

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



*Report of the Consultative Meeting of the
International Research and Training Institute
for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)
with Non-governmental Organizations*

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The proposed progress report covers the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW's) Consultative Meeting with non-governmental organizations in co-operation with the United Nations Information Service, held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, on 22 March 1984. A summary has been given in order to present the briefings carried out for affiliated non-governmental organizations, to inform them of activities being conducted by INSTRAW in co-operation with other United Nations bodies involved in the issues of women and development.
2. As one of the outcomes of the United Nations Decade for Women INSTRAW is mandated to promote through research, training and information the advancement of women. Its activities in those areas are geared toward the full integration of women in the socio-economic development process. Its programme of activities is to enhance both the role and status of women in the social and economic life of society by, inter-alia, increasing awareness on the multiple role of women, identifying the needs and requirements of women, the impact of women's participation on the development process if this participation is fully recognized and properly valued. Therefore the Institute's mandate is to focus on the development issues as they relate to women.
3. The World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women emphasized the important role played by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), particularly the value of their role in implementing development activities, raising awareness, promoting attitudinal change and encouraging women to take an active part in social, cultural, political and economic activities.
4. The Board of Trustees of INSTRAW at its second session agreed that NGOs could make a useful contribution to supporting the work of the

Institute and how co-operative activities between INSTRAW and the NGO community could be pursued.

5. In pursuance of this decision a Consultative Meeting was convened by INSTRAW with non-governmental organizations in co-operation with the United Nations Information Service, to discuss the issue of women and development, and the role of INSTRAW.
6. The purpose of the Consultative Meeting was to present/discuss the Institute's legislative mandate, objectives and programme of activities. It was a goal of the meeting to exchange ways and means of establishing a close working collaboration and possible future activities between the Institute and the non-governmental community involved in developmental issues.
7. Fifty-three participants represented the different NGO organizations involved in issues on Women and Development, as well as numerous United Nations Bodies and related United Nations Agencies. (For a list of participants see Annex I).
8. The Institute prepared a background paper for the meeting raising some issues related to women and development. An information folder with relevant INSTRAW publications was also circulated at the meeting.
9. The background paper consisted of a description of the general development debate including women's role in development and recent United Nations legislation on the topic of the integration of women in development. It also attempted to delineate actions, recent programmes and project guidelines taken within the United Nations system to promote women's integration into development processes.
10. The deliberation of the meeting took place in a one-day plenary session during which individual presentations on each agenda item were introduced, followed by general discussions including exchange of information by participants on their organization and their views on each agenda item.

11. The meeting was opened by Madame Thérèse Gastaut, Director of the United Nations Information Service, Geneva, who delivered the welcome address to the participants and expressed the objectives of the meeting as well as the satisfaction of the United Nations Information Service in convening the Consultative Meeting with INSTRAW. (For Speech see Annex II). Madame Gastaut emphasized the need to work in a co-operative effort to promote the status of women and to contribute to the full participation of women in economic and social development.
12. The Director stated that among the participants of the Consultative Meeting were the representatives of a great number of international NGOs interested in the advancement of women as well as in the activities of INSTRAW. Geneva-based United Nations bodies were also invited in order to promote co-operation in the advancement of women as well as strengthen the Institute's institutional network.
13. She pointed out that the priority given by the Institute to the integration of women in development was sound due to the situation of women in developing countries and developed countries' assistance to developing countries.
14. She further underlined that the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, Article 5, proclaims that the "full and effective participation by the entire population at all stages of the development process should be ensured".
15. She also pointed out that in a 1982 report of United Nations Development Programme on the role of women in development, the Administrator recognized that from 1974 to 1980, 9% of UNDP contributions were ear-marked for projects containing a women's component.
16. Concluding her statement, the Director of the United Nations Information Service underlined the importance placed by the United Nations in effectively utilizing women's productive potential through their participation in the development of their societies, for development cannot proceed without the effective mobilization of 50% of its human population.
17. Mrs. Dunja Pastizzi-Ferencic, the Director of INSTRAW, conveyed the Institute's gratitude to Madame Gastaut, Director of United Nations

Information Service for her words of welcome and support given to INSTRAW and to Madame Hamel-Minne, Chief of Public Relations and Documentation Unit and her staff for the generous co-operative effort in preparing the meeting, as well as her acceptance to be moderator of the discussion.

18. She expressed that the large number of NGO organizations, United Nations organizations and bodies present at the meeting was an encouraging sign for INSTRAW's future work and activities.
19. The agenda as adopted was as follows:
 1. Opening of the meeting
 2. Adoption of the agenda
 3. Women and Development
 4. Information on INSTRAW and its Programme of work
 5. Framework of co-operation between the NGO community involved in developmental issues and INSTRAW.
 6. Discussion on promoting co-operation between the NGO community active in women and development issues.
 7. Closing of the meeting

II. WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT

20. The Director of INSTRAW presented a general introduction concerning agenda item three, on the issue of women and development focusing on methodological approaches. In this respect, she expressed that the very charter of the United Nations reaffirmed faith in the dignity and worth of the human person, also reaffirming the equal rights of men and women, and to this end, the United Nations should promote higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development.
21. She expressed that the ultimate end of development is therefore, the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population, men and women alike, on the basis of their full participation in and the fair distribution of benefits therefrom.
22. She noted that in preparation for the United Nations Decade for Women, launched under the objectives of equality, development and peace, it became evident that developmental constraints, more than any other hinder the advancement of women. In this respect, we are facing a double challenge; the task of improving both the development process and through it the position of women.
23. She also noted that the efforts carried out from within the United Nations system, however valuable, are still insufficient as compared to the magnitude of the problem. Therefore, every effort should be made to double forces by using the wide expertise of the NGOs.
24. Emphasis was placed on the complexity of the issues related to women and development which should enhance recognition of the interdependence of social and economic problems, cast more light on macro-micro interface processes, growth with equity and the eradication of poverty and contribute to the debate on people's participation in development. Within this framework the incorporation of issues of relevance to women into development planning and programming required additional efforts in order for national development plans and technical co-operation

projects to become more responsive to women's participation and requirements. In that respect she pointed to the role of women in informal, non-monetized sectors of the economy, balance between economic and social considerations and adequate institutional frameworks in order to reach local community and grass-root levels.

25. In concluding, the Director highlighted the objectives, priorities and framework of the Institute's activities, as well as its mode of operating through networks, in co-operative arrangements with United Nations, inter-governmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations and bodies which are fully geared to developmental issues paying special attention to problems facing women in developing countries.

III. INFORMATION ON INSTRAW AND ITS PROGRAMME OF WORK

26. In continuation of the Director's presentation on the subject of Women and Development, the meeting continued with the discussion of agenda item 4, Information on INSTRAW and its Programme of Work. She reviewed in detail the Institute's programme of activities, providing information on the structure, mandate, objectives and mode of operation of INSTRAW.

A. Objectives

27. The Director explained that the objectives of INSTRAW are to stimulate and assist, through research, training and the collection and exchange of information, the efforts of inter-governmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations aimed at the advancement of women and the integration of women in development both as participants and beneficiaries. These objectives follow the action proposals in the World Plan of Action and in the Declaration of Mexico adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year, as well as in the regional plans of action, and the relevant resolutions of the policy-making bodies of the United Nations.
28. In the area of research the objectives of the Institute are to collect, classify and analyze, on a continuous basis, information on research

programmes on women, and available to professionals within and outside the United Nations system, and to the general public; to sponsor and or undertake research, particularly in the area of socio-economic development, and where there is need to develop research methodologies that measure the economic value and return of women's inputs to work.

29. The Director pointed out that the Institute gives a high priority to training. Its training activities are action-oriented with a focus on the training of trainers and training in situ in developing countries in order to reach the local community and grass-root levels. These activities are implemented by applying the network concept, which contributes to the strengthening of the approved mode of operation of the Institute. Therefore it relies on the experience and knowledge of international, regional and national institutions in developing countries. Moreover, she stated that the catalytic role of the Institute was emphasized in order to ensure that issues related to women and development are represented more widely in the broad range of ongoing and planned training programmes within and outside the United Nations system.
30. She noted that the training activities and programmes of the Institute are closely aligned to its research programmes with a focus on women and development. These training activities of the Institute are conducted through seminars, workshops and expert-group meetings; also activities related to planning, evaluation and management of development projects; advisory services to governments and institutions; and advocacy activities in raising public awareness of issues on women and development, using printing material, audio-visual aids, computers, etc.
31. It was also pointed out that the Institute acts catalytically by following closely the United Nations Staff Training activities, attending some of the relevant meetings in this regard and in preparing training material to raise awareness on the subject of women and development in staff training activities.
32. It was pointed out that an important part of the overall training programme of the Institute is the fellowship programme, which aims at creating opportunities to enable women to increase and acquire new

skills in order to meet the rapid changes taking place in today's society. Also of importance was meeting the Board of Trustees's request to decentralize the implementation of the Institute's programme by following the approved network mode of operation.

33. In this regard the Institute subsequently implemented this decision in collaboration with the regional commissions and academic institutions. The regional commissions are therefore conducting training in their regions on activities and programmes of particular interest to women.
34. As to information, documentation and communication activities, it was stated that the Institute endeavors to collect and disseminate information on the roles and status of women in society on institutions providing information on the means available for improving women's position, and on the steps taken at the national, regional and international levels to improve the conditions of women.
35. In order to achieve its goals and working with a small staff the Institute operates through networks of co-operative arrangements with other United Nations bodies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. In its work it also relies on the regional commissions which are represented on its Board of Trustees.
36. In the discussion on INSTRAW's organizational structure, the Director pointed out that the Institute functions under the authority of its Board of Trustees composed of a President and 10 members serving in their personal capacity for a period of three years, with possible reappointment for one term, serving a maximum of two terms. The Board also includes ex-officio members, a representative of the Secretary-General, the Director of the Institute, and the heads of the women's centres and programmes of the five regional commissions.
37. The Board of Trustees meets once a year to formulate principles and policies governing the substantive activities of the Institute to review and approve the Institute's work programme and its biennial budget. An annual report of the Board of Trustees on the activities

of the Institute is submitted to the Economic and Social Council. The report on INSTRAW's activities are also presented to the General Assembly.

