



INSTRAW news

WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT

No. 6 • SPRING-SUMMER, 1986

Community leader of the village association in Kolakani, Kenya, addressing a meeting.



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**SPECIAL FOCUS
ON AFRICA**



INSTRAW News is the Institute's quarterly newsletter. It aims to convey to government and non-governmental organizations, research centres, women's groups and individuals the latest news and results of INSTRAW's activities in the field of Women and Development.

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Letters and comments from readers are most welcome. Long letters may be edited for reasons of space.

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Looking Forward

After Nairobi, the message is clear: women are powerful agents of development. Development needs women as much as women need development. And the time for development is now.

This message is spelt out in the 372 paragraphs of the Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women until the year 2000, the document approved on the last day of the 1985 Nairobi World Conference.

Overcoming differences, agreement was reached on a concerted plan of action to be implemented in each country. The first chapters of the Strategies cover the three themes of the United Nations Decade for Women—Equality, Development and Peace—and a fourth chapter deals with areas of special concern. Each chapter identifies the obstacles still preventing equality, still hindering the advancement of women. Basic strategies needed to overcome these obstacles are recommended, followed by practical measures to implement the strategies at the national level.

Again and again, the document stresses that these goals cannot be achieved without research, training and information; they are requisites for developmental change. This is precisely what INSTRAW does and why it was created: to ensure through research, training and information activities the integration of women as agents and participants in the developmental process.

More than ever the need is felt for improved data, indicators and statistics on women. More than ever, research on how development processes relate to women must precede policy analysis and implementation.

Equally, training, advisory and information services are critical for the implementation of the Strategies. Bringing about the developmental changes women demanded in Nairobi requires more training opportunities, increased awareness of decision-makers responsible for development and expanded global consciousness of the urgent need for that change.

After Nairobi, it can be said with some certainty that women's issues have become a legitimate subject in the development debate. With the adoption of the Forward-looking Strategies, institutions, organizations and publications on women's issues have a significant task to accomplish.

With the opening of this new era on women and development issues, sharing of information and networking are crucial for the judicious use of existing resources. INSTRAW News, now entering its third year of publication, will be a part of the global exchange of views and ideas on women and development.



INSTRAW Board Meets in Santo Domingo

The Board of Trustees of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) held its sixth session from 3-7 February 1986 at its headquarters in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The five-day session was the first to be held after the Nairobi Conference which adopted the Forward-looking Strategies for the advancement of women until the year 2000. These strategies span issues of women and development which are INSTRAW's main concern, and are consistent with the Institute's research and operational activities.

The INSTRAW Board of Trustees, which reports directly to ECOSOC, meets annually to formulate the principles, guidelines and policies for the activities of the Institute. At its VI session the Board elected Ms. Helen Stamiris (Greece) as President, Ms. Fabiola Cuvi Ortiz (Ecuador), Vice-President, and Ms. Victoria Okobi (Nigeria), Rapporteur.

Highlights of this year's agenda were the report on activities of the Institute during 1985, the end of the UN Decade for Women, as well as proposals for the programme budget for the 1986-87 biennium. An important item concerned the Institute's mode of operation, that is network building through focal points established at the national level for co-operation with INSTRAW. Five new focal points were endorsed by the Board, bringing the total to twenty (see complete list on page 7).

Having examined the Progress Report of the Director, the Board expressed its full satisfaction at the achievements of the Institute during

1985 in its three areas of work: —indicators and statistics for women; —economic policy analysis at the macro and micro level, and —sectoral activities such as water and sanitation, industry, energy and others. The Board also considered that the work accomplished thus far reflected the continuing evolution of the Institute.

The biennium just concluded provided an opportunity to test the Institute's mode of operation —networking and co-operative arrangements— which resulted in an optimum use of the Institute's resources.

As 1985 was the peak period of activity on women and development issues in the United Nations system, INSTRAW also quickened its tempo of activities, with the Institute holding

and participating in a series of international meetings and consultations. A significant number of publications were brought out, including two major research studies.

The first, entitled "Women in Economic Activity: A Global Statistical Survey (1950-2000)", a joint endeavour by the International Labour Office and INSTRAW, presents for the first time a global statistical survey of women's economic activity by geographical and economic region, as well as by country. The second, "Women in the World Economy", to be published in 1986, is based on a series of research studies on trade, money and finance, technology, industry and agriculture. For the first time, the impact of the world recession on women and the role of women in international economic relations have been the subject of an in-depth analysis within the United Nations system.

With reference to INSTRAW's programme budget for 1986-87, the Board requested that the Director implement programmes in accordance with the order of priorities recommended by it and within the approved budget ceiling of \$2.6 million —a modest amount considering the importance and scope of the programme approved. It also encouraged the Director to continue her activities to raise funds from various sources, in order to fully implement the approved programme budget.

During its deliberations, the Board stressed the importance of research, training and information activities, and the interlinkage among the three subject areas, for the implementation

Donor countries

Since 1980, 53 countries, among them many developing countries, have supported INSTRAW with financial contributions. Pledges are made at the annual United Nations Pledging Conference for Developmental Activities. For 1986, the following countries have pledged their contribution to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW): Argentina, Austria, Cameroon, China, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Senegal, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Yugoslavia and Zaire.

of the future development of INSTRAW's programme. On training, the Board endorsed the strategy for the biennium set forth by INSTRAW and recommended that priority attention be given to the development of innovative training methodologies and techniques.

INSTRAW is now in its sixth year of development. Since the Institute has reached a point where a substantial quantity of research results has become available, the Board recommended that it would be useful to strengthen, in the future, its programme area on information, documentation and communication, including the establishment of data banks on women and development. In this way, research results could be channelled through information networks to reach governmental and non-governmental organizations, policy-makers, women's groups, academic institutions and all those interested in the field of women in development.

Highlights of the programme for 1986-87 are:

- the focus on training, particularly on the development of innovative training methodologies and techniques;
- networking and strengthening links with focal points;
- continuation of existing programmes such as indicators and statistics related to women; water supply and sanitation;
- development of new programmes based on the results of the Institute's previous work such as the policy of developing countries' individual and collective self-reliance with particular emphasis on the activities of regional

development banks and economic groupings of developing countries; role of informal sector for policy analysis and/or development planning and programming; choice and assessment of technology for the mobilization of women's participation in development.

In its next session, the Board will consider in-depth the programme area on information. The Board also agreed to examine the proposed framework for the long-term development of the Institute's programme, and its compatibility with the current United Nations system-wide medium-term plan on women and development, which comprises five major groups of issues: equality; access to productive resources, income and employment; access to services; participation in the decision-making process and information.

Attending the VI session were the following Board Members: Fabiola Cuví Ortiz (Ecuador); Ingrid Eide (Norway); Suad Ibrahim Eissa (Sudan); Elena Lagadinova (Bulgaria); Zhor Lazrak (Morocco); Achie Sudiarti Luhulima (Indonesia); Victoria N. Okobi (Nigeria); Lin Shangzhen (China); Helen Stamiris (Greece).

