The United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)

The United Nations International Research and Training Institute was established by the Economic and Social Council (Council Resolution 1998 (LX) of 12 May 1976) in conformity with an earlier decision of the General Assembly (resolution 3620 (XXX) of 15 December 1975) which was based on a recommendation of the World Conference of the International Women's Year held in Mexico City in 1975.

The Institute is an autonomous body within the framework of the United Nations. It was established in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations to serve as a vehicle on the international level to undertake research, establish training programmes and disseminate information in order to integrate and mobilize women in development.

OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS

The objectives of the Institute are to stimulate and assist, through research, training and the collection and dissemination of information, the advancement of women and their integration in the development process both as participants and as beneficiaries. The Institute seeks to assist the efforts of intergovernmental, governmental and nongovernmental organizations in this regard. Accordingly, the principal functions of the Institute are:

To conduct action-oriented research and studies which would enhance the effective integration and mobilization of women in development. The activities of the Institute give particular attention to the problems facing women in developing countries and to the participation of women in the formulation, design and implementation of development activities at all levels.

To establish training activities, including a fellowship programme and advisory services, through which the Institute shall endeavour to raise awareness on issues concerning women and development and shall strive to achieve equal participation of women in all aspects of economic and social development, as well as increase the opportunities for women to acquire new skills in order to meet the challenges of rapid change in today's society.

To establish and maintain a system of information, documentation and communication so as to enable the Institute to respond to the need for disseminating information world-wide on women's issues.

In the pursuit of its objectives the Institute carries out its activities in close collaboration and co-ordination with institutes, research centres and other bodies within and outside the United Nations system.

The Board of Trustees is the decision-making body for the Institute. It meets once every year. It is composed of 11 members from various regions, nominated by States and appointed by ECOSOC, who serve in their personal capacity for a term of three years and are eligible for reappointment for one further term.

INSTRAW'S SOURCE OF FINANCE

INSTRAW is financed solely through voluntary contributions. It can receive contributions from governmental, non-governmental, foundations and private sources. Both the cost of personnel as well as its activities are financed from these voluntary sources.

Mrs. Dunja Pasticz-Ferencic, the Director of the Institute, when presenting the proposed programme budget for the 1984-1985 pointed out that the greater portion of financial resources had been assigned to research and training activities.
Dr. Salvador Jorge Blanco, President of the Dominican Republic and Ms. Asela Mera de Jorge, First Lady of the Republic, welcome the members of the Board of Trustees of INSTRAW during their first visit to Santo Domingo. The Dominican Head of State pointed out that for the Government it was an honour to host the Institute.

Inauguration of INSTRAW's Headquarters

The Headquarters of the Institute was officially inaugurated on 11 August 1983 by the Government of the Dominican Republic. In attendance, in her capacity as the President's Special Representative, was Asela Mera de Jorge, wife of Dominican President Salvador Jorge Blanco. Minister for Foreign Affairs, José Augusto Vega-Imbert, in opening the ceremony, expressed satisfaction in the Government and the Dominican people for the establishment of the Institute in the Dominican Republic, which coincided with the commitment of the Government in promoting the status of women.

Speaking on behalf of Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar, Enrique Iglesias, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), conveyed the Secretary-General's profound gratitude to the Government of the Dominican Republic for its generosity in acting as the Institute's host. Mr. Iglesias said the Institute's main task would be to contribute to the full participation of women in economic and social development, which could only be achieved through greater impetus being given to the development process within the framework of a new international economic order and through respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction as to race, religion and sex.

Mrs. Delphine Tsanga, President of the Institute's Board of Trustees, said the inauguration marked the beginning of activities aimed at helping men and women build a better society by contributing substantially to the advancement of women. She hoped the host country and other United Nations Member States would give the Institute both material and moral support.
The Board of Trustees of INSTRAW at its fourth session held from 23 to 28 January 1984 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, was pleased to see the efforts made by the Institute in the execution of its work programme and expressed its continuing support to INSTRAW's programme.