38. The Director explained that the Institute's small staff consists of a limited number of professionals and support staff, because of the wide range of subjects with which the Institute must deal, the use of consultants with expertise in specific fields is vital and, therefore, the Institute relies heavily on such services. Also practiced is the use of experts seconded to the Institute from other United Nations organizations and agencies, governments, non-governmental organizations and other institutions. In addition, specially qualified persons can be designated as senior fellows of the Institute, and can be invited to participate as lecturers, research scholars or resource persons.
39. Avoiding a repetition of Agenda Item Five, the Director highlighted briefly the Institute's financial organization and background (See page , Agenda Item Five).
40. In regards to organization, the Director further pointed out that the Institute's organizational structure is reflected in the Statute of the Institute, as considered by INSTRAW's Board of Trustees at its fourth session, held in January 1984. The Board considered the Statute in the light of the functioning of the Institute from its permanent headquarters in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic, as well as the experience gained from the implementation of the initial work programme of the Institute.
41. In presenting INSTRAW's programme of work, the Director stated that the Institute's initial programme for the biennium 1982-1983 is an experimental one geared to exploring the most productive ways and means of securing the incorporation of issues of relevance to women into development efforts at the international, regional and national level.

A. Indicators and related basic statistics on women

42. In accordance with the agenda items as adopted for discussion, the Director of INSTRAW gave a detailed description of INSTRAW's 6 major programmes of work, beginning with its first research projects in the area of statistics and indicators, responding to the repeated call for improved statistics and statistical concepts covering the situation of women, most relevant for both analytical and planning, and programming. She continued to describe the first phase of the project, as undertaken jointly with the United Nations Statistical Office and presently completed. Two technical reports on this subject were reviewed by an expert group and revised accordingly for publication.
43. The Expert Group Meeting on Improving Statistics and Indicators on the Situation of Women was convened by the Institute and the United Nations Statistical Office in New York from 11 to 15 April 1983 to review these two documents. As to the second phase of the project, it is being implemented in the biennium 1984-1985, with a focus on follow-up activities recommended by the Expert Group and on training programmes in accordance to regional needs in the field of statistics and indicators.
44. She also mentioned that the follow-up phase of the project included a joint meeting with the Conference of European Statisticians on Statistics and Indicators on the Role and Situation of Women, to be held in Geneva in 1985 as a co-operative effort with the Economic Commission of Europe, in addition to the preparation of two publications jointly with the International Labour Organization; Women's Participation in the Economic Activity of the World (1975-1985), and Womanpower II, (The World's Female Labour Force in 1975 and Outlook for 2000).

B. The Incorporation of women into development planning and programming

45. Continuing on INSTRAW's programmes, she explained that development planning and programming are the most relevant methods by which the effective integration of women in socio-economic development can be achieved. Bearing this in mind, the Institute convened an interregional seminar on the incorporation of women into development planning, the

first expert group meeting organized at the Institute, held from 5 to 11 December 1983 at headquarters in the Dominican Republic.

46. She expressed that in convening high level experts in development planning and women's issues from the various regions of the world, the objective of the seminar was to exchange experiences of different countries in the area of planning and programming, to underline the problems encountered and to seek solutions; and to increase the involvement of women in the planning process through raising awareness and determining the most suitable institutional framework, innovative methodologies and procedures and programming mechanisms and techniques.
47. Following the recommendations of the experts in the seminar, the Institute has issued a publication of the proceedings of the seminar and its recommendations that will include information and measures for the integration of issues of relevance to women into planning and programming techniques and processes. Next, it plans to initiate training arrangements for officials in charge of the planning process, project and development programme formulation.
- C. The role of women in the implementation of the objectives of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade
48. The Institute's long-term commitment to the objectives of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (IDWSSD) was pointed out in accordance with the decision of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women in Copenhagen.
49. In this respect, INSTRAW proposed to the Steering Committee for Co-operative Action of the IDWSSD (which is constituted by various United Nations agencies and bodies active in the field), at its ninth session held in April 1982, the formation of an Inter-Agency Task Force on Women and IDWSSD. This proposal was accepted and it was agreed that INSTRAW and UNICEF would jointly assume the responsibility for the secretariat of the Task Force. INSTRAW, together with UNICEF, is actively engaged in the organizational and substantive preparation required for the various sessions of the Task Force, including the preparation of relevant documents.

