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 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 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.

PHOTO COVER: Inaugural session of INSTRAW Interregional Seminar on Women and IDWSSD in Cairo – 26–16 March 84. From left to right: Mrs. Dunja Fastizzi-Ferencic, Director of INSTRAW; Dr. Badran, Head of the Egyptian Academy of Science; Dr. El-Beltagui, Head of the State Information Service in Egypt; Mr. S. El-Sharif, Minister of Information of Egypt; Mr. El Kafrawi, Housing Urbanization and Land Reclamation; Dr. Wali, Minister of Agriculture of Egypt and Mrs. Mervat Tallawy, Chief of Research and Training of INSTRAW.
Economic and Social Council Examines INSTRAW Report

The report of the fourth session of INSTRAW Board of Trustees was examined at the first regular session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) which was held in April 1984 in New York.

The Director, Mrs. Dunja Pastizziferenc, in an oral statement, introduced the report (E/1984/41). She pointed out that the fourth session of the Board—the first one held at INSTRAW's Headquarters in Santo Domingo—was of particular importance since it evaluated the implementation of the initial work programme of the Institute for 1982–83 biennium, approved the programme for the new biennium 1984–86 and reviewed and approved the Statute of the Institute, the basic document which would govern its future development.

She said that INSTRAW's programme was fully focussed on the interrelationship between the need for equal status and an active role of women in the development processes at all levels—national, regional and international. Such interrelationship—added the Director—is most relevant both for the position of women, and an integrated approach to development, which implies the search for innovative development formulae with equity, justice and participation as underlying criteria.

She emphasized that manifold consultations had been carried out in order to prepare the draft Statute for the fourth session of the Board, taking into account all relevant decisions of the policy-making bodies, Board of Trustees, ECOSOC and General Assembly, (including its resolution 31/104) as well as the initial experience and working relationship developed through the Institute's actual cooperative programmes.

Most of the Representatives of Member States participating in the discussions, indicated support for the work of the Institute. Some delegations felt that INSTRAW had an important role to play in furthering the participation of women in the development process. Other delegations expressed satisfaction that the Institute was now operating from its headquarters in the Dominican Republic. Much interest was shown in the Institute's current programmes on indicators and related basic statistics on women, the incorporation of women into development planning and programming, the role of women in the international drinking water supply and sanitation decade (IDWSSD), the role of women in international economic relations, and women's role in the implementation of developing countries' individual and collective self-reliance.

As to INSTRAW's Statute, it was felt that it was a necessary instrument to strengthen the Institute, providing it with a sound legal and administrative basis for its future functioning and development, well beyond the Decade. The Economic and Social Council decided by consensus to approve the Statute as contained in the report of the Board of Trustees and transmit it to the General Assembly for its endorsement.

Election of New Members to INSTRAW's Board of Trustees

The Economic and Social Council elected three new members to serve in the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) for a three-year term, beginning 1 July 1984.

Mrs. Daniela Colombo (Italy) was appointed representing the Group of Western European and other States, and Ms. Zhor Lazrak (Morocco) and Ms. Achine Sudiarat Luhulima (Indonesia) were elected representing the Group of African States and Group of Asian States, respectively.

The three new members were appointed to the Board of Trustees of INSTRAW to fill the vacancies that would be created by the expiration of the term of office of three members on 30 June 1984, namely, Mrs. Marcelle Devaude of France, Mrs. Aziza Hussein of Egypt and Mrs. Nobuko Takahashi of Japan, whose mandates could not be renewed after serving two consecutive terms.

| STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN |
| The Economic and Social Council, having considered the report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its fourth session, approves the Statute of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women contained in the report, and transmits it to the General Assembly for its endorsement. |

Photo: U.N. Photo/Nepali
Consultative Meeting of INSTRAW with NGOs in Geneva

A consultative meeting of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) with non-governmental organizations (NGO's) was convened in co-operation with the United Nations Information Service, at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, on March 22, 1984, to discuss the issue of women and development and the role of INSTRAW.

This meeting was convened as an outcome of the decision reached by INSTRAW's Board of Trustees during its second session, in which the highest importance was attached to securing a stable financial foundation for the work of the Institute, its financial source being based on voluntary contributions. The Board of Trustees agreed that NGO’s could make a useful contribution by supporting the work of the Institute through co-operative activities between INSTRAW and the NGO community.

The 1975 World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women emphasize the important role played by non-governmental organizations, particularly in implementing development activities, raising awareness, promoting attitudinal change and encouraging women to take an active part in social, cultural, political and economic activities.

The purpose of the Consultative Meeting was to present and discuss the Institute’s legislative mandate, objectives and programme of activities, as well as 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. About 60 participants representing the different NGO’s involved in issues on Women and Development, numerous United Nations Bodies, and specialized United Nations Agencies, attended the meeting.