In the absence of the Board's President, Mrs. Delphine Tsanga, the session was presided over by its Vice-President, Mrs. Vilma Espín de Castro, who welcomed the participants and declared the session open.

The Vice-President welcomed the new members of the Board, Mrs. Suad Ibrahim Eissa (Sudan), Mrs. María Lavalie Urbina (Mexico) and Mrs. Helen Stamiris (Greece).

Mrs. Marcelle Devaude (France) and Mrs. Suad Ibrahim Eissa (Sudan) were elected Vice-President and Rapporteur, respectively, of the fourth session.

Mr. Jesús María Hernández, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, on behalf of the host country made a welcoming statement saying that it was an honour to receive the members of the Board for its fourth session, which for the first time was being held at its headquarters in Santo Domingo.

Ms. Leticia Shahani, Assistant-Secretary-General for Social and Humanitarian Affairs, on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Under-Secretary-General of International Economic and Social Affairs made a welcoming statement.

The Agenda covered, among other things, the Director's Progress Report on the Institute; the Programme Budget of the Institute for the 1984—85 biennium, the Review of Draft INSTRAW Statute and other matters related to the functioning of the Institute.

The Director, Mrs. Dunja Pastizzi-Ferencic, gave a detailed report of the measures taken for the work programme for 1983, as well as of administrative and financial matters of the Institute. Mrs. Pastizzi-Ferencic con-
eluded her statement by expressing the Institute's wish to contribute efficiently in the elaboration of new concepts and training techniques in co-operation with other organizations, in order to make women's advancement more effective in the development process.

With reference to INSTRAW's budget, the Board decided to approve, in principle, the amount of US$2.5 million for the implementation of the programme of work for the 1984—1985 biennium, giving the Director the authorization to procure additional funds to facilitate the Institute's work.

The Board of Trustees examined and amended the draft INSTRAW statute and decided to present it to the Economic and Social Council for its approval.

The Board members also expressed their appreciation to the Government of the Dominican Republic for the completion of the Institute's premises in Santo Domingo and for the official inauguration celebrated on 11 August 1983.

The Board of Trustees expressed appreciation to the Member States which had contributed to the Trust Fund of the Institute. However, it considered that more funds are necessary to meet the requirements of its activities.

Members and participants

The session was attended by the following Members of the Board: Guizar Bano (Pakistan); Ester Boserup (Denmark); Marcelle Devaud (France); Vilma Espín de Castro (Cuba); Suad Ibrahim Eissa (Sudan); María Lavalle Urbina (México); Helen Stamiris (Greece); Nobuko Takahashi (Japan) and Vida Tomšić (Yugoslavia).

The ex-officio members who participated were: Ms. Leticia R. Shahani, representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations; Ms. Dunja Pastizzi-Ferencic, the Director of the Institute; Mr. John Kelly, Economic Commission for Europe; Ms. Vivian Mota, Economic Commission for Latin America; Ms. Mary Tadesse, Economic Commission for Africa; Ms. Leila Lababidi, Economic Commission for Western Asia; Ms. Pak Po-Hi, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; Ms. Martha Olga García, representative of the Government of the Dominican Republic.

Representatives of the following units of the United Nations Secretariat attended the session: Office of Legal Affairs, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, Office of Financial Services.

A representative of the United Nations Development Programme and representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and World Health Organization also attended the session.

Mrs. Emma Brosiman attended the session as the representative of Conference of Non-Governmental Organization in Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council/Committee on the United Nations Decade for Women.
Programme Activities of INSTRAW for 1984-85

The Board of Trustees of the Institute decided at its fourth session, which was convened in Santo Domingo from 23-28 January 1984, to give priority to the following programmes.