50. The Inter-Agency Task Force has also developed a strategy for enhancing the role of women in the IDWSSD adopted by the Steering Committee in December 1983, in addition to providing assistance in activities to support programmes for the Decade in relation to the role of women; acts as a mechanism for collaboration in the development and implementation of activities at the international and national levels; and monitors, evaluates and reports on the implementation of policies and programmes for the Decade to ensure that they adequately reflect the concerns, needs and contributions of women. The Task Force also works with the assistance and participation of the NCO community.
51. The results of the interregional seminar on "Women and the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade", convened by INSTRAW and held in Cairo, Egypt from 12-16 March 1984 were presented to the meeting. It was pointed out that the purpose of the seminar was to solicit the views of experts, with a national and regional perspective on the problems involved in improving water supply and sanitation particularly as they relate to women and the solutions which have been found or are envisaged. The ultimate objective of the seminar was threefold: to indicate the cause of the major problems confronting women in this domain from a regional viewpoint; to seek expert advice on the most meaningful approaches to address the problems of women in water supply and sanitation with a view to reach possible solutions; and to generate interregional and international commitment and momentum within the framework of activities of the IDWSSD in support of national efforts to solve the problems.
52. Following the meeting, the proceedings and recommendations of the seminar will be issued and will be available on request. The Institute will also contribute training guidelines and manuals in the field of water supply and sanitation; publish and disseminate information relevant to the subject; and initiate follow-up activities to be carried out in different regions.
53. Particular attention was made on the Institute's participation in the UNDP project, the activities of which are currently being developed and financed, for the most part, by the Government of Norway. INSTRAW's

participation in various international and regional meetings and conferences related to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade was also highlighted.

D. Role of women in international economic relations

54. The Director expressed the Institute's focus on social and economic development with the aim of integrating women into the mainstream of development. Therefore, one of the Institute's activities is to monitor closely the current debate on development and international economic co-operation. This focus is in accordance with a decision of the Board of Trustees - taken to conduct a series of research studies on the role of women in international economic relations, concentrating particularly on the analysis of interlinkages between macro and micro economy and their impact on the role and status of women, the Institute has taken action during 1983 to prepare these studies, has also participated in the ongoing search to address the development problems, to fulfill the objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.
55. In order to fulfill these objectives, a joint UNITAR/INSTRAW proposal on the establishment of an international independent committee on the role of women in the New International Economic Order and the International Development Strategy was considered by the Board of Trustees of UNITAR and INSTRAW in September 1981 and January 1982, respectively.
56. As a result of surveying the area of women and development, the aspects to be further developed were: (a) to review and analyze the present model of development and different approaches and concepts so far used in development strategies, with a view to ensuring that women's needs and requirements are integrated in these development strategies; (b) to identify the economic dimension of actual development theories and approaches especially where they merge into the social perception of the work and life of women; (c) to assess the benefits and losses to women that derive from the economic and social changes in present-day society; (d) to examine the linkage between the micro and macro levels of development and the interrelationships between the international and national dimensions, taking into consideration the economic, social and

cultural aspects as they relate to women; and (e) to examine problems emerging from the world economy and influencing national economic and social policies which affect the role, status and well-being of women.

57. In regards of the studies undertaken by INSTRAW, the Director mentioned that collaboration has already been initiated with UNCTAD on the first in a series of research studies, dealing with the transfer and development of technology, and their impact on the position and work of women. Moreover, contacts with internationally renowned academic institutions are being actively pursued at present.
58. These studies will be submitted to two high-level meetings to examine the recommendations of the studies, followed by the publishing and dissemination of the outcome of the meetings.

E. Women's role in the implementation of the policy of collective self-reliance of developing countries

59. The Director expressed that the Institute seeks to contribute to the activities which promote individual and collective self-reliance of developing countries and seeks to ensure that women's role is reflected in these co-operative endeavours. For this reason, the Institute is actively developing co-operative arrangements with UNDP's Special Unit for Technological Co-operation among Developing Countries and other institutions active in the field.
60. In close co-operation with the Special Unit for TCDC, INSTRAW has started a series of publications on women and technical co-operation among developing countries. The initial publication, entitled Integration of Women in Development through Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (TCDC) prepared for the third session of the High-Level Committee, provides an overview of the areas in which the integration of women through TCDC can be implemented. The initial findings indicated that most of the TCDC activities covering women were concentrated in the field of rural development and education. However, other areas need to be more fully integrated into the process of TCDC. These include community development, employment migration, health, industrialization, energy, science and

technology, and the use of modern communication for educational purposes. Planning techniques for the inclusion of women into TCDC programmes and projects, which would secure proper use of human resources, could be elaborated through TCDC activities. As the initial experiences have proven, this would contribute to establishing better linkages among national and regional plans and programmes.

61. The participants were informed that the High-Level Committee took note of the publication and invited developing countries to strengthen, wherever possible, linkages between their national focal points, as well as other professional institutions; to give due consideration to women's participation and requirements when identifying operational issues which lend themselves to a TCDC approach; and to include specific reference to women in supportive activities for TCDC. The High-Level Committee then requested the Administrator of UNDP to support the incorporation of issues relevant to women in all activities aimed at strengthening technical co-operation among developing countries.
62. INSTRAW was also preparing a contribution on women and developing countries' policy of individual and collective self-reliance for the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, in close co-operation with the Branch for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.
63. INSTRAW's follow-up activities in this area include a co-operative study with the International Centre of Public Enterprises in Ljubljana, Yugoslavia. The Institute plans to participate in the incorporation of the role of women in the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action. Other activities mentioned were expert group meetings on the role of women in developing new and renewable sources of energy, the convening of a one-week interregional seminar to explore the possibilities of multilateral and bilateral technical and financial support for programmes, identified during the first meeting, and based on the outcome of these meetings, particularly the expert group meeting, is the establishment of an interregional network of contacts to promote the TCDC concept in the incorporation of women into activities to implement the Nairobi Programme of Action, and the delineation of areas within the subject where further research is required.

