub-Group on 17 August 1982, it was agreed that the Secretariat would assume the role of co-ordinator of the Sub-Group, beginning as lead organization in the preparation of the third kit, on "Women and development". At that meeting, it was further agreed that the following allocation of tasks would be undertaken by the participating agencies and organizations to provide the information needed for the following sections of the kit: introduction (ILO); women and food, including agriculture (FAO and Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW)); women and industry (United Nations Secretariat, including UNIDO); women and science and technology (United Nations Secretariat, in co-operation with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), ILO and UNESCO); women at home (UNICEF, League of Red Cross Societies and WAGGGS); women and decision-making (ILO and UNESCO); women and energy and appropriate technology (United Nations Secretariat and Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)).

52. Subsequently, JUNIC, at its tenth session held from 19 to 22 April 1983, was informed that the Women's International Information and Communications Service had agreed to provide a team of consultants to prepare the kit on "Women and development", and that the Secretariat would finance that kit, as well as two others to be prepared in 1983-1984, from a specially earmarked grant from the Government of Japan which had been given to the United Nations for research, data collection and analysis and communication support and public information activities designed to promote the goals of the United Nations Decade for Women. The

Secretariat reported to JUNIC that each kit would consequently be focused on one of the major goals of the Decade: (a) women and development (concerned especially with the issues addressed in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and with the results of the Expert Group Meeting on Women and the International Development Strategy, convened by the Secretariat in September, 1983); (b) women and equality (concerned especially with the relevance of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women vis-à-vis the advancement of women at the local and grass-roots levels); and (c) women and peace (concerned especially with the relevance of the recently adopted Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace and Co-operation and the results of the Expert Group Meeting on Women and Peace convened by the Secretariat in December 1983).

53. Furthermore, JUNIC was informed that the Secretariat would also finance the production of 10 JUNIC fact sheets, entitled "Notes on the United Nations Decade for Women", which would be focused on priority issues designated in the Programme of Action (e.g., employment, health, education, food, rural women etc.) and prepared in 1984 by the relevant organ and organization of the United Nations system under the sponsorship of the JUNIC Sub-Group. In addition, JUNIC was informed that the Secretariat had allocated \$50,000 (from earmarked extrabudgetary resources) to an international women's television series, entitled "Women and development", being produced by the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat with the assistance of six women television producers from developing countries and six from developed countries.

54. Finally, the Secretariat produces a regular series of public information materials to co-ordinate better and promote information on the activities and resources for the advancement of women of the organs and organizations of the United Nations system. In this regard, the Secretariat published several issues of the Bulletin on the United Nations Decade for Women during the period 1982-1983, which, among other sections, contained updated summaries of the activities undertaken by the organs and organizations of the United Nations systems in this regard. The Secretariat also prepares and updates a directory, Listing of Focal Points within the United Nations System on Questions Relating to Women, which provides information to enable users to identify and to contact the people in the organs and organizations of the United Nations system who have been specifically designated to respond to inquiries and follow-up issues related to the advancement of women.

E. Review and appraisal of the progress made and the obstacles encountered

55. At its first session, the inter-agency meeting on the preparations for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women decided to ensure that the review and appraisal report would be based on the replies of Member States to the United Nations questionnaire to Governments on the review and appraisal of the achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, supplemented, where appropriate, with the official replies of Member States to the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations

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system. Various agencies and organizations have been designated to serve as lead agencies for the sectoral topics in the questionnaire. Further information is contained in the note by the Secretary-General on the status of preparations of the compilation of selected statistics and indicators on the status of women (A/CONF.116/PC/15), which is submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the Preparatory Body for the World Conference, at its second session.