1. **Statistics and Indicators for Women.** As a continuation of the project that started during the 1982-83 biennium on Improving Statistics and Indicators relating to the role and status of women, the Institute will take the following actions: a) A joint meeting with the Conference of European Statisticians on Statistics and Indicators relating to the role and status of women. The meeting will be held in Geneva in 1985, in co-operation with the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE); b) the preparation of two joint publications with the International Labour Organization (ILO): *Women's participation in the economic activity of the World* (1975-1985) and *Woman Power II* (an updated version of *Woman Power* the world's female labour force in 1975 and the outlook for 2000) c) a joint sub-regional seminar on Training of Users of Statistics on Women and Development in Africa with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); d) a project on statistical analysis on women in Latin American countries through household surveys, in co-operation with the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC); e) preparation of a technical report on subjects and matters pertaining to women for use in household surveys, and the preparation of a technical report on techniques to measure and evaluate the participation of women in non-monetary economic activities.

2. **The Incorporation of Women into Development Planning.** This programme involves, among other activities, the wide dissemination of the recommendations of the inter-regional seminar in Dominican Republic held recently along with proceedings of the seminar. The 20 papers and studies submitted by the participants will be published as a U.N. sale publication. Based on the discussions of the seminar, training materials will be developed. These training materials will be checked and finalized through consultations with organizations that have experience in the field.

3. **The Institute's programme on the Role of Women in the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade.** gives priority to the organization of an inter-regional seminar on the subject in Cairo in March 1984. INSTRAW will disseminate widely its conclusions and recommendations; it will prepare training guidelines and manuals based on the results of the seminar; the Institute is ready to participate in the United Nations Development Programme on Promotion and Support of the Participation of Women in the Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. The Institute will continue to serve and attend the meetings of both United Nations Steering Committee and the Inter-agency Task Force on Women and the IDWSSD.

4. **The Role of Women in International Economic Relations** is one of the most important sub-programmes for 1984-1985 biennium, as was reaffirmed by the United Nations General Assembly. The Institute is actually engaged in the preparation of a series of research studies on various sectors of economic activities focusing on analyses of the interlinkages between the international and the national levels and how this relation affects the status and the role of women. These studies will be carried out in co-operation with other United Nations organizations and academic institutions. Two high level expert meetings will be organized to examine the recommendations of the studies after which the studies will be published and widely disseminated.

5. Believing in the importance of the principle of self-reliance, the Institute is preparing a study on the topic of *Women and Developing Countries' Self-reliance.* This study will be a contribution of the Institute to the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, which is being prepared by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in Vienna. Likewise, INSTRAW will co-operate with the International Centre for Public Enterprises of Ljubljana in Yugoslavia in preparing a study on the role of women in developing countries. The Institute will also prepare a number of other studies in the area of technical cooperation among developing countries as it relates to women.

6. The Institute also has a programme on *Women's Role in Industrial Development.* In co-operation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), it conducted a study during the 1982-1983 biennium on approaches and methods for mobilizing women in small-scale and rural industry. As a follow-up to this initial collaborative effort, UNIDO and INSTRAW, during the 1984-1985 biennium, will be undertaking preparatory work for the purpose of identifying training opportunities related to women and industrial development, and will convene a workshop in Vienna to test the initial findings of this preparatory work. The appropriate training material for increased training of women in industrial and managerial activities will also be prepared jointly by the two organizations.

Other INSTRAW programmes deal with the preparation of training modules; granting of fellowships; undertaking research and training activities in the field of women and new and renewable sources of energy; and the strengthening of the role of women in agricultural and food systems; a study on household, gender and age-women at work and the strengthening of national mechanisms for the integration of women into development.

Finally, INSTRAW places special emphasis on its information, documentation and communication programmes. During the 1984-1985 biennium, the Institute will continue to establish the basic framework for its information, documentation and communication activities in order to fulfill the Institute's objectives in this area.
Role of Women in International Economic Relations

According to the Institute's mandate, the focus of activities is on social and economic development with the aim of integrating women into the mainstream of development. This requires that the Institute monitor closely the current debate on development and international economic co-operation, and participate in the ongoing search for meaningful ways to address the development problems in order to fulfill the objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

The current debate highlights a number of trends: (a) the ultimate aim of development is the well-being of the people, (b) the importance of the population component to development and the full participation of all segments of the population, women and men alike, in the development process, (c) development benefits should be shared by all in order to fulfill the call for "growth with equity". These and other ideas were reflected in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, which states in its preamble that the development process must promote human dignity.