Therese Gestaut, Director of the United Nations Information Service, Geneva, delivered the welcome address to the participants and pointed out the objectives of the meeting, also expressing the satisfaction of the United Nations Information Service in convening the consultative meeting with INSTRAW. She also 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.

The topics of the meeting included: Women and Development with a focus on the methodological approaches required to tackle the problem, a framework of possible co-operative arrangements between the non-governmental community involved in developmental issues and INSTRAW, and the need for promoting co-operation with the non-governmental community active in the area of women and development.

The Director of INSTRAW, Dunja Pastizzi-Ferencic, presented a general introduction on the issues of women and development. She expressed that the very Charter of the United Nations reaffirmed faith in the dignity and worth of the human person, the equal rights of men and women, and to this end, the United Nations should promote higher standards of living, full employment, and set conditions to achieve social progress and development. Therefore — she said — the ulti-
mate of development is the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population, men and women alike, on the basis of their full participation in the development process and in the fair distribution of benefits therefrom. She added that they were facing a double challenge: the task of improving both the development process, and the position of women. She also noted that the efforts carried out so far within the United Nations system, however valuable, are still insufficient, compared to the magnitude of the problem. Therefore, every effort should be made to double forces by using the wide expertise of the NGOs.

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, intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and bodies which are fully geared to developmental issues, paying special attention to problems facing women in developing countries.

INSTRAW representative, Susana Sam-Vargas, addressed the meeting highlighting the relationship of the NGO community and INSTRAW as well as possibilities for further cooperation.

She stated that NGOs could work closely with INSTRAW in relation to its various activities and mandate, by investigating the problems of different groups of women, assisting in the promotion and implementing developmental activities, providing liaison services for women’s groups with educational and developmental agencies, promoting attitudinal change among men and women, mutual co-operation among women’s groups, influencing decision-making groups and the media to support the aims of the Programme of Action, informing their own members of government policies and development plans, and making known the international standards and programmes for improving the situation of women.

Concluding, she noted that a basic plan or mechanism of co-operation for INSTRAW and NGOs includes working together in the areas of publicity, funding, research and collection of data, operational support, fellowship programmes, expertise and co-sponsorship of meetings.

Introducing the next item of discussion, the Chief of Public Relations and Documentation Unit, Information Service, Janine Hamel-Minne, addressed the subject of the importance of involving women in the media, as a way of establishing a channel of information geared to promote co-operation between the non-governmental community active in women and development issues.

During the general discussion it was noted that the participants found a problem of definition with the term Women and Development and the constant use of outdated terminology. It was emphasized that the Institute was in a position to change the language and terms used, and also update concepts, taking into account that both, time and history favour a change.

Views expressed that dangerous consequences are often brought about when women are perceived as a special or isolated group in a society, therefore, the concept of Women and Development would be realized only when women are incorporated into the social and political mainstream, and into decision-making positions.

In order to avoid preconceived programmes and projects, it was noted that a self-reliance formulae should be elaborated with the participation of women in the countries concerned. Such programme formulation based on experiences of developing countries themselves should be assisted by the efforts of the whole international community.

Views were also expressed 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.

Emphasis was placed on the need to keep the general public, women’s organizations, etc., informed on women’s and development issues, and on the importance of the use of the media to convey up-dated information.

In the design of economic and social policies, it was pointed out 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.

Concluding, it was stated that coordination 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.
INSTRAW is presently working, in collaboration with a number of internationally renowned academic and research institutions, on the preparation of a series of studies on the role of women in international economic relations. This preparation is the first phase of a project being carried out by the Institute, following a decision made by INSTRAW's Board of Trustees at its third session.

The research studies will concentrate particularly on the analysis of interlinkages between macro and micro economies and their impact on the role and status of women.

The first study is being undertaken in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). It analyzes the transfer and development of technology, including choice of technology and their impact on the position and work of women. It is divided into three parts with the first part being a conceptual approach which explores the issues governing women's position, particularly in developing countries, and relevant technological factors. The second part supplies an empirical and analytical content, while Part III explores some policy implications. The first and second parts have been prepared respectively by Professor Amartya K. Sen, Drummond Professor of Political Economy, All Souls College, Oxford and Deborah Fahy Bryceeson, St. Anthony's College, Oxford University. The third part will be prepared by the UNCTAD Secretariat.

Entitled Women and International Development Co-operation: Trade and Investment, the second study in the series, is carried out in co-operation with the North-South Institute in Canada. This study examines the influence of the unequal terms of trade among nations, the fluctuation of prices of primary commodities, and the impact of tariffs and quotas on manufactured and semi-manufactured goods and products from developing countries, on the employment, working and living conditions, and general well-being of women in the developing and developed countries.