Ex-officio members of the Board included Dunja Pastizzi-Ferencic, Director of the Institute and representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, a representative of each of the Regional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council: John Kelly (ECE); Vivian Mota (ECLAC); Thoraya Obaid (ECWA); Mary Tadesse (ECA); Daw Aye (ESCAP); and as representative of the host country, Martha Olga García. □

ECOSOC considers Report of INSTRAW Board

Under agenda item 11, "Advancement of Women", the Economic and Social Council, during its first regular session of 1986, considered the Report of the Sixth Session of INSTRAW's Board of Trustees.

During the general debate, several delegates commented on various activities of INSTRAW expressing their general support. As the debate proceeded, some delegates remarked that INSTRAW's work programme was basically consistent with the goals and objectives of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies. The mode of operation through which INSTRAW communicated at the national, regional and international levels was found to be practical and efficient. Most delegates recognized that it was important for INSTRAW to have the necessary financial and human resources to implement its work programme for the next biennium 1986-87. In this connection, the delegation from Japan announced its forthcoming financial contribution for INSTRAW's activities.

In the resolution co-sponsored by twenty-nine member states, which was adopted by consensus, ECOSOC expressed its satisfaction that the Institute implemented its programme of work during the earlier biennium by making an adequate use of its resources. The resolution also invited the regional commissions of the United Nations to keep the Board of Trustees of the Institute informed about their most recent activities and future programmes in order to facilitate continuous cooperation between the commissions and the Institute. Finally, ECOSOC renewed its appeal to governments, inter governmental and non-governmental organizations and other potential donors to contribute to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW). □

INSTRAW's work programme: the next two years

In the post-Nairobi phase of the Institute, its work programme reflects the growing concern for concrete action and practical measures needed to implement the Forward-looking Strategies. In particular, the emerging redefinitions of the economic activities of women, which include their work in the household, in the informal sectors of the economy and in the rural areas, require special attention. Thus an innovative interdisciplinary methodological approach is emerging which tries to combine quantitative and qualitative sources of analysis and techniques, taking into account gender differences within given economic, social and cultural context.

The interlinkages between research, training and information activities are the basis of all INSTRAW programmes. For the 1986-87 biennium, the Institute's work programme covers a wide range of activities that could be grouped into three major areas.

Statistics and indicators on women

The first relates to the need for improved indicators and basic statistics on women, as stated in the Forward-looking Strategies and the General Assembly resolution on INSTRAW. Clearly the above-mentioned emerging

redefinitions of women's work challenge established assumptions of what constitutes productive activity, and the validity of existing methods of compiling data on women.

During the 1986-87 biennium the Institute will continue and expand its pioneering programme in the field of statistics and indicators, focusing both on the methodological approaches and conceptual analysis needed to improve the collection and analysis of data on women, and on the training of users and producers of statistics.

Highlights of this programme are

The emerging redefinitions of the economic activities of women, which include their work in the household, in the informal sectors of the economy and in the rural areas, require special attention.

the focus on household surveys as an efficient tool to gather data on women; a research study on measuring inequalities in time; and methods of measuring women's contribution to household income and other home-based activities.

An important area concerns the work of women in the informal sector. Women, particularly in developing countries, produce food from the

household plots, look after farm animals, bring home produced goods to the market, store agricultural products and do piece-work at home —activities these were not earlier quantified because they were thought to be an extension of domestic responsibilities.

To fill this research gap, INSTRAW, in co-operation with the United Nations Statistical Office (UNSO), will undertake a study on techniques of measuring and evaluating women's participation in non-monetary activities. Its aim is to suggest ways in which the system of national accounts could

reflect women's economic contribution to the country.

Economic policy analysis

The second group of activities comprises issues relevant for economic policy analysis at the macro and micro level.

Here, the emphasis lies on planning and programming that includes women's needs and contributions to development. To this end, the Institute is continuing its work on planning and programming, as well as monitoring guidelines and checklists on women in

The interlinkages between research, training and information activities are the basis of all INSTRAW programmes.

Winnowing
mustard
seed
in Nepal.



UN/Ray Witiin

development for economic and technical co-operation programmes (see article on page 13).

Another important programme area concerns the policy of individual and collective self-reliance for developing countries. In 1985 INSTRAW contributed to a study on the principle of self-reliance to the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development. The General Assembly has now requested the Secretary-General to regularly prepare an update of the Survey, and INSTRAW has been called upon to contribute to the updating.

The Institute will also undertake research on how to introduce WID issues into the work of regional economic groupings of developing countries, with specific reference to the work of regional development banks.

A new programme will focus on the relation of women and technology. The Institute will conduct a survey on the choice and assessment of technology for enhancing women's participation in development, including a forecast of the impact that emerging technologies, such as microelectronics, biotechnologies, new material and others, have on women (see article on page 11).

Multi-media training packages and modules can meet different training needs in an adaptable manner, obtaining a multiplier effect

The lack of financial and credit facilities greatly hinders women's economic activity, thus reducing their contribution to the development process and perpetuating inequality. During 1987, INSTRAW will carry out research on financial policies for improving women's access to credit facilities in developing countries. The objective of this programme is to propose policy, including financial, institutional and legal changes, for improving the financial resources available to women in developing countries.

Sectoral approaches

The third group of activities is devoted to the role of women in particular sectors of the economy such as water and sanitation, industry, new and re-

This biennium, the bulk of the Institute's resources will be devoted to training and advisory services aimed at development agents at all levels and women's organizations.

newable sources of energy and agriculture.

In particular, the role of women in activities related to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (IDWSSD) has long been a major concern of INSTRAW. Women have now become a legitimate subject in this field, but there is still need to enhance their role in water and sanitation projects. To this end, the Institute has developed and is testing a multi-media prototype training package on women, water supply and sanitation.

This approach of combining global and sectoral issues aims to ensure the continuity of work and to monitor new development trends so that women's needs and participation are incorporated into pragmatical developmental activities.

Training

This biennium, the bulk of the Institute's resources will be devoted to training and advisory services. These will be aimed at two major target

groups — development agents at all levels and women's organizations.

The comprehensive and innovative training programme, as approved by the Board of Trustees, is divided into four major groups of activities.

The first group is aimed at strengthening and developing co-operative arrangements with development training institutions and programmes. Activities within this group would be in keeping with the Institute's catalytic role of seeking to incorporate issues of relevance to women as well as ensuring there are more women trainees in training courses developed by these institutions. The Institute will also strengthen its on-going work related to the United Nations staff training in order to enhance the quality and increase the number of programmes and projects benefitting women.

The second group consists of conventional methods of training such as workshops, seminars and advisory services on women in development based on research material from earlier and on-going INSTRAW programmes.

The third group is based on innovative training methodologies, designs and techniques, such as the preparation of multi-media training modules. These could meet different training needs in a more adaptable manner, obtaining a multiplier effect. The training packages and modules include field testing, monitoring for the continuous upgrading of the initial modules, as well as impact evaluation and setting-up of a distribution network. Within this group the Institute is further developing and elaborating guidelines and checklists on women and development

for economic and technical co-operation programmes.

The fourth group of activities envisaged under the new training programme concerns the development of university curricula on women and development, as well as internship and fellowship programmes.

Communication for social change

The Institute conceives information as a basic strategy for the effective mobilization of women into the development process. For the next biennium, the information, documentation and communication programme will concentrate on expanding current activities in collecting and disseminating information on issues of Women-in-Development (WID). Special attention will be given to the use of new communication technologies for development.