In this respect, 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.

In the course of developing this proposal, INSTRAW undertook numerous activities, including a brainstorming session, which was organized at United Nations Headquarters on 25 July 1982, to solicit views of the specialists on the subject from within and outside the United Nations; consultations with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR); other United Nations bodies and other academic institutions with the view of determining the scope and terms of reference for the project; and a review of United Nations resolutions and decisions relevant to the status of women and their role in development, particularly those adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, in order to determine the areas which need further in-depth study.

As a result of surveying the area of women and development, it was found that the aspects to be further developed are: (a) to review and analyse the present model of development and different approaches and concepts so far used 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; (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.

Having examined the results of this survey as submitted in a document entitled: The Role of Women in the New International Economic Order and the International Development Strategy (INSTRAW BT/1983/CRP. 1), the Board of Trustees, at its third session, decided that the Institute should first 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.

Collaboration has already been initiated with UNCTAD for the first in the series of these research studies, which deals with the transfer and development of technology, including choice of technology, and their impact on the position and work of women. Moreover, contacts with internationally renowned academic institutions are being actively pursued.
The Incorporation of Women
Into Development Planning

"Development planning should take into account the interrelationship
between the reproductive and productive roles of women. As the reproductive
function is only one of women's major social roles, it should not be the
basis for exclusion from other activities. Development planners should rather
capitalize on women's multi-roles as assets that can enhance development."

This and other recommendations were made at the conclusion of the
inter-regional seminar on "The Incorporation of Women into Development
Planning", the first seminar organized
by the Institute at its headquarters in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
from 5-11 December 1983.

The objective of the seminar was to exchange the experiences of different
countries and regions in the field of planning, to underline the problems
encountered in search of solutions, and to increase the participation of
women in the planning process, as well as to render this process more
responsive to women's needs by raising the level of awareness and determining
the most suitable institutional framework, planning mechanisms and techniques
for that purpose.

Twenty-two experts from different
countries, as well as representatives
from nine United Nations specialized
agencies and organizations discussed
the various topics of the agenda of the
seminar which covered issues of policy
design, methodological approaches to
incorporating women into development
programmes, research and data collec-
tion and training and dissemination of
information.

The Director of the Institute, Mrs.
Dunja Pastizzi-Ferencic, highlighted
the significance of the planning
seminar and stated that this meeting
was the first step in a continuous
dialogue for the development of
planning techniques which incorporate
women's needs and potential through
research, training and communication
activities.

The Seminar was presided by Prof. María Augusztnovics (Hungary). As Vice Presidents
were elected Mr. Dan Ayayee (Ghana), Ms. Achie Sudhiarti Luhulima (Indonesia) and Ms.
Blanca Figueroa (Perú). Mrs. Helga Hernes (Norway) was elected Rapporteur. Shown are the
elected officers of the meeting accompanied by Ms. Dunja Pastizzi-Ferencic, Director of
INSTRAW and Ms. Mervat Tallawy, Chief of Research and Training, INSTRAW.

Republic, on behalf of the Government
and Dr. Martha Olga García, Director
of the Office for the advancement
of Women, of the Presidency on behalf
of Mrs. Asela Mera de Jorge Blanco,
First Lady of the Dominican Republic,
welcomed the participants to the
Seminar.

The meeting was presided over by
Dr. María Augusztnovics, Head of
Macro-economic Models at the National
Planning Office of Hungary and a
former member of the United Nations
Committee for Development Planning.

The other officers of the meeting were
the following: Vice President, Mr. Dan
Ayayee (Ghana); Vice President, Mrs.
Achiel Sudiarti Luhulima, (Indonesia); Vice
President, Ms. Blanca Figueroa
(Perú) and Rapporteur, Ms. Helga
Hernes (Norway).