Impact of International and National Monetary and Financial Institutions and their Policies upon Women is the title of the third study prepared by Dr. Sushila Gidwani. As an examination of the international monetary situation, including fluctuation of exchange rates and prices, inflation and their effect on women, it explores the possibility of applying innovative financial arrangements to benefit women.

In co-operation with the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex in England a study is being prepared on the relationship between international policies in terms of trade, and women's work and condition in industries which are more sensitive to price fluctuations and protectionist measures, such as the textile, garment industries and electronics. Lastly, and in co-operation with the Association of African Women for Research and Development (AAWARD) in Dakar, Senegal, a study will be prepared on the impact of the existing patterns of international trade on agricultural production and food systems and its consequences for women.

An internal consultative meeting of the authors of the studies and other experts in the field, will be convened in September of this year at the Institute's headquarters, to examine the findings of these studies.
An OPEC Grant for Women in Agricultural Development

The OPEC Fund for International Development has recently approved a grant of US$10,000 for the INSTRAW/FAO project on "Advisory Services and National Symposium of Women in Agricultural and Rural Development" which will be carried out in Lesotho.

The role of women in food and agricultural programmes, and the effect of these programmes on the Situation of Women, has been the focus of much of INSTRAW's interest ever since its inception. This is a reflection of the growing awareness of women's role in agricultural production, as expressed in a series of international meetings such as the 1979 World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and the 1980 World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women.

Recent findings show that women form a substantial part of the total agricultural labour force. They play an important role in food production, particularly in subsistence agriculture, and their participation in commercial agriculture is also increasing. At the same time, it appears that women experience negative consequences from recent developments in the agricultural sector such as mechanization, changes in land-holding patterns, and commercialization brought about, either by market forces or by technical assistance, leaving them in subsistence farming or sub-economic plots while men move to the modern commercial sector.

New INSTRAW Brochure on Improving Statistics and Indicators

As a response to the repeated call for improved statistics and statistical concepts, covering the situation on women, one of the first research projects carried out by the Institute was in the field of statistics and indicators. An expert group meeting on these subjects, convened jointly by the Institute and the United Nations Statistical Office, took place in New York from 11 to 15 April 1984. The group reviewed and approved two technical documents prepared by the Institute:


This document 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 document is a review of existing concepts, data sources and users for the indicators, drawing extensively on previous work of the United Nations system in this area.

Based on these two documents, INSTRAW has published a brochure summarizing and at the same time underlining its most important aspects. In this respect, emphasis is given to the common-mistaken-practice of past statistics and indicators works, of using general figures to point out school drop-outs, death rates or health issues, instead of making a clear separation between girls and boys, or and women and men.

The brochure, as well as the two documents, are available, at no cost and upon request from: INSTRAW, P.O. Box 21747, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.
An Interregional Seminar on Women and the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, organized by INSTRAW and hosted by the government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, was held in Cairo, Egypt, from 12-16 March, 1984.

The seminar was directly linked to the United Nations General Assembly's proclamation of the period 1981-1990 as the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, with a focus on identifying problems related to drinking water supply and sanitation, particularly in the socio-economic, health and sanitation, and science and technology areas. The meeting also aimed at seeking possible solutions to these problems based on the successful experience of experts from different countries and regions. This was accomplished by drawing upon the different expertises of the participants, particularly by the fact that the participants represented a tripartite participation scheme of social scientists, medical doctors, health specialists and engineers/scientists.

Fifty-eight participants from various regions attended the meeting in their personal capacity. Included among the participants were a number of representatives of United Nations bodies and specialized agencies as well as international donor agencies, non-governmental organizations and other international organizations. The meeting was also attended by observers from foreign embassies in Cairo and local organizations, associations, agencies, media, etc.

Participants prepared and submitted to the seminar thirty-one papers, covering, from various perspectives, the issues of water supply and sanitation, i.e., *The Indian Dilemma* by Dr. Banoo Coyaji; *The Egyptian Concept*, by the Egyptian Academy of Scientific Research and Technology; *The Problem of Water Supply and Sanitation and the Role of Women in Kenya in Tackling this Problem*, by Eddad Gachukia; *The Environmental Sanitation and Drinking Water Supply in the Dominican Republic*, by Martha Olga García; and the IDWSSD: A *Mediation of Inconsistencies*, by Mette Jorstad.

*The Strategy Paper for Enhancing Women's Participation in Water Supply and Sanitation Activities*, on the Recommendations of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Women and Water, of the IDWSSD Steering Committee for Co-operative Action was distributed at the seminar.

The seminar was officially opened by Mrs. Dunja Pastizzi-Ferencic, the Director of INSTRAW. The Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations for Social and Economic Affairs, Shuaib Uthman Youlah, sent a message to the meeting expressing, on behalf of the United Nations, his deep gratitude to the Government and the people of...
the Arab Republic of Egypt for hosting the meeting.