I. Participation in the United Nations University
Project on "Household, Gender and Age"

64. In continuation, mention was made of a long-term project, closely associated to the major themes of the United Nations University within the medium-term perspective (1982-1987), that is the United Nations University project on Household, Gender and Age.
65. In this area, she noted that INSTRAW has participated in two consultative meetings convened by the United Nations University, and has prepared a position paper on "Women and the Hidden Economy". Moreover, the Institute will continue co-operating in this programme of the University.

IV. DISCUSSION

66. The presentation of agenda item 3 on the topic of Women and Development was met by the participants with much interest, followed by a highly motivated discussion and further questioning of the issues.
67. The following section briefly highlights the major other issues discussed under this agenda item. Many similar views were expressed by the numerous participants and the INSTRAW Secretariat and have therefore been noted in a brief general form.
68. During the general discussion on item 3, Women and Development, it was noted that the participants found a problem of definition with the term women and development and the constant use of outdated terminology.
69. Views expressed that in this respect, the Institute was in a position to change the language and terms used, and also update concepts, for also, both time and history favour a change.
70. A view expressed the need to change the wording "women and development" by substituting and for a more realistic word, i.e. with, bearing in mind that over the past years the subject has gained more legitimacy and visibility.
71. This legitimacy was perceived through signals or areas of light, which cover ideas from 1975 that have now become women's issues. The explosion of skills and greater rates of growth in developing countries, were noted as factors of influence and change, further legitimizing and developing these ideas, bringing about affirmative action policies, and in socialist countries improving the conditions of work and the social infrastructure.
72. Other views drew attention to the fact that these areas of light of signals had not yet reached the media, especially in the environmental area. With regards to the change in the wording "women and development", that it was already accepted, but that "women with development" was still a large question. Also expressed that information and that the process of shifting from ideas to issues were views not made available or well-known to the general public, the media, women's organizations, etc. In regards to the shifting process, etc. must be first provided to the media in order to inform others.

73. Several questions were raised by numerous participants on what was development. Were women perceived as a special or isolated group in society or as a large part of the total population? Also, whether a woman's component was necessary in a development programme or project?
74. Views expressed that dangerous consequences are often brought about when women are perceived as a special or isolated group in society, thereby downplaying the need for a women's component, also that the concept of women and development would be realized only when women are incorporated into the mainstream social and political power structure and into decision-making positions.
75. Other views considered women's needs and requirements as requiring clear vocalization and representation at the decision-making and planning levels. Mention was made to the fact that if they are counted as a special group, they may receive the attention if required. Thus, a women's component was deemed necessary in a development programme or project.
76. A formula to bring about self-reliance which is needed, and which should come from the women in the country itself who are directly involved and affected, in order to avoid preconceived programmes and projects was elaborated on. Such programme formulation based on experiences of developing countries themselves should be assisted by the efforts of the whole international community.
77. In response, a view stated that the integration approach is the central problem, for women are not the problem, society is the problem and the unconcerned people in power.
78. In agreement, views also stated that the present system fails to take into consideration the human resources aspect and people's basic needs. In most cases there was little participation by both men and women in the decision-making processes.
79. Another problem expressed was that information collected does not always come from the top levels down to the people in the fields, etc., creating a lack of participation at the local level and grass-root level, i.e. At NGO levels, blockage is still prevalent. The existing danger is the growing gap between knowledge and its practical usage by policy-makers, people in decision-making positions.

80. Particular mention was made to the fact that participation of women and their level of integration in a particular society was a result or reflection of the inter-action of socio-economic factors with policy decision-making. For example, favourable economic capabilities might be a catalyst to the process of integration by facilitating more services, more employment and more participation for women. Integration and participation of women into society, decision-making positions through education and employment opportunities. Therefore, legislative measures were suggested to pressure against educational segregation and employment discrimination, in order to help to change attitudinal behaviour.
81. In the design of economic and social policies, views expressed that efforts should be made to identify mechanisms necessary to involve women. In this regard, emphasis was placed on institution-building, based upon local social-cultural norms encouraging women to participate in civic and community life, professional and business organizations and in political groups.
82. It was pointed out that similar efforts were also required in the field of education, including formal and non-formal education, where the school curricula should be reviewed, and that women's education in the non-traditional areas should be encouraged.
83. Education at the higher levels was noted as playing a major role in bringing women into the hierarchical apparatus of the Government and thus increasing women's participation in the decision-making process.
84. Views expressed that gender should not be a decisive factor in the distribution of resources for a participation in the policy formulation/decision-making.
85. Also expressed was the fact that differences between sexes were brought about by the existing types of education and association with different occupational activities with women and men, thus influencing attitudes and behaviour which placed women as well as men in particular roles in society. Thus, educational training should be geared towards critical consciousness to create some kind of awareness in women and men to define their own reality and try to define the possible awareness for the solution to their own problems.