Notes

- 1/ Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Copenhagen, 14 to 30 July 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.IV.3 and corrigendum), chap. I, sect. A.
- 2/ Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, 19 June-2 July 1975 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. I.
- 3/ Ibid., chap. II, sect. A.
- 4/ ST/ESA/SER.B/5/Add.1.
- 5/ ST/ESA/SER.B/6/Add.1.
- 6/ E/CEPAL/1042/Rev.1.
- 7/ E/ECWA/SDHS/CONF.2/8.
- 8/ See A/CONF.94/15, A/CONF.94/16, A/CONF.94/17 and Corr.1 and A/CONF.94/18 and Corr.1.
- 9/ Annex to General Assembly resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979.
- 10/ Annex to General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970.
- 11/ General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974.
- 12/ General Assembly resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974.
- 13/ See Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5-16 November 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3) and Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3).
- 14/ Annex to General Assembly resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980.
- 15/ ID/CONF.4/22, chap. III, sect. B, resolution ID/CONF.4/RES.1.
- 16/ Report of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Nairobi, 10 to 21 August 1981 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.I.24), chap. I, sect. A.

17/ Report of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 1 to 14 September 1981 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.8), part one, sect. A.

18/ A/37/351/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII.

19/ Ibid., para. 45.

20/ Report of the World Assembly on Aging, Vienna, 26 July to 6 August 1982 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.6), chap. VI, Sect. A.

21/ Annex to General Assembly resolution 37/63 of 3 December 1982.

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24 October 1983

Dear Sir/Madam ,

On behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, I have the honour to bring to your attention the General Assembly resolution 37/63 by which it adopted the Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace and Co-operation, a copy of which is attached for your information.

The Declaration recognizing that women and men have an equal and vital interest in contributing to international peace and co-operation, and that the full participation of women in the economic, social, cultural, civil and political affairs of society and in the endeavour to promote international peace and co-operation depends on a balanced and equitable distribution of roles between men and women in the family and in society as a whole, emphasizes, that special national and international measures are necessary to increase the level of women's participation in the sphere of international relations so that women can contribute, on an equal basis with men, to national and international efforts to secure world peace and economic and social progress and to promote international co-operation.

Under article 14 of the Declaration Governments, non-governmental and international organizations, including the United Nations and the specialized agencies and individuals, are urged to do all in their power to promote the implementation of the principles contained in the present Declaration .

Mrs. Gloria Scott
World Bank
1817 H Street, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20433
USA

Having in mind the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women special attention should be given to all appropriate measures which can be taken to provide practical opportunities for the effective participation

of women in promoting international peace and co-operation, economic development and social progress and, to that end: to promote an equitable representation of women in governmental and non-governmental functions, to promote equality of opportunities for women to enter diplomatic service, to appoint or nominate women, on an equal basis with men, as members of delegations to national, regional or international meetings, to support increased employment of women at all levels in the Secretariats of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, in conformity with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Yours sincerely,



Leticia R. Shahani

Assistant Secretary-General for Social
Development and Humanitarian Affairs
and

Secretary-General
World Conference to Review and Appraise
the Achievement of the United Nations
Decade for Women



General Assembly

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A/RES/37/63
2 March 1983

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Thirty-seventh session
Agenda item 91

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/37/676)]

37/63. Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting
International Peace and Co-operation

The General Assembly,

Considering that the Charter of the United Nations expresses the determination of the peoples of the United Nations to reaffirm faith in the equal rights of men and women and to practise tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours,

Considering also that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1/ proclaims that recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Considering further that the International Covenants on Human Rights 2/ provide for the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights,

Reaffirming the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

Taking into account the resolutions, declarations, conventions, programmes and recommendations of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and international conferences designed to eliminate all forms of discrimination and to promote equal rights for men and women,

1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Recalling that the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975, 3/ states that women have a vital role to play in the promotion of peace in all spheres of life: in the family, the community, the nation and the world,

Recalling that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 4/ declares that discrimination against women violates the principles of equality of rights and respect for human dignity, is an obstacle to the participation of women, on equal terms with men, in the political, social, economic and cultural life of their countries and makes more difficult the full development of the potentialities of women in the service of their countries and of humanity,

Recalling also that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women affirms that the strengthening of international peace and security, the relaxation of international tension, mutual co-operation among all States irrespective of their social and economic systems, general and complete disarmament, in particular nuclear disarmament under strict and effective international control, the affirmation of the principles of justice, equality and mutual benefit in relations among countries and the realization of the right of peoples under alien and colonial domination and foreign occupation to self-determination and independence, as well as respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, will promote social progress and development and as a consequence will contribute to the attainment of full equality between men and women,

Recognizing that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women obligates States Parties to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all its forms and in every field of human endeavour, including politics, economic activities, law, employment, education, health care and domestic relations,

Noting that, despite progress towards the achievement of equality between men and women, considerable discrimination against women continues to exist, thereby impeding the active participation of women in promoting international peace and co-operation,

Welcoming the contribution which women have nevertheless made towards promoting international peace and co-operation, the struggle against colonialism, apartheid, all forms of racism and racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation and all forms of alien domination, and towards the unrestricted and effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

3/ Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, 19 June-2 July 1975 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. I.