Through networking, its approved mode of operation, INSTRAW reaches out to decision-makers and national focal points, academic institutions, governmental and non-governmental organization, women's machineries and organizations. Thus, the Institute acts as a link on WID issues at the regional and global levels, stimulating the process of public education and consciousness-raising on women's issues without which social change cannot be achieved.

A priority for INSTRAW during the next biennium is strengthening the ties with the focal points and expanding the network of co-operative arrangements that has proved promising during the past biennium.

Through the implementation of this programme of activities*, which is fully consistent with the orientation of the Forward-looking Strategies, INSTRAW attempts to translate the goals and objectives of the Strategies into tangible results. □

* For detailed information on INSTRAW work programme, please refer to the INSTRAW booklet "Programme of Activities, 1986-87". Available in English.

A Network of Focal Points

- Bulgarian Academy of Sciences*
Joint Scientific Commission
"Women in the Advanced Socialist Society"
Narodno Sobranie Sq.
Sofia 1000
Bulgaria
- Fundación "Acción Ya"*
Apartado 1009
Centro Colón
San José
Costa Rica
- Federación de Mujeres Cubanas
Paseo Y Esquina 13, Vedado
Habana
Cuba
- Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Asiatisk Plads 2
1448 Copenhagen K
Denmark
- Dirección General de Promoción de la Mujer
Avenida México 15
Santo Domingo
Dominican Republic
- Instituto Ecuatoriano de Investigaciones y Capacitación de la Mujer (IECAIM)*
Avenida 6 de Diciembre 2817
Quito
Ecuador
- Ministry of Social Affairs & General Rapporteur of the National Commission
Women's Affairs Department
Mugamaa Building
Tahrir Square
Cairo
Egypt
- Ministère des Droits de la Femme
Bureau des Relations Internationales
37 Quai d'Orsay
Paris 75007
France
- Council of Equality of Sexes
Greek Parliament
Palaia Anaktora
Athens
Greece
- Kantor Menteri Negara Urusan Peranan Wanita
Jalan Medan Merdeka Barat 3
Jakarta Pusat
Indonesia
- Italian Association for Women in Development (AIDOS)
Via Tagliamento 14
00198.Rome
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- INSTRAW Social Co-operation Division*
United Nations Bureau
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
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Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo
Japan
- Consejo Nacional de Población
Secretaría de Estado de Relaciones Exteriores
Tlatelolco
06995 México, D.F.
- The Norwegian Research Council Secretariat for Research on Issues Related to Women
Muthesgt 29
Oslo 2
Norway
- Women's Division "Research Wing"
Cabinet Secretariat of the Government of Pakistan
44 West, Aaly Plaza, F-6/1
Islamabad
Pakistan
- The National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW)*
1145 J.P. Laurel Street
San Miguel
Manila
Philippines
- Instituto de la Mujer
Ministerio de la Cultura
Almagro 36
28010 Madrid
Spain
- Centre for Women's Research (CENWOR)
16 Elliot Place
Colombo 8
Sri Lanka
- The Yugoslav Centre for Theory and Practice of Self-Management
Edvard Kardelj
Kardeljeya Ploscad 1
Ljubljana 61109
Yugoslavia
- Women's League
Freedom House
P.O. Box 30302
Lusaka
Zambia

* New Focal Points approved during VI Session Board of Trustees, 1986.

MEASURING WOMEN'S WORK

Two Reports Analyze Gaps in Statistics on Women

The focus of INSTRAW's activities in statistics continues. During the 1986-87 biennium it will be concentrated on measuring women's work. Preliminary review of available data shows that in almost all censuses and surveys information on the individual's economic activity is routinely gathered. Despite the bulk of data available in this subject area, data on economic activity, especially of women, remain of low quality. Estimates based on these data show lower activity rates for women than is expected and, therefore, a low economic contribution of women.

One major problem affecting the quality of data is the lack of well developed concepts and definitions which reflect women's special role in the informal or non-monetised sector of the economy. Indeed, the problem of informal sector activities affects the quality of data on income for men as well as of women. However, as a great majority of women in most countries, particularly developing countries, are not wage earners—they are more likely to be unpaid family workers or self-employed—measuring their income is even more problematic and requires special procedures of data collection and compilation in any system.

INSTRAW, in co-operation with the United Nations Statistical Office (UNSO), is preparing for publication two reports which attempt to identify some problems in the methods and concepts used in evaluating the eco-

nomie contribution of women. The first report, *Improving Statistics and Indicators on Women Using Household Surveys*, presents a general overview on how household surveys may be used to obtain more accurate data on women's economic contribution in the household at the micro level and in the national economy at the macro level. The second report, *Valuation of Women's Participation in the Informal Sector of the Economy*, focuses more specifically on measuring women's contribution in the System of National Accounts (SNA). The report is mainly concerned with those activities which tend to be excluded from the SNA because, according to current definitions, they are considered to be "non-productive". Also, because of ambiguities in the SNA scheme of classification, they are normally left out.

These reports will be reviewed by a group of experts, at a meeting in INSTRAW headquarters from 13-17 October 1986. The expert group meeting, which INSTRAW and UNSO in co-operation with ECLAC are convening, will critically review statistical concepts, methods and availability of data for measuring women's economic contribution to development. Recommendations of the expert group will provide further research insights for future activities such as improving data base on women and training users to monitor national planning and practices. □

According to statistics, she's not working.



UN/Kay Merlooon

Improving statistics and indicators on women



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Economically active women in different regions of the world (1975-1985)

Region	1975		1985	
	Economically active women ('000)	% of world total	Economically active women ('000)	% of world total
World	575,705	100	676,471	100
USSR	63,058	11.0	66,671	9.9
Other socialist countries (Europe)	29,282	5.1	31,807	4.7
European market economy countries	46,841	8.1	52,306	7.7
North America	39,010	6.8	45,986	6.8
Oceania	2,929	0.5	3,595	0.5
Africa	322,466	56.0	382,144	56.5
Latin America	22,753	3.9	32,639	4.8

Source: ILO: Labour force estimates and projections 1950-2000 (Geneva, 1977). Also see: INSTRAW/ILO: *Women in Economic Activity: a Global Statistical Survey (1950-2000)* (Santo Domingo, 1985).

A major INSTRAW programme focuses on formulating training strategies on women's issues. As part of this programme, INSTRAW is actively involved in designing *university curricula on women and development* to be used by academic institutions, government bodies, non-governmental and women's organizations. The first phase of this programme consists of a survey, at the global and regional levels, of academic and other centres that offer programmes or courses on women-related topics. A questionnaire

issues grew out of the women's movement. For example, in the 1960's in the United States, women became interested in studying issues related to their past and present condition, as a means of enhancing their self-perception and their status in society. This, and the flexibility of the curricula of American universities in responding to faculty and student interests, has made it possible for Women's Studies to figure in most American university curricula. Despite the proliferation of such programmes in most universi-

curricula is in its initial phase. To date, women's issues were for the most part offered on an extracurriculum basis in some universities or other research and academic centres. This, in part, had to do with the rigidity of Latin American universities' curricula, as well as the fact that the women's movement and research on women in Latin America are of recent development. In some countries, political obstacles hindered the teaching of any unconventional topic in the universities. It is interesting to note, however, that both research and teaching on the subject of women in Latin America has dealt more with the impact of colonialism, capitalism, socialism and development on women, and that generally these researchers are equally addressing the issue of women and of economic development. Furthermore, Latin American feminist scholars are concerned with the academic soundness of women's studies and how these can contribute theoretically and conceptually to the social sciences.