86. Concluding, it was stated that co-ordination among existing organizations, particularly those dealing with development issues was crucial and that the establishment of new organizations should be encouraged where necessary to initiate and strengthen co-operation at local, regional and international level. Women's organizations were viewed as an important vehicle for strengthening those efforts.

III. Framework of Co-operation Between NGO's and INSTRAW

87. In addressing the meeting, and next agenda item, INSTRAW's representative, Ms. Susana Sam-Vargas, discussed the relationship of the NGO community and INSTRAW as well as possibilities for further co-operation. In order to do so, she referred back to the initial development stage of the Institute stating that in keeping up its Resolution at the 1975 World Conference of the International Women's Year, the General Assembly decided to establish under United Nations auspices, an International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, which would be financed through voluntary contributions and would collaborate with appropriate national and international economic and social research Institutions.
88. The decision of the Economic and Social Council to create (INSTRAW) was endorsed by the General Assembly at its 31st session, also the guidelines regarding the activities of the Institute, stating that the Institute shall actively seek financial and technical support from Member States, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme and the specialized agencies as well as from philanthropic and academic institutes, individuals and other possible sources.
89. In this respect, a United Nations Trust Fund for the Institute was established by the Secretary General to receive voluntary contributions from governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals for the purpose of financing the expenses of the Institute. In kind contributions such as office equipment, conference facilities, books, fellowships, etc. are also in accordance with the established procedures.
90. A problem resulting from these factors was the dependence of the Institute on voluntary funding, which represented a major problem from efficiency planning of future activities with regard to sound management and organization.

91. Based on a rough estimate of voluntary contributions which are not pledged in advance by the majority of the member states, all activities for the Institute must be planned in a short-term perspective thereby creating an impediment on the organization of long-term research and training programmes.
92. She noted that during pledging conferences for United Nations development activities organized each year, research and training, however necessary for progress, did not always receive priority in financing, especially in the current unfavourable economic situation causing a trend of decrease in contributions.
93. She also noted that INSTRAW's biennial financial requirements amounted to roughly 2-1/2 million dollars. Thus, in order for INSTRAW to be able to continue to function, it would be essential that the Institute exercise its mandate to seek funding from non-governmental sources.
94. In regards to pursuing possible funding from outside organizations and institutions, it would be a two-fold job. First, INSTRAW would have to pursue supplementary funding for programmes already approved by INSTRAW's Board of Trustees, and in addition, financing would be sought for new programmes that fit into the Institute's mandate of enhancing the role of women in development.
95. In regards to the important role played by NGO's, the Programme of Action of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women 1980 - Copenhagen, at which 152 NGO's were represented by 425 members, showed that NGO's play a crucial role in stimulating and monitoring governmental action.
96. This Conference particularly emphasized the value played by NGO's in implementing development activities, raising awareness, promoting attitudinal changes and encouraging women to take an active part in social, cultural, political and economic activities.
97. She stated that since its re-establishment, INSTRAW had received and replied to numerous letters as well as made preliminary contacts with a number of NGO's, groups and Institutes.

98. Communications focused on how NGO's could support the INSTRAW programme with a particular emphasis on the creation of a network of academic and other institutions relating to proposed INSTRAW activities.
99. It was pointed out that a great many NGO's had written to establish contact and to express interest in the work of the Institute by extending invitations to deliver lectures, etc. Also making strong requests for co-sponsorship of conferences, seminars, workshops, etc.
100. The Decade for Women Conference particularly emphasized the value of the role played by NGOs in implementing development activities, raising awareness, promoting attitudinal change and encouraging women to take an active part in social, cultural, political and economic activities.
101. It was stated that NGOs could work closely with INSTRAW in relation to its various activities and mandate in the following manner:
- (a) Investigate problems of different groups of women;
 - (b) assist in promoting and implementing developmental activities and provide liaison services for women's groups with educational and developmental agencies;
 - (c) promote attitudinal changes among men and women, mutual co-operation among women's groups, and influence decision-making groups and the mass media to support the aims of the Programme of Action.
 - (d) inform their own members of government policies and development plans;
 - (e) make known international standards and programmes for improving the situation of women.
102. The INSTRAW representative mentioned that the result of INSTRAW's communication with over 100 NGOs since June 1981 indicated the far-reaching potential for information exchange in many areas and co-operation in terms of co-sponsorship of meetings, etc., research and training programmes, and fellowships and financial contributions.
103. Concluding, she noted that a basic plan or mechanism of co-operation for INSTRAW and NGOs included the following:

- (a) Publicity and funding (b) research and data
- (c) operational support (d) fellowship programmes and expertise and (e) co-sponsorship of meetings.