Twenty-one papers were submitted
to the meeting by the participants.
These papers will be included in the
final proceedings of the seminar which
will be a United Nations Sales publica-
tion.

It is hoped that the recommenda-
tions of the seminar will help in
devising appropriate guidelines for the
more active participation of women in
the development process, both as
participants and as beneficiaries.

Institutions and persons in-
terested in the meeting may refer to
INSTRAW document. INSTRAW/BT/
1984/5.
MS. LETICIA SHAHANI:

1984: A Challenging Year for INSTRAW

1984 is a very important year for programmes relevant to the advancement of women in the United Nations system for two reasons, a) it marks the beginning of INSTRAW's operation at its headquarters in Santo Domingo, b) it is also the year when all the major preparatory activities for the 1985 World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women will take place.

These ideas were expressed by Ms. Leticia R. Shahani, Assistant Secretary-General for Social and Humanitarian Affairs and Representative of the Secretary-General in the fourth session of the Board of Trustees of INSTRAW.

She hoped "that these two events inspire and assist INSTRAW in fulfilling its important mandate to reinforce the activities of the United Nations system in the field of research and training for the advancement of Women".

She was of the belief that this is the time for the Institute to consider the possibility of synthesizing in various spheres the state of the art acquired at the international level on the diverse aspects of the advancement of women.

Ms. Shahani stated that the Institute can make an important contribution to the worldwide study of the role of women in economic development and that it was to be expected that this activity would facilitate and enforce the future cooperation between INSTRAW and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.

The Institute has started an international competition for an official logo of its own.

The Institute invites all designers and artists to participate in the competition. The logo design that is chosen will be used in all the documents and publications of the Institute together with the United Nations emblem. The competition will end on 30 April 1984.

PRIZES AND BASIS OF THE COMPETITION

The artist whose sketch wins the competition will receive a prize of two thousand dollars or its equivalent in local currency. Even though only the winning design will be used, a second prize of one thousand dollars or its equivalent in local currency will be awarded.

The participants must submit their designs on a sheet of paper approximately 10 cms. by 82 cms. (normal quarto size). The design may be in up to two colours, pen and ink must be used and should be reproducible in black and white.

As a first step the artist whose design is chosen will be asked to finish the logo in consultation with United Nations graphic designers in New York for its reproduction.

Each participant should include his/her name and address together with the design. According to the rules of the competition, the United Nations will not return any design.

**Improving Statistics and Indicators**

One of the first research projects carried out by the Institute was in the field of statistics and indicators, as a response to the repeated call for improved statistics and statistical concepts covering the situation of women.

An expert group meeting on improving statistics and indicators on the situation of women was convened from 11–15 April in New York jointly by the Institute and the United Nations Statistical Office. High-level statisticians and analysts reviewed two documents prepared by the Institute. The first document, "Improving Concepts and Methods for Statistics and Indicators on the Status of Women", is a review of existing concepts, data sources and uses for indicators, drawing extensively on previous work of the United Nations system in this area. The second document, "Compiling Social Indicators on the Status of Women", is an analysis of conceptual and methodological problems in improving the quality and relevance of data pertaining to the conditions of women over the long term. This important meeting was presided over by Ms. Mercedes Concepcion (Philippines).

The participants made additional recommendations for inclusion in the documents and for follow-up activities in the field of statistics and indicators on the situation of women. The two documents are presently available in final form:


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**Women, Science and Technology**

Women's participation in the development of science and technology was emphasized in a meeting attended by 26 experts on Science and Technology and Women, held at Mt. Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts, 12–16 September 1983. The meeting was convened jointly by the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. INSTRAW actively participated in this meeting in which Dr. Eva Friedlander represented the Institute.

The discussions focused on the possible contributions by women to their communities through the utilization of scientific and technological skills. Key topics included the importance of involving women and women's organizations in creating projects in which women train directly with technical experts. The need to facilitate in-country training was stressed as a means to help end "brain drain", the emigration of a country's trained people. Also the panel dealt with the difficulty of reconciling and bringing together problems faced on the local level (such as food, which continues to remain a problem), and changes in the developed world, including computers and bio-technology.