Also addressing the meeting, and expressing their support for the objectives of the seminar, were the following Egyptian official dignitaries: The Director of the Academy of Scientific Research, Dr. Ibrahim Badran; The Minister of State for Housing, Urbanization and Land Reclamation, Hassaballah Al Kafrawi; The Minister of Agriculture, Youssed Wall; The Chairman of the State Information Service, Dr. Mamdouth El-Beltagui; and The Minister of Information, Safwat El-Sherif.

The deliberation of the meeting was conducted in a series of plenary sessions as well as three specialized panels. The seminar had seven plenary sessions and nine sessions for the panels during which the participants discussed the subject matter of the seminar and prepared the final recommendations.

The meeting elected the following members of the Bureau: President: Dr. Fatma El-Gohary, participant from Egypt; Vice-President: Ms. Therese Abela, participant from France; Vice-President: Dr. Martha Olga Garcia, participant from the Dominican Republic; Rapporteur: Dr. Banoo Coyaji, participant from India.

General Debate discussions focused on the multifaceted problems of drinking water supply and sanitation as they relate to women. It was expressed that like all development problems, the issue of water supply and sanitation is multi-dimensional. The problem lies not only within the socio-economic spheres, but also in the technical, scientific, health and sanitation and environmental spheres. Moreover all these areas are interconnected, with a problem existing in one influencing the evolution and outcome of the other.

The fact that women are already participating in water and sanitation activities, and therefore, should not be expected to participate further, was emphasized. The seminar should correct the false impression that there is a need to further involve women in this
area, and point out, that what should be pursued, is the need to make women's participation in water supply and sanitation activities, more effective, easier and more productive.

To achieve this, women's needs and requirements should be taken into account at all levels of planning, design, and implementation of water supply and sanitation projects.

Within the framework of effective and productive participation of women, it was stated that because of the close relation existing between health, water quality and its availability, as well as the sanitary conditions of the environment, women should be properly trained in the area of equipment maintenance, such as water hand pumps, chlorination apparatus, etc.

Among other items discussed, deficiencies in the institutional and policy-making framework were considered among the major constraints facing developing countries. In this respect, it was pointed out that in some countries, there is no appropriate institutional framework to plan, programme, implement or monitor activities for the IDWSSD, while in others, there is a overlap of authority among institutions.

The creation of national machineries and national action committees, with clear terms of reference and given the necessary authority and resources, was believed to alleviate the problem of organization and coordination of an institutional framework. This, in turn, would assist in devising a more effective resolution to the problems that women confront in water supply and sanitation in particular, as well as integrating women into the development process.

In view that a close synergistic interrelationship exists between undernutrition and infections caused from an unsanitary environment, improvements in practices of disposing excreta are crucial to raising levels of public health. Inadequate facilities for excreta disposal reduce the potential benefits of a safe water supply by transmitting pathogens from infected to healthy persons. Over 50 infections can be transferred from a diseased person to a healthy one by various direct or indirect routes involving excreta. Undernutrition increases the susceptibility to infections and infections aggravate malnutrition by further reducing the intake and absorption of food.

Among recommendations of the seminar, in socio-economic development, health and sanitation, science and technology areas, were the following.

- When deciding on national development priorities, one of the primary criteria should be the extent to which a particular scheme benefits women and secures their participation.
- Special efforts should be made to provide information, technical assistance and logistics support to self-help projects serving communities most in need of improved water and sanitation, particularly dispersed rural population and isolated groups as they collectively account for a very large number of people who are often overlooked in water supply, sanitation and health programmes.
- Special efforts should be made at national, regional and local levels to promote the provision of water supply, sanitation and environmental health education, as a public responsibility in which everybody is involved.
- When a national policy statement acknowledges the major role of women as managers of water and human waste, it needs to be accompanied by statements of support for improving their role as managers of water and waste, along with recommended strategies encouraging flexibility and local co-ordination in the planning process. The road is therefore paved for programmes of local awareness, learning and action.
- Two major constraints in improving adequate water supply and basic sanitation are: insufficient allocation of resources, and lack of measures to ensure that water supply and sanitation facilities are properly used and maintained. Agreement among decision-makers at the national level and of donors, to allocate needed resources will reflect their understanding of the importance of the problem and the need to provide such basic amenities.
- Decision-makers can minimize these constraints by viewing them as challenges and by actively participating with primary users of water supply and sanitation systems, the women of the community. The allocation of resources for water and sanitation projects and their supporting programmes would be considered a significant investment in terms of not only improved health and living conditions, but also in the productive capacity of the community members now and in the future.
- Together with the men and women of the community receiving improvements through IDWSSD activities, decision-makers at the central levels can reasonably expect provision of these basic amenities to increase life expectancy, diminish debilitating diseases, and reduce lost working hours, thus increasing the productivity of workers and enhancing the economic condition of both people and country.
- International efforts can increase awareness in this respect since diseases associated with water and waste are
not confined to national boundaries.