4/ Resolution 34/180, annex.

Welcoming also the contribution of women towards a just restructuring of international economic relations and the achievement of a new international economic order;

Convinced that women can play an important and increasing role in these areas,

Solemnly proclaims the Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace and Co-operation set forth in the annex to the present resolution.

90th plenary meeting
3 December 1982

ANNEX

Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting
International Peace and Co-operation

PART I

Article 1

Women and men have an equal and vital interest in contributing to international peace and co-operation. To this end, women must be enabled to exercise their right to participate in the economic, social, cultural, civil and political affairs of society on an equal footing with men.

Article 2

The full participation of women in the economic, social, cultural, civil and political affairs of society and in the endeavour to promote international peace and co-operation is dependent on a balanced and equitable distribution of roles between men and women in the family and in society as a whole.

Article 3

The increasing participation of women in the economic, social, cultural, civil and political affairs of society will contribute to international peace and co-operation.

Article 4

The full enjoyment of the rights of women and men and the full participation of women in promoting international peace and co-operation will contribute to the eradication of apartheid, of all forms of racism, racial discrimination, colonialism, neo-colonialism, aggression, foreign occupation and domination and interference in the internal affairs of States.

Article 5

Special national and international measures are necessary to increase the level of women's participation in the sphere of international relations so that women can contribute, on an equal basis with men, to national and international efforts to secure world peace and economic and social progress and to promote international co-operation.

PART II

Article 6

All appropriate measures shall be taken to intensify national and international efforts in respect of the participation of women in promoting

international peace and co-operation by ensuring the equal participation of women in the economic, social, cultural, civil and political affairs of society through a balanced and equitable distribution of roles between men and women in the domestic sphere and in society as a whole, as well as by providing an equal opportunity for women to participate in the decision-making process.

Article 7

All appropriate measures shall be taken to promote the exchange of experience at the national and international levels for the purpose of furthering the involvement of women in promoting international peace and co-operation and in solving other vital national and international problems.

Article 8

All appropriate measures shall be taken at the national and international levels to give effective publicity to the responsibility and active participation of women in promoting international peace and co-operation and in solving other vital national and international problems.

Article 9

All appropriate measures shall be taken to render solidarity and support to those women who are victims of mass and flagrant violations of human rights such as apartheid, all forms of racism, racial discrimination, colonialism, neo-colonialism, aggression, foreign occupation and domination and of all other violations of human rights.

Article 10

All appropriate measures shall be taken to pay a tribute to the participation of women in promoting international peace and co-operation.

Article 11

All appropriate measures shall be taken to encourage women to participate in non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations concerned with the strengthening of international peace and security, the development of friendly relations among nations and the promotion of co-operation among States and, to that end, freedom of thought, conscience, expression, assembly, association, communication and movement, without distinction as to race, political or religious belief, language or ethnic origin, shall be effectively guaranteed.

Article 12

All appropriate measures shall be taken to provide practical opportunities for the effective participation of women in promoting international peace and co-operation, economic development and social progress including, to that end:

(a) The promotion of an equitable representation of women in governmental and non-governmental functions;

/...

(b) The promotion of equality of opportunities for women to enter diplomatic service;

(c) The appointment or nomination of women, on an equal basis with men, as members of delegations to national, regional or international meetings;

(d) Support for increased employment of women at all levels in the secretariats of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, in conformity with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Article 13

All appropriate measures shall be taken to establish adequate legal protection of the rights of women on an equal basis with men in order to ensure effective participation of women in the activities referred to above.

Article 14

Governments, non-governmental and international organizations, including the United Nations and the specialized agencies, as well as individuals, are urged to do all in their power to promote the implementation of the principles set forth in the present Declaration.