In *Europe*, as in Latin America, the study of women's issues has been considered marginal to the curricula and has been relegated to university faculties and research centres. These were introduced either as extra-mural studies or as part of traditional courses, mostly in social science. This is both due to the structure of higher education, in which there are definite conceptions of different disciplines, as well as to the serious financial constraints of European universities. As a result, Women's Studies has not yet become an option for study in its own right as it is in the United States. Recent trends, however, indicate that this situation is rapidly changing and Women's Studies is being taught as an independent and multi-disciplinary subject.

In the *African* continent, research on women has been guided largely by an attempt to understand the socio-economic needs of women at the grass-roots level, somewhat along the same lines as in Latin America. Academic research on the impact of colonialism and economic development on women has existed in Africa,

Women's Studies Worldwide

was sent out to some 150 universities and academic institutions requesting information on their programmes of study. These programmes will allow, in the second phase of this project, the examination of the content of these courses. Finally, the third phase of the project consists of designing a course on Women and Development for training trainers, specifically university professors and teachers at other levels. The aim of this project is to establish *Women and Development Curricula* as an integral part of formal and informal education and training courses around the world. In this way, it is hoped that INSTRAW will contribute to raise awareness on women's issues in the general public as well as among those involved in policy-making.

Preliminary analysis of the content of women-related programmes of study in different countries and regions of the world has provided an idea of how they differ in scope and orientation. In the *United States*, as in other countries, academic interest in women-related

ties, the development component is rarely included in courses on women. Likewise, a women's component is generally absent from courses in the Economics, History and Public Administration Departments. Such programmes of study generally consist of isolated courses taken in various departments (Art, Music, Literature, etc.), leading to a Major or Minor in Women's Studies.

The topics considered in these courses, however important, are limited to uncovering the battles women fought, the masterpieces they created and the discoveries they made. Often they attempt to understand the conditions that limited women's participation in the mainstream of the arts and sciences as well as politics or why their participation was not deemed worthy of recognition. Recent trends, however, suggest a growing interest in incorporating women in development issues in university curricula.

In *Latin America*, the establishment of Women's Studies as part of university

although the teaching of women's issues in universities or other institutes is in its initial phase. Training courses for women at the grass-roots level provide women with practical skills to help them improve their income earning opportunities. Much of the information about women's contribution to agriculture and food systems at the international level is based on the work of non-governmental and women's organizations.

In *Asia*, there is a long tradition of academic research on women by scholars, mostly in the social sciences. For this reason, women remained traditionally a subject of research for anthropologists and sociologists and sometimes psychologists. There are literally thousands of research tracts on the role of women in society which were published in various universities in *Asia*. Even though Women's Studies do not figure in the formal curricula of many centres, women-related issues such as fertility, women in the media, and women and work have now become a part of many faculties. Women's issues are becoming human rights issues and women themselves, from their own experiences, are determining the subject matter of research. Asian women's organizations are picking up subjects for research, such as economic laws unfavourable to women, family laws which are oppressive and criminal procedures which punish women unfairly.

So far, research shows the teaching of women's issues in institutes of higher learning around the world varies from one country and region to another. The relative absence in both developed and developing countries of training programmes addressing simultaneously the issues of women and development has led INSTRAW to develop university curricula on this topic with the hope that courses on *Women and Development* will become an integral part of the curricula in major universities around the world. The teaching of such courses will influence both collective consciousness and policy-making in such a way that the condition of women will be improved everywhere. □

Choice and assessment of technology: its significance for women

Scientific and technical advancements are crucial elements of development. However, such "improvements" can be detrimental to both men and women. In some cases people can be displaced by automation, mechanization and computerization, while in others an individual's work load may actually increase.

In response to these recurring problems a United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development adopted in 1979 the Vienna Programme of Action which called for the restructuring of the existing pattern of international scientific and technological relations. On 31 August 1979, specific resolutions were passed which called for the implementation of technology programmes as well as consideration of the relationships between men and women, science, technology and development.

Six years later, in July 1985, the United Nations World Conference adopted the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women which mandated that "In the context of the Third United Nations Development Decade and any subsequent decade, the implications for women of international decisions specifically pertaining to international trade and finance, agriculture and technology transfer should be assessed by the United Nations system..." (Paragraph 351). The Conference further demanded increased participation of women in the research and implementation of science and technology, and in the evaluation of their impact on women and society.

During the VI session of INSTRAW's Board of Trustees a series of programmes were outlined. One of these called for INSTRAW to analyze the "choice and assessments of technology for the mobilization of women's participation in development... within the United Nations system and a survey on the choice and assessment of technology in developing countries, including the impact of emerging technologies on women". Thus, taking a cue from both the Nairobi Conference and the Vienna Programme of Action, INSTRAW is in the process of preparing a state-of-the-art report on women and technology.

The main purpose of this report is to analyze the impact of recent technological changes on the status of women, taking into account both their contributions to these changes and the benefits they might have derived from them. The historical perspective of the study is limited to the UN Decade for Women (1976-85) oriented towards the fundamental question: what are the perspectives of the framework in which women are placed in the rapidly changing technological environment? In order to find answers to this question the different research papers will rely upon data and information both within and outside the United Nations system. The geographical coverage of the study will be global, regional and national.

At this stage the research will concentrate on highlighting the main causes of inequalities of access to technological benefits, lack of recognition of women's contribution to the process of changes, the influence of recent trends on the status of women and economic and social reasons as to why women are left behind in scientific and technological training.

As part of its programme on women and technology, INSTRAW will co-operate with other United Nations bodies and agencies as a follow-up of the recommendations of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies. For example, the Institute is working closely with the New York based Centre for Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) and the World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER) of the United Nations University (UNU).

The state-of-the-art report on women and technology being prepared by INSTRAW aims to provide insight into approaches which could facilitate the involvement of women in science and technology. It will also outline recent problems that have arisen through lack of understanding of technology and recommends action that might help make structural change to improve the status of women everywhere. □

Women managers and entrepreneurs in industry

Although a great number of women work in industry, those who try to enter the managerial or entrepreneurial ranks face specific, gender-related problems. A newly-designed training module helps women overcome obstacles in the workplace.

Women represent an actual and important managerial force in small- and medium-scale industry in a large number of countries. They have always assumed considerable responsibilities in trade and industry.

However, education and training facilities for industrial management generally neglect their specific problems. Moreover, women are not always able to take full 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 industrial development and lack the opportunity to improve their knowledge and career prospects.

While managerial capability is a basic requirement of any development process, strengthening this capability and putting it to optimum use is a problem in a majority of countries. Managerial capabilities include entrepreneurial initiative, strategic design and operational fulfillment efforts in any modern economy.

Yet economic and socio-cultural values and attitudes towards work, risk, wealth and societal task-roles often hinder women who try to enter industry as managers or entrepreneurs. This has limited their contribution to the industrialization process at the top level and reduced productive utilization of a significant and most needed human resource. To help overcome these barriers, UNIDO and INSTRAW have recently produced a module for training women managers and entrepreneurs in developing countries.