- In the area of health and sanitation, the provision of more adequate safe water supply and basic sanitation services should be considered as an essential element to improve the social and health status of the population. Often, it is the physical labor of the women and children that must be spent to obtain water and carry its weight from the water sources to their homes.

- Accessible water supplies would enhance women to pursue preventive health activities, rather than purely curative activities, which they are presently forced to undertake due to the overload on their time.

- In this respect, the provision of adequate water as near to the house as possible, frees some of the women's time and creates a potential for the women to involve themselves in preventive aspects of health as well as developmental activities. During this time, women can attend the maternal and child health clinics where immunizations are carried out and risk factors against childhood immunizable diseases, i.e., tuberculosis, measles, tetanus, whooping cough and polio, as well as information on conditions associated with childbearing and pregnancy are identified.

A young girl filling containers with tap water.

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MESSAGE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
SHUAIB UTHMAN YOLAH
TO INSTRAW INTERREGIONAL SEMINAR ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN AND THE INTERNATIONAL DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DECADE (IDWSSD)

It is with great pleasure that I convey my cordial greetings to the participants of the Interregional Seminar on the Role of Women and IDWSSD. In this regard, I would like to express my profound gratitude and thanks to the government and the people of the Arab Republic of Egypt for the generous offer to host this meeting whose subject is of utmost importance.

The commitment of the Arab Republic of Egypt to this topic is an encouraging sign. It indicates the growing awareness to development problems, particularly those that face the masses. It is also a demonstration that the idea to have people and their well-being, women and men alike, as the central objective of development is gaining momentum.

The forecast made for the turn of the century is alarming for many of the development problems. The actual crisis the world is undergoing shows how inter-dependent the various development problems are, many of which, particularly in developing countries, have reached a very critical stage generating even more complex situations. A case in point is basic infrastructure for electricity, transportation, water supply, sewage, etc., cannot cope with the increasing demands for such.

The United Nations and its specialized agencies and bodies are providing within their means assistance to the national efforts to face these problems. However, forceful international action may be, it will never represent more than a minor contribution designed to strengthen the national efforts to tap its resources and potential to meet these challenging problems.

INSTRAW as one of the United Nations bodies is an example of international effort to help in the search for a solution to some of those problems. In compliance with its mandate the Institute's activities are geared towards issues currently facing women in the development process with the aim of integrating half of humanity into the mainstream of development.

Women's multiple role is fundamental to the prosperity and well-being of any society. It is therefore society's responsibility to facilitate women's task to enable her to perform her roles in the family and at work.

This meeting will undoubtedly contribute towards sensibilizing public opinion, increase awareness and thereby introduce attitudinal changes, I hope, not only among the general public but also among decision-makers. The exchange of information will be the first step towards solving the problem.

The results of this Seminar will undoubtedly be, I am sure, a valuable contribution to the United Nations Decade on Water Supply and Sanitation. I wish you a successful meeting.

Shuaib Uthman Yolah
The Local Decade: Men, Women and Agencies in Water

THE INTERNATIONAL REFERENCE CENTRE COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION MEETING

A symposium on "The Local Decade: Men, Women and Agencies in Water and Development" was held in Amsterdam on 20-22 June 1984.

This symposium was sponsored by the International Reference Centre for Community Water Supply and Sanitation (IRC) as support to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, as well as to mark the 15th anniversary of the IRC.

It was also planned as follow-up to the interregional seminar on Women and the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (IDWSSD), convened by INSTRAW in Cairo, Egypt (12-16 March 1984), making use at the same time of the outcome of the seminar.

The objectives of the symposium were:

- to review experiences on the balance between local contributions and high-level support to drinking water supply and sanitation projects, in particular local responsibilities and rights, and their consequences for the project agencies;
- to identify constraints and practical ways in which women can be effectively involved as an integral part of the community in the planning, operation, maintenance, use, and evaluation of water and sanitation systems;
- to identify gaps in existing knowledge and experience, to formulate options for experiments, research, and development, and to suggest ways to incorporate these in ongoing, planned, and new programmes.

Four related themes were discussed by the working groups:

1. Preparation and initiation of projects in the community.
2. Local organization and maintenance, including the choice of technology.
3. Hygiene education.
4. Local management, including finance and income generation.

In the discussions, attention was given to the balance between efforts to be carried out by local communities on these aspects of water supply and sanitation, and the support from high level organizations, such as water and health departments, NGO's and donor organizations.

Participants to the symposium were assigned to working groups. Mrs. Mervat Tallawy, Chief of Research and Training, representing INSTRAW, was assigned to working group No. 1: "Preparation and Initiation of Projects in the Community".