The expert panel touched on the implications of the recent, and rapid advances in bio-technology. The discussion highlighted the critical issue of control over both the use and transfer of the new technologies in view of the rapidity with which their impact will be felt. Since education is needed in order to use these technologies, the issue of the transfer of technologies is particularly crucial. Regarding utilization of technology, it was noted that emphasis should be placed on the common benefit of men and women rather than on who the utilizers will be.
Fellowship Programme

The fellowship programme is an important part of the overall training programme of the Institute. It assists in creating opportunities to enable women to increase and acquire new skills. The fields for which fellowships are granted are within the areas of work of INSTRAW and are awarded in a decentralized fashion.

Since 1983, INSTRAW has started to develop its fellowship programme. It includes:
- Honorary fellowships given to individuals that can contribute their knowledge to the Institute for the development of its different programmes;
- Fellowships for Researchers, interested in contributing to the better understanding of women’s problems and the development processes;
- Fellowships for Trainers, so that they assume the responsibility of preparing and conveying new knowledge and skills to others.

An example of fellowships provided by the Institute is the sponsorship of two fellows, from India and Nepal, to assist the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in its regional appraisal of the situation of women in the implementation of the programme mandates of the United Nations Decade for Women (1975–1985).

The fellowship programme is an integral part of the Institute’s mission for Western Asia (ECWA), an INSTRAW fellowship has been given to assist in the preparation of the ECWA Seminar on Women and Planning. Also, the Institute has given funds for a Consultant to review the development plans of one country in that region.

The Institute has given a fellowship to Teacher’s College of Columbia University in New York for a study to define, modify for greater effectiveness, and then standardize the educational curriculum on women and development.

Journalists from Developing Countries

Radio and press journalists from developing countries discussed issues of women and development with INSTRAW’s Director, Mrs. Dunja Pastizzi-Ferencic and its Chief of Research and Training, Mrs. Mervat Tallawy. The meeting was held at the United Nations in New York on 4 October 1983. The group of journalists, from Africa, Asia and Latin America, represented divergent regional concepts of women and development.

Through questions by Mrs. Pastizzi-Ferencic to the journalists, the group examined their ideas of women in development processes in their respective countries. Comments by both Mrs. Pastizzi-Ferencic and Mrs. Tallawy on the remarks made by members of the group, gave a greater awareness of the frequently unrecognized work activities of women.

Mrs. Pastizzi-Ferencic said, that full recognition, particularly by communicators, was a key factor to the general understanding of women’s present and future potential as benefactors to a country’s economic prosperity. Mrs. Pastizzi-Ferencic added that it was crucial that the involvement of women be perceived as an integral part of development, and not as a separate component. This, she noted, would reflect accurately the obvious integrated role played by women in their respective societies. Mrs. Tallawy stated that in the region, the socio-economic role of women is either undervalued or taken for granted, the achievement of real equality should be based on the re-evaluation of women’s work. The emphasis should not be on the traditional legal demand of equality for women, but on the recognition of the work done by women and its contribution to the whole process of development.

For development, Mrs. Tallawy added, cannot be successful if one-half of the productivity of a country’s population is unrecognized, untrained or unequipped to face new technology, as well as the rapid changes confronting today’s society.

Impact of Rural Development

Six case studies document the impact of large-scale rural development projects on households and on women within households. The case studies were presented at a meeting convened by the Ford Foundation at its New York offices on 16 September. Fifteen policy makers, trainers, researchers and case writers focused on “The Role of Case Studies in Development Planning and Training: Content, Format, and Application of Gender – Differentiated Analysis”. INSTRAW was invited to participate in this meeting where its views were expressed by its representatives.

The discussions emphasized three items. First, the panel critically examined the six case studies, materials on the sex-differentiated impacts of large-scale development programmes, in terms of the studies, utility for a variety of training and planning purposes. Second, the panel identified high priority interventions, or topics for study. The panel also identified further sources of, and audiences for, case materials. Third, the participants explored strategies for promoting the incorporation of such materials in training programmes.