The module stemmed from a joint UNIDO/INSTRAW workshop in Vienna, 1984, aimed at designing a curriculum that would include the various types and forms of training for women working in industrial management.

The workshop was based on the results of studies undertaken and the responses to a questionnaire sent to women entrepreneurs in different countries. Although national and regional differences appeared, some specific common trends and problems were identified.

It was seen that the capacity of the modern sector to absorb the emerging female work force is limited, and is coupled with the lack of equal economic and societal opportunities for women. Also, while an insufficient number of women are trained for entry into industry, attitudinal barriers restrict their performance in this field.

Though there may be some women executives in industry, their influence or decision-making generally meets with considerable resistance, and women are often discouraged from taking advantage of existing opportunities for an expanded managerial or entrepreneurial role. Moreover, women feel the pressure to exceed the performance of their male colleagues to maintain a justified presence among the managerial ranks.

Thus, the strategy of the module, designed with these obstacles in mind, aims at developing managerial and entrepreneurial skills among women, and positioning women for occupation and career planning.

Various levels of the module

Two broad target groups were identified: self-employed women, being either a potential or a practising entrepreneur, and wageemployed women, being either a junior, middle or senior manager.

For each target group the module seeks different objectives. At the first level, it aims to increase the confidence of female business entrants while giving them a basic approach necessary to conduct business practices. At the second level, female entrepreneurs and managers will learn the basic managerial skills needed in small industry.

The next level, designed for the trainers of women entrepreneurs and managers, conveys knowledge of small industry, entrepreneurial development and women's training needs. This enables trainers to design better training programmes for women and to implement them more effectively.

The following level is geared toward training senior managers, who will be sensitized to the specific and particular needs of women managers and workers. Operational officers in financial and consultancy services, the target group of the following level, will gain an understanding of the obstacles women entrants face and will finally realize the female capacity for success in business.

At the highest level of the module, female entrepreneurs will learn the financial and administrative skills needed to run a successful enterprise.

The duration of the modules ranges

between less than two weeks for middle managers to between four and six weeks for potential entrepreneurs.

The techniques used include a lecture component kept to a minimum; teaching material and explicit case studies context; participatory approach, group discussions, exercises, use of audio-visuals, video and radio, role-playing, field visits and a mobile team for specialized training.

As part of the preparatory activities of INSTRAW/UNIDO for the testing

of this training module, a survey of training needs is being carried out in different regions of the world. This survey will gather information and policies at macro and micro levels from both the public and private industrial sectors. Women's training needs in the field of industrial management and entrepreneurship will be assessed as well as training programmes already available at national and regional training institutions. The International Centre for Public Enterprises

(ICPE) joined UNIDO and INSTRAW in these endeavours by designing a similar module aimed at public enterprises.

The next step is to field-test these experimental modules in several countries which include the Dominican Republic, India, the Ivory Coast, Argentina and Egypt. Due to the regional variations which might exist, this testing will be most important to clearly establish women's needs regarding training in the industrial field. □

Remembering women's issues

Raising the awareness on women's issues of those who will implement the Forward-looking Strategies is a priority task for INSTRAW. One important aspect concerns the training of staff members of the UN system on the intricate relationship between women and the development process.

At the twelfth session of the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (CCAQ), Sub-Committee on Staff Training, held in Geneva from 21-25 April 1986, a questionnaire sent by UN New York to UN bodies and agencies on their training programmes with women in development (WID) components was discussed. Its findings show that the training of UN staff on WID issues has yet to receive serious attention.

1. A joint FAO/INSTRAW report on a meeting in Helsinki held in 1985 with the purpose of evaluating the use of WID guidelines and checklists in agricultural projects for women is available in English.

There have been some workshops and seminars where questions of equality between men and women have been debated in a lively and controversial manner. But the methodology and problems of training the UN staff in this complex dimension have been basically absent.

Aware of this, INSTRAW prepared a synthesis of guidelines and checklists for UN field staff. These are an outcome of the UN Decade for Women (1976-85), during which many bilateral and multilateral bodies and agencies prepared and adopted guiding principles on WID. Guidelines translate broad policy mandates into concrete action in programmes and projects. Checklists work as detailed memory aids, leading to the inclusion of women in specific activities.

As part of its programme on training, INSTRAW is monitoring, evaluating and assessing the results of these guidelines and checklists.

The programme includes the compilation and dissemination of available material, development of prototype guidelines and checklists and subsequent testing in selected countries¹.

INSTRAW proposed that it would be necessary to develop a training package for UN field staff. Though most UN agencies and bodies have their own sets of guidelines and checklists, they have yet to be enforced and used to their fullest potential. If they were applied consistently by the UN field staff on programmes and projects at the international, regional and national levels, it can be assured that the dimension of women would not be omitted.

It was also agreed at the Session that the training package should be finalized in such a manner that the UN field staff can use it for all subject areas, including agriculture, industry, labour force participation as well as health and development. □

Focus on Africa



United Nations support for Africa

Since famine, drought and economic crises are chronic problems in Africa, the Member States of the United Nations gathered to analyze long-term development problems and to rally the support of the international community on behalf of the troubled region. From 27-31 May, 1986, the General Assembly convened a Special Session on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa, the first General Assembly gathering to focus on the needs of a single continent.

The Special Session responded to a call by the heads of States and Governments of the Organization of African Unity. In the words of Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the Session offered a "unique opportunity to bring to the attention of the world the problems and potential of Africa, and to establish the political foundation for concerted global action".

Africa covers almost a quarter of the earth's land mass, and is rich in strategic minerals as well as human resources. Yet, it remains the least developed of all continents, lagging far behind in every economic indicator. Stagnant or negative rates of growth, declining per capita incomes and population growth that outpaces food production dim the prospects of quick economic recovery. In spite of this grim picture, Africa remains a continent of great, almost untapped potential. Among the least utilized and

understood resource are African women, the backbone of agriculture and food production.

To call attention to the roles and needs of African women farmers, and to explore strategies for easing their workload while improving their productivity, a symposium entitled "Food Security: the African Women Farmer" took place on 15 May, 1986, at the UN headquarters during the final preparatory meetings for the Special Session.

The symposium was attended by representatives of over one hundred NGOs and donors, government officials and international experts, who examined current development policies and programmes in relation to women as a central force in the agricultural sector. The second half of the afternoon session was devoted to drafting a People's Declaration (see next page) on food security.

The document stresses that women are central to the development process and proposes actions to strengthen their role. The concerns and ideas expressed in the Declaration have long been a part of INSTRAW's mandate and action, as an institution committed to the full integration of women in development. It is the Institute's firm belief that in the effective use of the potential of women lies the hope of a brighter future for Africa. □

General Assembly considers Africa's economic recovery

At the Special Session on Africa, the General Assembly adopted a resolution on an economic recovery programme for the continent.

The resolution welcomes the efforts of African countries, as expressed in the Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-90, where the Governments of Africa reaffirmed their primary responsibility for the economic and social development of their countries and identified areas for priority action. It emphasizes the need for concerted action by the international community in support of those efforts.