VI. Promoting Co-operation Between NGOs active in development issues

- 104. The Chief of Public Relations and Documentation Unit, Information Service, Madame J. Hamel Minne, presented information on the United Nations Information Service, Public Relations Unit, the importance of women in the Media, followed by a general discussion soliciting views for establishing and promoting co-operation between the non-governmental community active in women and development issues.
- 105. In the discussion following this presentation a view expressed that NGOs have an important role to play in translating, communicating information, conveyed in United Nations language and jargon for the comprehension of people outside the United Nations system.
- 106 . In regards to women and communication, it was also stated that a gap exists because of the differences between the ruling class and the base. It was expressed that this gap was widening between women in power-decision-making positions who are removed and kept out of touch from the base because of time constraints, etc.
- 107. The discussion emphasized a need to initiate awareness of this gap problem by joining women's forces together with men. The usefulness of such encounters was also underlined prior to the conclusion of the meeting.

CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF INSTRAW

Thursday 22 March 1984

List of participants

Associated Country Women of the World Conseil National des femmes françaises	Ms. Margaret Weigl
European Union of Women	Mme. Noëlle Maillard
International Alliance of Women	Ms. Irmgard Rimondini
International Board of Cooperation for the Developing Countries	Dr. Guglielmo Gobbi
International Catholic Migration Commission	Ms. Laetitia Van Drunen
International Commission of Jurists	Mr. D.J. Ravindran
International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity	Ms. Manuella Pasquali
International Cooperative Alliance	Ms. Rita Rhodes
International Council of Voluntary Agencies	Mr. P. Campbell
International Council on Alcohol and Addictions	Mme. Maureen Davies Mlle. Michèle Schärer
International Council on Nurses	Mme. Annette Bourret-Brand
International Council on Women	Mme. Rolland Gaillard
International Council on Social Welfare	Ms. Cecile B. Kelly Mme. Anne Herdt
International Cystic Fibrosis Association	Mme. Liliane Heidet
International Federation of Business and Professional Women	Mme. Suzanne Zurcher
International Federation of Plantation, Agricultural and Allied Workers	Ms. Christine Roos or Ms. Elizabeth Goodson
International Federation of University Women Pan Pacific S.E. Asia Women's Association	Mrs. Constance Jones
International Federation of Women Lawyers	Ms. Hélène Pfander
International Institute of Humanitarian Law	Pr. J. Patrnoic
International Union for Child Welfare	Ms. Patricia Light
International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations (ISMUN)	Mr. Juan Carlos Giacosa

Lutheran World Federation	Ms. V. Nallathambi Ms. E. Von Hertzberg
Movement Against Racism and for Friendship between Peoples	Mme. Rose Michalowicz
Muslim World League	Mr. Najib El Rawi
Pax Romana	Ms. Linda Wirth
Salvation Army	Mr. C. Péan
Service d'information Tiers Monde	Mme. Catherine Morand
Socialist International Women	Mme. René Chavanne
Soroptimist International	Dr. Sonia Heptonstall et/ou U. Hemmerich-Barter
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom	Ms. Sundari Ravindran
World Alliance of Reformed Churches	Mme. Hedwig Lodwick
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts	Ms. Cosette Menzies
World Confederation of Labour	Mme. Béatrice Fauchère
World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession	Ms. Lona Towsley
World Conference on Religion and Peace	Ms. Renate Bloem
World Federation of United Nations Associations	Dr. Marek Hagmajer
World Peace Council	Dr. K. Lauko
World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations	Ms. Maryse Durrer
World University Service	Ms. Jane E. Adams
World Young Women's Christian Association	Ms. Anuradha Bose
Zonta International	Mme. Sylvia Tissot
HCR	Ms. Karen Bagger, Deputy Chief of Liaison Unit for NGOs Ms. Flora Liebich, Associate Liaison Officer
International Trade Centre UNCTAS/GATT	Ms. Marie de Mora, External Relations Officer
UNRISD	Mr. Mathias Stiefel
UNITAR	Mme. Sabine Meitzel, Assistante de programmes
WHO	Mrs. Erica Royston, Division of Family Health
ILO-International Institute for Social Studies	Ms. Rose-Marie Greve

de Thérèse Castaut,
Directeur du Service de l'Information

à la Réunion consultative de l'Institut international
de recherche et de formation pour la promotion de la femme
avec les organisations non gouvernementales

Palais des Nations

22 mars 1984

C'est un plaisir particulier pour moi d'ouvrir cette réunion consultative avec les ONGs organisée par l'Institut international de recherche et de formation pour la promotion de la femme en coopération avec notre Service de l'Information.

Je suis tout spécialement heureuse de vous présenter à cette occasion le Directeur de l'Institut, Mme. Dunja Pastizzi-Ferencic. Bien que la recommandation relative à la création de l'Institut date de la première Conférence mondiale de la femme, celle tenue à Mexico en 1975, l'Institut n'a vu le jour que depuis quelques années et ne s'est installé à son siège définitif à Saint-Domingue, en République dominicaine, qu'en décembre dernier. Le Directeur de l'Institut, Mme. Pastizzi-Ferencic, a entrepris une active campagne d'information afin de faire connaître l'institut et de mobiliser tout l'appui qu'il devrait recevoir tant de la part des instances gouvernementales et intergouvernementales que non gouvernementales. Dans ce contexte, nous nous sommes réjouis que Mme. Pastizzi-Ferencic ait estimé que Genève devait être une étape obligée et privilégiée de son périple. En effet, vous trouverez ici, Madame, les représentants de nombreuses ONGs internationales qui coopèrent de longue date avec l'ONU. Le grand nombre d'entre eux qui a répondu à votre invitation témoigne de l'intérêt qu'ils portent à la promotion de la femme et aux activités de votre Institut. Par ailleurs, notre Service a également convié à cette réunion des représentants des organismes du système des Nations Unies qui sont à Genève. Ces organismes coopèrent déjà avec l'Institut mais nous espérons que la rencontre d'aujourd'hui contribuera à resserrer les liens entre toutes les instances travaillant à la promotion des femmes et également à renforcer votre réseau de contacts et d'appuis.