The Institute was also asked to cooperate by suggesting practical experiments, research, and/or data to bridge gaps in present knowledge and experience in that particular area.
INSTRAW Logo Competition Attracts a Record Number of Entries from all Over the World

Approximately 900 entries have been presented to INSTRAW's Logo competition by designers and artists from over 50 countries.

A Judging Panel, chaired by Mr. Yasushi Akashi, Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Public Information, will meet on September 12, 1984, at United Nations Headquarters to choose first and second awards.

An exhibition displaying the chosen designs is expected to take place in the General Assembly Public Lobby, during the month of November.

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 the research and training activities are most often not considered a priority area for urgent action.

INSTRAW is a United Nations body that undertakes research and training activities for the advancement of women. It is financed solely through voluntary contributions. Therefore, the scope of its work programme is determined by the degree of voluntary financial support it receives from governmental and non-governmental organizations which includes philanthropic institutions and individuals.

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 information, documentation and communication, programmes. We ask you to support any or all of these activities, and bring them 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.


The purpose of this conference is to ascertain the total amount of contributions for operational activities for development, which participating Governments will make for the period January 1st to December 31, 1985.

Contributions to the various programmes and funds, including those for the United Nations Trust Fund for INSTRAW, will be announced at this Pledging Conference. So far, 46 countries have contributed to the work of the institute.

PLEDGE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR INSTRAW

AT THE UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS
IN NEW YORK CITY, OR TO OUR HEADQUARTERS
IN SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC,
P. O. Box 21747.
Telephone and Facsimile 685–2111. Telex 3264280.
**INSTRAW Participation in International Meetings**

**COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

INSTRAW participated in the thirtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women held in Vienna from 15 to 25 February 1984, immediately followed (27 February to 7 March) by the second session of the Commission, acting as the Preparatory Body for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace.

Under the item: Measures Taken by the United Nations System of Organizations and Inter-governmental organizations, and among other documents presented, was the Report on the Activities of the Institute, as requested by the Commission on its twenty-ninth session. A/38/406.

During the second session of the Commission, acting as Preparatory Body for the World Conference, Mrs. Dunja Pastizzi-Ferencic, INSTRAW's Director, drew attention to relevant activities carried out by the Institute, and referred to regional meetings on Statistics and Indicators on Women as well as to the Inter-regional Seminar on Women and the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (IDWSSD), held in Cairo, Egypt, in March 1984.

Mrs. Pastizzi-Ferencic also mentioned other programmes of the Institute relating to the Role of Women in International Economic Relations, the policies of developing countries, self-reliance and sectoral activities, stressing the increasing importance of research, training, information and communication activities, which should contribute to the implementation of pragmatic programmes related to women.

Finally, she expressed the hope that the World Conference would give impetus to the setting-up of national focal points for research, training and information activities that would help to secure the continuity of programmes on women and development through simultaneous work at national, regional, and global levels.

**ESCAP FIRST REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE NAIROBI—"END OF THE DECADE"—WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**

The first regional preparatory meeting for the 1985 Nairobi World Conference was organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), from 26-30 March, 1984 in Tokyo.

The five-day meeting was attended by representatives of 31 governments of the ESCAP region, 3 observer countries, 36 non-governmental organizations (NGO's), 15 United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and 3 inter-governmental organizations.

The recommendations adopted were designed to help some 1.28 billion women in Asia and the Pacific move faster into the mainstream of development and equality.

To effectively integrate women's concerns into the overall development process, it was suggested that regional research institutions should be encouraged to work out conceptual basis for women's issues, and develop realistic models for action in the context of diverse socio-cultural, economic and political conditions, in Asia and the Pacific.

The meeting urged effective use of media and the communication art, not only to develop more positive images of women, but also to motivate them to play a more active role in the development process.

The crucial role of education in further improving the status of women was also stressed. The education of parents, it was pointed out, should be geared towards the removal of discriminatory beliefs and attitudes, as well as to the prevention of their recurrence. In this context, fear of increased illiteracy among women was expressed.

A strong call for evaluating the situation of the advancement of women in short intervals, at least every five years, was made, in view of the fact that the forward looking strategy was intended to cover the period till the year 2000.

A statement on behalf of INSTRAW was made in the plenary, during the time allocated for the United Nations agencies, by the Institute's Chief of Research and Training, Mrs. Mervat Tallawy.

She referred to the Institute's
 programme of work and activities and mentioned that the current trends in Research and Literature on Women indicate that the juridical and legal gains, so far attained by women on the road towards equality of rights, need to be strengthened by practical measures. This can be achieved through making women’s role in society and their contribution to the process of socio-economic development of the country, more recognized and appreciated. Thus, as a result, their needs and requirements will be taken into consideration by decision-makers and planners, which in turn, will ensure the integration of women in the mainstream of development.