In the operational part of the resolution, the General Assembly *adopts* the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-90; it *emphasizes* the need to intensify economic and technical cooperation with African countries during and beyond that period; it *urges* all governments, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to support and contribute to the implementation of the programme; *decides* to conduct a review and appraisal of the implementation of the programme, and finally, it *requests* the Secretary-General to monitor the implementation and to report on it to the General Assembly at its forty-second and forty-third sessions. □



FOOD SECURITY PEOPLE'S DECLARATION

Preamble

1. The social and economic development of Africa is at a critical juncture due to drought and famine; trade inequities and burgeoning debt; population growth and distribution and expanded militarism. Only co-ordinated and synchronized efforts of many sectors will lead to a successful resolution of the present crisis.

2. Women are central to the development process. In Africa, they comprise over 50% of the adult population; produce 80% of the food; raise children; carry all of the drinking water and fuel; tend small livestock; trade in commodities and maintain the household. Yet many of the debates and discussion on future strategies fail to involve women and to acknowledge their contributions and needs.

3. Women are the principal custodians of Africa's food system, therefore, policies which minimize their critical role spell disaster. The burden to achieve food security is a collective one which requires the sharing of labour equally within the family and society. The rest of the world has joined the African nations in recognizing that food security is central to the stability of all nations.

4. The priorities established by women and men of Africa must be the primary focus of all policies and programmes.

Actions

1. **BALANCE** the development process by including the contributions and needs of women in all policies and strategies. It is recommended that:

- a) women be involved in decision-making, planning, implementation, and evaluation at the community, national, regional and international levels;
- b) all decision-makers, planners and implementers be aware of how to tap and incorporate the diverse skills of women in development programmes and projects.

2. **STRENGTHEN** the effectiveness of organizations at the grass-roots level—especially those working with women—through infrastructure support, resources allocation and co-operative efforts.

3. **LESSEN THE BURDEN** and reduce the number of chores undertaken simultaneously by women through provision of:

- a) safe potable water within easy reach;
- b) afforestation, fuel-saving stoves and other energy-saving devices;
- c) community child-care facilities; and

d) health, maternity care and family planning services.

4. **SUPPORT** full participation of women in development through improved information/education, training, better health services and active involvement in co-operatives.

5. **IMPROVE** food security by promoting environmentally sound agricultural development; and **IMPROVE** food production, storage, processing and marketing by ensuring access of women to:

- a) land;
- b) credit;
- c) appropriate technology;
- d) transportation; and
- e) extension services.

6. **UNDERTAKE** replicable pilot projects which involve women fully with men in activities to enhance food security.

7. **PROMOTE** sharing of experiences through technical co-operation among developing countries such as: symposia, workshops, study tours, information collection and dissemination of case studies.

8. **STRENGTHEN** the development data base through research and studies on women. □



AFRICAN WOMEN

Though the obstacles women face in Africa may at first glance seem insurmountable —drought, famine, desertification, age-old patterns of inequality— African women have shown considerable ingenuity and skill in managing their scarce resources.

African women are overburdened in their daily chores, yet their full potential has been underutilized by development plans and technical co-operation programmes that view women as objects, not agents of change.

The following are but some highlights of INSTRAW's work in Africa. However, all INSTRAW programmes relate to African women, and are consistent with the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies.

INSTRAW's activities in research, training and information address both the methodological and the practical aspects of ensuring the integration of women into the development process. Self-reliant African development should take into account the specific needs and contributions of African women. □



Selling palm oil in Liberia.

UN7B. Wolff

Statistics

Out of every 100 women living in Africa, 24 are considered to be in the labour force, according to a joint ILO/INSTRAW Global Statistical Survey. Yet, the study warns, current figures often mask women's economic contribution to society. In many regions, women overwhelmingly occupy the informal sector: they are traders, small-scale growers and

vendors of food. A fairly large percentage are unpaid family workers. In predominantly agricultural Africa, women perform 80% of the storing and 90% of the food processing, 60% of the marketing and 50% of domestic animal care — often with few or no modern aids.

One of the major concerns of INSTRAW is improving the collection and ana-

lysis of statistics and data so they will adequately reflect women's often invisible productive activity. An African sub-regional workshop on improved statistics and indicators for women in development was held in Harare, Zimbabwe, in 1985, to be followed in 1986 by national and regional training seminars for users and producers of statistics on women in Africa. □

Food systems

Though women grow some 80% of Africa's food, they reap only few of the benefits. While toiling depleted soils with hand, hoe and plough, many women are chronically undernourished and anemic.

They are growers of the family's subsistence food, but have little access and control over productive resources and services. Labour-saving technology, credit, training and agricultural inputs have been directed primarily to men. Until recently, the crucial role of African women in food production had remained largely unacknowledged. Yet it is hardly a recent phenomenon, dating from the adoption of hoe agriculture and sedentary lifestyles by many African communities during the last five centuries. In the 1985 INSTRAW study, "Towards strategies for strengthening the position of women in food production: an overview and proposals on Africa", Dr. Achola Pala Okeyo analyzes the role women farmers could play in the search for solutions to Africa's food problems. □



Spreading fertilizer in Mali.

UN/Kay Muldoon



Community well in Ethiopia.

UN/Y. Levy

Water and sanitation

Women are carriers, users and managers of water. Often they must walk up to nine kilometers daily to and from the nearest water source. Yet precisely for all these reasons, women have a vested interest in securing safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. The evidence shows that by including women in the planning, design, operation and maintenance, water and sanitation projects can achieve their objectives more efficiently. In the framework of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (IDWSSD, 1981-90), INSTRAW has been very active in this field. Following the Interregional Seminar on Women and the IDWSSD convened by INSTRAW in Cairo, 1984, a number of studies were published, including an annotated bibliography. A regional meeting on water resources management in Africa was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in June 1986. (see page 27). □

Concern for food security today

An analysis of African agriculture leads to policy proposals for including women in food security systems

The underlying causes of malnutrition, hunger and recurrent famines in Africa have been often discussed. Yet successive attempts to deal with world food supply and food security issues have led to steadily deeper levels of analysis as new approaches have been tried, found to be limited or in some cases even counter-productive. International development programmes, technical co-operation projects, research centres and agricultural commercial interests have concentrated on developing and supplying new technology to production, creating enclaves of the so-called "green revolution" which led to a dramatic rise in agricultural production, during the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's.

There was also, of course, recognition that the age-old problems caused by environmental calamities such as drought and pests, as well as political disruptions, make emergency food aid measures necessary. Production increases in industrialized economies in the 1960's and 1970's benefited the already developed nations most, leading to agricultural surpluses and hence to programmes whereby surplus food could be sold or distributed, primarily on a bilateral basis as "Food Aid" to countries whose production still lagged behind their needs, or to those suffering particular food crises. The hope was that this combination of increased production through new agricultural technology, together with the process of international trade and emergency aid, would meet the demands of the world's rapidly growing population.

By the early 1970's much of the optimism of the post-war decades had faded and agricultural development

planners faced a wide range of threats to food security: inflation, the energy crisis, recession in the developed countries, declining agricultural production in many developing nations, growing balance of payment problems limiting purchases of food—notably the Sahel drought of 1969-1973.

In response to the food crisis of the 1970's, a FAO-sponsored World Food Conference held in late 1974 led to an international undertaking on World Food Security, and to the creation of various international, regional and national bodies concerned with food strategies. At first, the emphasis remained on the need to increase agricultural production as the long-term strategy, and to assure the availability of food for times of crisis by "an internationally co-ordinated system of nationally held stocks as well as appropriate food aid programmes and other measures including long-term trade agreements".