La communauté internationale s'est engagée dans le cadre de la Décennie des Nations Unies pour la femme à promouvoir l'égalité entre l'homme et la

femme, à assurer la pleine intégration des femmes dans l'effort global de développement et à accroître la contribution des femmes au renforcement de la paix. D'où le mot d'ordre: égalité, développement et paix.

Le mandat de l'Institut des Nations Unies est de renforcer la recherche et la formation en vue de promouvoir ces objectifs. L'Institut, conformément aux souhaits des Etats membres, a donné une large priorité dans son programme de travail à l'intégration de la femme au développement.

Je vois pour ma part deux raisons bien évidentes à ce choix des priorités, l'une qui a trait à la situation même des femmes du Tiers monde et l'autre qui a trait à l'aide des pays industrialisés au Tiers monde. La première raison est bien entendu que la participation des femmes au développement, bien qu'elle soit considérable, est sous-estimée et que leur force de travail est sous-utilisée ou mal utilisée. Les femmes des pays en développement sont principalement engagées dans les activités économiques et sociales des secteurs traditionnels. Leur contribution à la vie économique se fait donc dans des conditions difficiles rendant leurs tâches très pénibles et peu productives. Par ailleurs, dans de nombreux pays en développement, les femmes sont de plus en plus écartées de la vie économique à mesure que progressent l'industrialisation et la modernisation des techniques agricoles. Par conséquent, la condition des femmes demeure inférieure et elles ne peuvent pleinement mettre leur capacité au service du développement. C'est donc leur double rôle de bénéficiaire et d'agent du développement qui doit être changé. Ceci a été proclamé solennellement par les Etats membres des Nations Unies quand ils ont adopté la stratégie internationale du développement pour la 3ème Décennie des Nations Unies pour le développement commençant le 1er janvier 1981. L'article 51 de la Stratégie proclame: "Il conviendrait d'assurer la participation pleine et effective de la population tout entière à toutes les étapes du processus de développement. Des mesures appropriées devraient être prises pour provoquer de profonds changements sociaux et économiques et éliminer les déséquilibres structurels qui, ajoutant encore aux désavantages de la femme perpétuent sa condition d'infériorité. A cette fin, tous les pays s'emploieront à assurer la participation des femmes au processus de développement dans tous les secteurs et à tous les niveaux, à égalité avec les hommes et comme agents aussi bien que comme bénéficiaires."

La deuxième raison qui selon moi justifie la grande priorité donnée par l'Institut au thème de l'intégration de la femme au développement tient au fait que les intérêts des femmes sont encore trop souvent négligés dans les activités opérationnelles de coopération technique, qu'elles soient de nature bilatérale ou multilatérale. La meilleure illustration s'en trouve au sein même de notre système des Nations Unies et nous estimons qu'il est extrêmement sain que les organismes des Nations Unies soient à cet égard capables d'autocritique. C'est ainsi que dans un rapport du Programme des Nations Unies pour le Développement sur le rôle des femmes dans le développement, en date de 1982, l'Administrateur a reconnu que de 1974 à 1980, 0,9% des contributions approuvées du PNUD sont allées à des activités de projets présentant un intérêt spécial pour les femmes. Il a lui-même conclu que le nombre de projets de coopération technique auxquels participent expressément des femmes, de même que la proportion des ressources qui leur sont allouées sont très faibles et qu'il reste nécessaire de faire des progrès plus rapides. Le même diagnostic pourrait en réalité être fait pour la plupart des autres agences d'aide et de coopération des organismes internationaux et des pays industrialisés. Il est donc essentiel que les Etats souscrivent aux efforts en cours en vue d'institutionnaliser la promotion des intérêts des femmes dans la planification, l'exécution et l'évaluation de tous les projets. A cet égard, un aspect très important consiste à améliorer la base de données à partir de laquelle planifier la participation des femmes au développement. L'Institut international de la femme contribue activement à ce dernier objectif.

En conclusion, je voudrais une fois encore souligner l'importance que les Nations Unies attachent à faire que le potentiel productif des femmes soit pleinement mis en valeur dans le cadre de la participation à la vie économique et sociale. Le développement est bien trop vital pour que l'humanité puisse le poursuivre en se passant de la moitié d'entre elle! C'est dans cet esprit et en ne doutant pas que notre réunion contribuera à un renforcement de nos efforts collectifs en faveur de la femme que je souhaite exprimer à vous Madame et à tous les participants, mes meilleurs vœux pour le succès de vos travaux.