Mr. Robert Johnston (first row, second from left), represented INSTRAW in the expert meeting on the Advancement of Women through Public Enterprises held in Sri Lanka in November 1983 organized by the International Center for Public Enterprises. Among other experts who participated, appear in the picture: Ms. V. Jayasinghe (Sri Lanka); Ms. Luhulima (Indonesia); Ms. Ferchiou (Tunisia); Ms. Johnson (Guyana); Ms. Jardaneh (Jordan); Mr. Udo-Aka (Nigeria); Mr. Gupta (India); and Ms. Zewede (Ethiopia).
One of the most critical issues facing the world today is to secure adequate clean water, the very basis for human survival. Recognition of the seriousness and the vital importance of improving water supply and sanitation world-wide was underlined by the international community at the United Nations Water Conference held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in 1977 and resulted in the subsequent launching of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (DWSSD) by the General Assembly in 1980.

Women, Water Supply and Sanitation

Consequences of inadequate supply of water to people are evident. However, they hit women most severely. Women are the traditional water carriers in many societies of the developing world and carrying water is a routine part of daily life. It is not the activity per se though that is objectionable but the distance they must travel to obtain it. In many parts of the developing world, for example, women spend up to six hours a day hauling water over long distances, sometimes up to nine miles.

The amount of time wasted and energy expended in this drudgery is tremendous and hardly leaves room to perform the numerous other chores and functions demanded of women, let alone allowing time for income-generating activities so vital to their families' survival.

Furthermore, in many developing countries, it is customary for girls to be kept home from school to help with, among other things, carrying water. This lack of education is known to be a major factor in perpetuating women's low socio-economic status.

Exhausted by hard work, weakened by poor nutrition and, by virtue of their domestic functions, in constant touch with water which is often polluted, women are particularly vulnerable to water-related diseases which, according to estimates of the World Health Organization, account for 80% of all sicknesses and diseases in the developing countries.

These health consequences also have economic repercussions. Besides being relentless killers (15 million children under the age of five die every year from them), water-related diseases often cripple the work force in developing countries. For example, it has been estimated that in one Asian country 73 million working days are lost every year through sickness due to these diseases.

International Community Recognizes Role of Women

Aware of the dramatic consequences
Voluntary Contributions Only Source of Finance for INSTRAW

Would You Contribute to Its Activities

The progress of nations is measured by, among other things, the scientific research carried out for the prosperity and well-being of the people. However, the reality is that research and training activities are most often not considered a priority area for urgent action. This is particularly the case if we consider the following figures released by ILO:

Women constitute two-thirds of the world’s labour force.

As 50% of the world’s population, they perform two-thirds of its work-hours, which includes both the modern sector, as well as the traditional domestic tasks, unpaid labour on the farm or other family enterprises and labour done within patron/client relationships.

INSTRAW is a United Nations body that undertakes research and training activities for the advancement of women. The scope of its work programme is determined by the degree of voluntary financial support it receives from governmental and non-governmental organizations which include philanthropic institutions.

The Institute has many research and training programmes for the advancement of women in areas such as statistics and indicators, development planning, water supply and sanitation and international economic relations in addition to its programme in information, documentation and communication. We ask you to support any or all of these activities, or bring the letter to the attention of your friends who can contribute financially to the work of the Institute.

Your understanding, support and confidence in INSTRAW’s programmes are of vital importance.

Contribute to our research, training and information programmes for women.

Send your contributions, books, grants, etc., to our headquarters in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, P.O. Box 21747.

for women of the present situation in water supply and sanitation, the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, in Copenhagen 1980, as well as numerous regional and international meetings have all adopted resolutions regarding the importance of including women as participants and beneficiaries in programmes and activities being carried out in relation to providing clean water and sanitation services.