African agriculture

A deep historical analysis of African poverty and hunger has developed since the late 1970's pointing to underlying causes of the economic, environmental and social breakdown of several communities. This analysis of agricultural change in specific African societies identifies two major sources, both the result of the historical impact of the colonial mode of production:

- The transformation of the ecosystem (the relation between society and the environment) and hence decline in food producing capability.

- The transformation of the social

system, with the emergence of distinct classes including the absolute poverty of the "dispossessed" and the changes of the sexual division of labour which undermine women's productive role in agriculture.

This approach leads to the conclusion that African agriculture is no longer simply a set of backward methods in a difficult natural environment waiting for new production strategies, technology and capital from foreign donors and investors. In fact, the food production and security problems of Africa are seen to be intimately related to the history of colonialism with its introduction of cash export crops to the detriment of traditional food systems, and the development of a low-paid proletarianized male labour force at the expense of African women whose unpaid domestic and farm labour force subsidized the profits of mines, industry and agribusiness.

The emergence of comfortable African bureaucratic and business elites adds to the food problem, for their affluence and tastes in food and drink and consumer goods adds to balance of payments problems and is won at the expense of the growing number of the poor who can neither produce nor purchase enough food to survive. In addition, it has been realized that many development efforts have actually been counterproductive to both food production and the position of women in Africa.

According to the World Survey published by the United Nations in 1984, for many years the major agricultural trend in the sub-Saharan region has been an emphasis on cash crops at the



expense of food crops. Consequently new technology has been aiding male farmers. This action on the part of local and national organisms has actually led to an increased gap between men's and women's agricultural productivity. In Sierra Leone, for example, new machinery was introduced for swamp rice cultivation that decreased men's work while increasing women's work by 50% because the amount of cultivable land was increased, requiring more women's planting and harvesting labour.

Therefore, despite the well-documented, crucial role that women play in food production in Africa, agricultural modernization efforts have excluded them, leading to negative consequences for food production, the perpetuation of rural poverty and the persistence of serious labour bottlenecks. Food production *per capita* has declined during the past two decades and acute food shortages threaten the survival of millions of people, especially in the semi-arid areas of Africa.

Emergency aid is not enough

Since the beginning of the 1980's important new means to ensure food security have been developed in light of a deepening understanding of the causes of hunger, food insecurity and the inter-related vulnerability of individuals and nations in Africa, as well as the failure of earlier strategies.

The Monrovia meeting of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1979, followed by the Lagos Plan of Action of 1980, identified agriculture as the key to African self-sufficiency. The World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development

(WCARRD), which followed up and developed the ideas pioneered by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination of Rural Development in the mid 1970's, met in Rome to outline a new strategy for rural development.

The conference took a hard realistic look at the failures of past development efforts to satisfy the basic needs and aspirations of rural people with the particular concern for effects of continuing poverty, hunger, and malnutrition on national development and world stability. The WCARRD Programme of Action stressed the need for equal participation of all segments of the population—particularly rural men and women—and the need for equity in distribution and productive use of domestic resources for development.

The deeper analysis of the food security problem, as well as grass-roots approaches to agrarian reform and rural development, has made it clear that simply increasing production and creating and distributing emergency food supplies is not enough. A new broader concept of World Food Security was outlined by the Director General of FAO in 1983. The specific aims of any broader approach should be three fold:

- to ensure production of adequate food supplies;
- to maximize stability in the flow of supplies; and
- to secure access to available supplies those who need them.

Implicit action proposals which follow from this new approach are not only concerned with the capacity to produce, but also the capacity to purchase food, recognizing that the poorest strata—urban unemployed and

daily-paid labourers, landless rural workers, nomadic pastoralists and female-headed households—are the first to suffer from acute food shortages.

In the 1980's the issue became acute; food has become a battleground upon which competition for world markets became intense, having a serious impact on food deficit nations. Major grain producing nations used bilateral food aid, technical co-operation programmes and international banking mechanisms to attempt to control internal policies of recipient countries. Such actions intimidate nations which have become dependent upon food aid. Insecure governments dare not risk the withdrawal of such aid and the suffering and political turmoil which the consequent hunger might cause. Some nations even alter the political circumstances upon which the use of food as a weapon is based.

Thus at the present time of severe drought across southern Africa, South Africa's policy of destabilization has threatened legitimate neighbouring governments and disrupted food production and distribution networks. In the contemporary political economy of Africa, food is being used as a weapon of international power politics. It can also be used as a weapon in domestic politics—distributed through political patronage channels to party stalwarts and denied to opposition groups. In both cases the control of food supplies has been taken out of the hands of those most immediately concerned—the producers and consumers at the domestic level—and placed in the hands of those primarily concerned with the politics of food.

And yet it is a clear principle of food security planning that long-lasting changes in agricultural production methods, storage policies, marketing techniques and distribution systems are most likely to be carried through by the people who stand to benefit the most themselves. And these are, above all, the women who bear the day-to-day responsibility for feeding their families—and the world.

Parallel with the growing attention to food security issues throughout the past three or four decades, there have arisen ever more studies, conferences and agencies concerned with women in African development and specifically with women in the food systems of Africa. At first these studies were

passed women leaders, had neglected the positive aspects of their traditional productive roles, and in some cases had reinforced restrictive features or traditional society, or had re-introduced innovations which adversely affected women.

The concern for women

During the 1970's the combined forces of the women's studies movement, and in 1975 the declaration of the United Nations Decade for Women, led to a general call for the full incorporation of women in the development process. The World Food Conference held in Rome in 1974 summed up the situation in these words by

ILO World Employment Conference adopted a "Basic Needs" approach to development planning. Among other things this placed food foremost among minimal family requirements and recognized the importance of programmes to promote the status, education and development of women.

In the 1980s, United Nations bodies and agencies, World Bank programmes and other international and national development programmes sought ways to follow these mandates, while African women themselves have come to take a full share in research, debate, policy planning and the implementation of development activities. Despite these efforts, many of women's basic problems have persisted, or even worsened, particularly in some African countries. Thus as in the case of the analysis of food security, a deeper level of analysis of women and development issues has emerged, pointing to underlying historical and economic reasons for women's continued subordination, increased poverty, marginalization, exploitation, and general undermining of their productive potential.

Fundamental is the recognition that the double burden of women's unpaid domestic labour and subsistence farming work supports men in many African countries to grow cash crops or to seek wage employment, giving them control of cash income. This makes women even more dependent within the household. The high rates of profit earned by multinationals would not be possible without the "unpaid labour of women, who feed, clothe, and care for the family, thus creating new workers at no cost to the companies". Women face a growing "crisis of reproduction" in Africa, as the cost of basic needs rises, the resources base shrinks, and more individuals migrate to urban areas seeking wage employment, leaving women to shoulder a growing burden of work to keep themselves and their families alive.

Equally fundamental is an awareness of the increasing gap between upper income and low income groups in Africa, a gap expressed in the emergence of new and distinct classes. Thus in any discussion of women's roles in farming systems the great universality of women's economic positions needs to be taken into account today, based both on the status of the men to whom



UN/John Isaac

confined to academic circles in the developed world and were stimulated by women scholars in the social sciences.