The meeting was chaired by Mrs. Nobuko Takahashi of Japan, who at the time was still serving her second and final term as a member of INSTRAW’s Board of Trustees. Mrs. Takahashi also held a previous post as her country’s Ambassador to Denmark.

ESCAP SEMINAR ON SOCIAL AND RELATED STATISTICS (SEOUL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA)

Following INSTRAW’s programme of activities related to statistics on women, the Institute attended the ESCAP seminar on Social and Related Statistics, hosted by the government of the Republic of Korea.

The seminar’s overall objective was to discuss common problems, as well as to review progress in the field of social statistics, with the purpose of promoting the development of social statistics and indicators in the South East and Far East Asian countries.

The seminar also recommended that high priority should be given to the co-operation between ESCAP and INSTRAW in this field. This co-operation should be aimed at providing practical training and technical assistance to countries in the ESCAP region.

It is expected that the results of the seminar will facilitate the planning of social development through the improvement of social statistics and indicators in this region.

Attending the seminar, which took place through the 22-28 of May, 1984, were senior officials associated with activities in the area of social statistics. INSTRAW was represented by Robert J. Johnston of the United Nations Statistical Office.

WOMEN IN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In accordance with its mandate to develop guidelines for the incorporation of issues related to women into programmes in the field of industrial development, INSTRAW, in co-operation with UNIDO, will be conducting a workshop to design a modular curriculum for training in industrial management for women entrepreneurs, to be held in Vienna in December 1984. This is one of a series of workshops organized by UNIDO in this domain.

Women represent an actual and important management force in small and medium scale industry in a large number of developing countries. By tradition they assume considerable responsibilities in trade and industry. Education/training facilities for industrial management generally neglect the specific problems related to women in industry. Women are not always able to fully take advantage of the available facilities for training in the field of management. They face institutional and attitudinal barriers in their quest for greater participation in the industrial development activities taking place in their respective countries. They sometimes lack the opportunity to improve their knowledge and better exploit their potential for development. Since an important faction of women entrepreneurs have not had adequate education, suitable training programmes must be designed to take into account their different levels of education and the current environment of practice. To this end the INSTRAW/UNIDO workshop will establish a methodology for designing, developing and elaborating an appropriate modular curriculum that will help resolve entrepreneurship and management problems confronting women in industry.

Related to this, the Institute participated in the Caribbean Regional Workshop on the integration of Women in the Industrial Planning and Development Process, sponsored by UNIDO in
co-operation with the Caribbean Community Secretariat and held in Georgetown, Guyana, 7-11 May 1984.

INSTRAW sent a message to a previous workshop, sponsored by UNIDO, held in Harare, Zimbabwe (Africa) on the Integration of Women in the Industrial Planning and Development Process. The agenda of this meeting included Industrial Development in Africa: an overview of industrial development strategies in Africa, as well as the Process of Industrial Planning. Basic issues: Women’s integration in industrial planning and development; economic co-operation among developing countries, and role of women in the development of small scale industries.

THE UN/NGO CONSULTATIONS—THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM—MAKING THE CONNECTIONS (CANADA, APRIL 1984)

Consultations sponsored by the United Nations and the United Nations Association of Canada were held in Ottawa and Toronto in April 1984.

The purpose of the consultations was to increase collaboration between the United Nations and the community of Non-Governmental Organizations in Canada, as well as to set forth the efforts carried out by the United Nations in the socio-economic, cultural and humanitarian fields; also, to meet with a cross-section of United Nations system staff to review common concerns about issues, share information on current research, exchange publications and educational materials, and co-ordinate actions on specific campaigns, conference preparations and general development education programmes.

The consultations were organized into plenary and workshop sessions, and the topics included, Women and Development, the International Youth Year, monetary and industrialization, population and food issues, as well as technical assistance.

INSTRAW’s Chief of Research and Training, Mrs. Mervat Tallawy, participated as a panelist in the workshop on women and development, introducing the programme and activities of the Institute, and defining the role of INSTRAW in international efforts toward the advancement of women. She also referred to the issue of women and development and the different meanings and interpretation therein. During the workshop, discussions were also held on the preparation, particularly by the United Nations system, for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace to be held in Nairobi in 1985.

CONSULTATION ON WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE THIRD DEVELOPMENT DECADE

On May 15 and 16, 1984, the Committee on the United Nations Decade for Women held two consecutive work-luncheons entitled “A Consultation on Women’s Participation in the International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade”.

Invited to the luncheons were non-governamental organizations attending the meeting of the United Nations Committee on the International Development Strategy Review and Appraisal for the Third Development Decade.

The three items included in the agenda and discussed by the participants were:

1. To increase awareness on the International Development Strategy and its Impact of Women.
2. To enhance the use of the Consultative Process in Advancing the Involvement of Women in Development.
3. Encourage and increase cooperation among NGO’s for action.

The meeting was observed by a representative of INSTRAW.