A major programme of the Institute is dedicated to the problems confronting women, in both rural and urban areas, in water supply and sanitation. INSTRAW is a member of the Steering Committee for Co-operative Action of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade 1980-1990) which has emphasized the important role women can play in the implementation of the Decade’s objectives.

Jointly with UNICEF, INSTRAW serves as the Secretariat for an Inter-Agency Task Force which was established by the Steering Committee to:

— develop a strategy for the enhancement of the role of women within the Decade;

— assist in activities in support of the Decade’s programmes in relation to the role of women;

— act as a mechanism for collaboration in the development and implementation of activities at national and international levels; and

— monitor, evaluate and report on the implementation of Decade policies and programmes related to women, ensuring that they adequately meet the concerns, needs and contributions of women and recommend further action in this regard.
Available INSTRAW Literature

I. Documents submitted to Board meeting

1. Design and implementation of the subprogramme on information, documentation and communication of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. INSTRAW/BT/1982/CRP. 1.


3. Training courses on policy information – planning for women's active participation in development. INSTRAW/BT/1982/CRP. 3.


5. The role of women in the new international economic order and International Development Strategy (A joint UNITAR/INSTRAW proposal) INSTRAW/BT/1982/CRP. 5.

6. Role of women in the implementation of the developing countries' policy of collective self-reliance. INSTRAW/BT/1982/CRP. 6.


II. Publications and Working Papers


3. Inauguration Press Kit:
   a) "A Catalyst for Change";
   b) Fact Sheet on INSTRAW;
   c) Fact Sheet on INSTRAW 1982–1983 Work Programme;
   d) Feature Article: "Women and Water";
   e) Press Release dated 4 August 1983;


8. Position paper on women and the hidden economy presented for the United Nations University project provisionally entitled “Household, Gender and Age” by the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. (Rome, April 1982).


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Aziza HUSSEIN (Egypt), President of the International Planned Parenthood Federation and, of the Cairo Family Planning Association, former member of number of United Nations consultative bodies; pioneer in the development of rural women, child welfare, family planning and women's rights since 1949. Awarded the FAO Ceres Medal in 1975.

Nobuko TAKAHASHI (Japan), Ambassador of Japan to Denmark, Member of the advisory council to the Prime Minister of women's affairs; former Assistant Director of ILC; lecturer, Department of Social Sciences, Tokyo Women's University.

1983—1986:
Saud Ibrahim EISSA (Sudan), Chairman of Education and Scientific Research Committee of the National People's Assembly. Has wide experience in the promotion of education for women in the Sudan. Was founder of the first private intermediate school for girls in Khartoum. Member of the executive office of the Sudan Women's Union and founding member of the executive office of Bakir Badri Scientific Organization for Women Studies which is geared towards development and participation of Sudanese women, especially in the rural areas. She has participated in many seminars, conferences and workshops both in the Sudan and internationally. Has carried out many research activities on the status of women in the Sudan, with particular interest in women's education.

Maria LAVALLE URBINA (Mexico), Representative of Mexico to the Inter-American Commission of Women (ICM) of the Organization of American States (OAS), President, Commission of Justice in the Senate. In 1963 was designated woman of the year in Mexico City in recognition of her work for the advancement of women. In 1980 was designated as one of the 10 women of the 1980s. In 1973 received the United Nations award for eminent work in the field of human rights. Has vast experience in education and law, and is very active in the promotion of women's rights in Mexico. She has represented Mexico in numerous regional and international conferences, has been honoured by Mexico and also other Latin American countries for her work in the judicial field and has represented Mexico on the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

Helein STAMIRIS (Greece), Member of Board of Directors, Mediterranean Women's Studies Institute, Athens, Has extensive knowledge and experience in women's issues and programmes, especially concerning immigrant and refugee women. Has participated in task forces, committees and conferences regarding immigration policy, labour migration problems, ethnic group relations and multiculturalism. In the human services field contributed to the development in the Montreal, Canadian metropolitan region of an organization plan and implementation for a new and centralized human services system, merging all social, health and community services, and has served as consultant to Governments on social service policy and programmes.

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