INSTRAW ACTIVITIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS DELEGATIONS WOMEN’S CLUB. Following the invitation made by the Executive Committee of the United Nations Delegations Women’s Club (UNDWOC), the Director of INSTRAW, Dunja Pastizi-Ferencio, presented the Institute’s objectives and programme of work, as well as INSTRAW’s sources of finance, to over 60 participants.
Cooperation with Dominican Republic Governmental and non-Governmental Organizations

The Director of the Office for the Promotion of Women of the Dominican Republic, Dr. Martha Olga García, gave a briefing on its work programme and activities at INSTRAW's Headquarters in Santo Domingo, on June 5, 1984.

The purpose of the briefing was to familiarize the Institute's professional and local staff on the role and work programme of this bureau, as the organization responsible for women's activities in the Dominican Republic, host country of the Institute.

Dr. García, who is also an ex-officio Member of INSTRAW's Board of Trustees, summarized the history of the struggles for equality of Dominican women, their important role in the country's political life, and the preliminaries that led to the creation of the Office for the Promotion of Women in 1982. She emphasized that in a developing country, women's integration into development was vital for the achievement of progress in general.

Stemming from this briefing and within INSTRAW's mandate of co-operation with governmental and non-governmental organizations, a meeting was jointly convened by the Office for the Promotion of Women and INSTRAW, on June 15, 1984, at the Institute's Headquarters in Santo Domingo, with governmental and non-governmental organizations of the Dominican Republic. Both INSTRAW's and the Office for the Promotion of Women's programme of activities and objectives were presented and analyzed in an open discussion in which over 50 participants from different governmental and non-governmental organizations exchanged views on the subject of women and their integration into development.

A view of the meeting co-sponsored by the office for the promotion of women in the Dominican Republic and INSTRAW.

OBJECTIVES OF THE OFFICE FOR THE PROMOTION OF WOMEN IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Its main objective is to train Dominican women in the social, cultural, economic, political and technical aspects so as to achieve their full integration in the national development process, and the maintenance of peace, within the framework of respect for the country's sovereignty. Its programmes are aimed at Dominican women, both in urban and rural areas, with a view to develop economically productive projects which would also enable them to acquire specific skills through training on the job.
Available INSTRAW Literature

1. 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.
6. Role of women in the implementation of the developing countries' policy of collective self-reliance. INSTRAW/BT/1982/CRP. 6.
7. INSTRAW involvement in programmes of the United Nations system relating to women in food strategies and post-harvest food conservation. INSTRAW/BT/1982/CRP. 8.

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).
12. Women and energy in the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action: A role for INSTRAW (draft) New York, 1983.
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Viima ESPIN DE CASTRO (Cuba), member of the State Council and Congresswoman (Diputada), in the General Assembly of Cuba; member of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party since 1965; President of the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) since 1990; Vice-President of the International Democratic Federation of Women in 1973.

Vida TOMSIC (Yugoslavia), member of the Presidency of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia and Chairperson of the Council for International Relations of this body; Professor of Family Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana; author of Women, Work, Family, Society.

1983–1986:
Suad Ibrahim EISSA (Sudan), Chairperson 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.

María LAVALLE URBINA (Mexico), Representative of Mexico to the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS), President, Commission of Justice in the Senate. In 1983 she was designated woman of the year in Mexico City in recognition of her work for the advancement of women. 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 other Latin American countries for her work in the judicial field and has represented Mexico in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

Helen STAMFIIS (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 migrant and refugee women. Has participated in task forces, committees and conferences regarding migration 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.

1984–1987

Daniela COLOMBO (Italy), Has extensive experience in women and development issues. Founder and Executive Vice-President of the Italian Association for Women in Development (AIDOS). Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Ministry of Labour, Italy. Italian representative in the Consultative Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe for the advancement of women in Europe. Has participated in a number of international conferences relevant to women. Has done research, written articles and essays on the economic role of women in advanced and less advanced societies, and is involved in producing television and radio programmes on the condition of women in Italy and other countries.

Zhor LAZRAK (Morocco), Professor at the University Institute of Scientific Research and educator by profession. Has long been involved in activities relevant to women, youth and culture. Was president of the Association for the Protection of the Moroccan Family. Has participated in a number of meetings at the national, regional and international levels on women, youth and culture, and has written many articles on the subject.

Achille SUDIARTI LUHULIMA (Indonesia), Project leader, Manpower Development in Research and Development Management. Conducts research and development management workshop training for managers and research workers from research and development centres and institutions, ministries, non-ministerial agencies, universities and industry. Has considerable experience in the field of science policy, in national development policy-making and in long-range planning. Has written many articles on science policy and planning, with particular reference to Indonesia, manpower development, and development of scientific and research organization in Indonesia.

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triannual public information
bulletin on its activities.

It is published in
English, Spanish and French
and its distribution is free.

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