In the post-war years this interest was increased as women began to work in international, national and voluntary development agencies, with new research interests and concern for third world women. Many detailed studies of women in the developing world began to appear, particularly since the 1970's, which emphasized that women had been neglected by researchers and development planners who overlooked women's contribution, focusing on efforts of men in agricultural planning and policies. It was argued that at first colonialism and then development efforts had by-

urging governments to "include in their development plans provision for education and training for women on equal basis with men in food production and agricultural technology, marketing and distribution techniques, as well as consumer, credit and nutrition information.

The International Women's Year Conference in Mexico in 1975 identified hardships women face throughout the world and called for recognition of the "economic value of women's work in the home in domestic food production and marketing" and for specific programmes of research, education, technology, legal reform and access to resources to improve the condition of women in rural areas.

In the following year (1976), an

women are related and the status of women in their own right. Many women in Africa are among the most exploited and dispossessed; the new broader concept of food security implies the concern not only to increase agricultural production and stabilize supplies, but also to assure economic access to adequate food for all. This includes both the energetic innovative women farmers and traders, and the landless urbanized or marginalized women who can no longer produce any food at all, and have nothing to sell but their labour or their bodies.

Policy proposals for involving women in food security systems

Recalling that WCARRD policies in Africa had indicated the need for changes in governmental policies, particularly in improving the legal status of women, to encourage women to become leaders and become involved in the decision-making process in order to enhance the role of women in food production, the Follow-up Rural Development Team called for specific economic and agricultural changes which would directly promote women's food security in Lesotho. The following steps were proposed:

a) The governments of Africa should look closely at the whole educational system and adopt new policies. At an early age children should be encouraged to develop their full potential as people. This would include emphasis on girls assuming leadership roles and seeing themselves as capable and decisive individuals. Teachers should be dissuaded from assuming that certain subjects are appropriate for one gender only. It is important that there should also be a policy of re-education in the area of sex-roles and women's capacity to assume a meaningful part in public decision making and leadership.

b) The governments of Africa should have a commitment to appoint more women to high-level positions.

c) The governments of Africa should adopt a positive stance on increasing the numbers of women Members of Parliament. If MP's are appointed, then more women should be appointed. If they are elected, then

1. The material for this piece is taken from various UN sources, including FAO.

Liaison Officers should be urged to encourage more women candidates to step forward.

d) The parties in power should appoint women Party Liaison Officers, a crucial position in the party political structure.

The FAO/WCARRD Follow-up team made seven recommendations aimed at enhancing the role of women in food production. These are as follows:

- that credit institutions should review their policies related to rural women. More flexible criteria for provision of collateral and repayment procedures should be devised for poor rural women;

- that financial institutions should improve and decentralize their facilities in rural areas to allow easier access to and greater information on their services;

- that the possibility of a Women's Bank to provide low-interest, long term, small loans to lower-income rural women should be investigated;

- that the government should examine critically whether or not schemes designed for low-income groups are actually reaching individuals in those groups;

- that income-generating projects should be small and directed at local markets;

- that since raw materials are necessary for any successful enterprise, village distribution points and cooperatives should be considered as providers of infrastructure support; and

- counselling should be provided on the most effective and productive use of generated income.

The panel concluded that the main problem for most women who want to get started in income-generating activities is lack of cash for the initial investment. Limited credit facilities are available through financial institutions, but the legal system requires that the husband give approval when a woman enters into a loan contract.

More specific long term plans should include the possibility of encouraging women to produce products for the local market, not for tourists or for export. Agricultural projects should be aimed at small scale food production for women. These might include: dairy cows, cheese, yoghurt, milk, poultry for meat,

vegetables and fruit. Help must be found for women to obtain raw materials necessary to carry out these activities in rural areas.

It was also recommended that women should join together to form co-operatives. In the form of a co-operative which is a legal entity, they will be in a better position to secure loans from financial institutions without having to involve their husbands. This way they will be in a position to carry out income-generating activities either as individuals or jointly.

In order to IMPROVE THE LEGAL STATUS OF WOMEN the team made six plenary policy recommendations.

a) Changes should be sought in the community of property law which decrees that the husband is the sole manager of the family estate. If the property is owned jointly, then it should be jointly managed.

b) There should be changes in the law relating to divorce. At present only desertion or adultery are grounds for divorce. Cruelty is not recognized, neither is the concept of the total breakdown of marriage.

c) The Land Act of 1979 should be reviewed in order to make its provisions on inheritance less discriminative against women.

d) Women should be allowed to sue their husbands in court for maintenance. This is currently only allowed when a woman is separating from or divorcing her husband.

e) Some legal provision must be made for maintenance by the father of any children born out of wedlock.

f) Law Reform Organizations should be set up to review the laws relating to women.

As previously noted, married women have no identity of an independent nature, their identity is subsumed within that of the husband. The role of wife and mother will continue to be seen solely or primarily "right" for women and as precluding any real involvement in a public decision¹. □





Women are connected to food systems

"The men are attached to the land, they own it and clear it; the women are attached to the food, they grow it, process it and cook it and sell it".

Words of a Ghanaian woman

This poignant phrase well summarizes the roles of men and women in African society. By reading between the lines it is possible to further understand their different positions. Patently, men reap unequal benefits of land ownership; they exercise more decision-making power, can obtain credit, and have better access to education and training where available. Unfortunately, most women are manual workers subject to oppressive taboos and traditions that inhibit their social advancement and ability to ensure food security and adequate cash income for the family, the community and the country.

In an effort to study and ultimately alleviate some of the discrimination and overburdening of women, INSTRAW and FAO have been working together since 1983. The current study on women and food security in Africa, including the case study on Lesotho, was made possible by an OPEC grant and the co-operation of FAO. It is based on research findings as well as the proceedings of the high level policy meeting of the Follow-up Team of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) held in 1985.

Both INSTRAW and FAO consider that food security issues must be examined from two different perspectives: the perspective of international and regional strategies to cope with the national situation and the perspective of the household in which the individual, as a woman, struggling to provide for her family.

Erratic climatic conditions, over-cultivation, and erosion limit arable land in Lesotho. Male migration and lack of investment in agriculture have caused the nation's population of 1,334,000 to become heavily dependent on food imports¹.

The INSTRAW/FAO study on women and food security in Africa attempts to understand more fully the neglected and underestimated contribution of women to the nation's food

production. The study also gives an overview of world agricultural production and the general orientation of existing food systems.

In addition, the study makes recommendations to governments, educational institutions and agencies working on giving women greater access to land, credit, resources and financial assistance. The recommendations, ranging from land reform to bank structure changes, from credit accessibility to leadership training, have

national and regional implications, and are consistent with those made during the FAO Conference held in Harare, Zimbabwe, in 1984.

It is hoped that this analysis will provide new impetus to efforts at increasing production, stabilizing supplies and equalizing access to food for women so that ultimately in the words of Edouard Saouma, Director-General of FAO, "all peoples at all times are able to buy or grow the basic food they need". □

The economic contribution of women in Africa

Country	Men			Women		
	Total population in thousands	Economically active population	Activity rates in %	Total population in thousands	Economically active population	Activity rates in %
Burundi 1979	1,946	1,110	57.0	2,082	1,258	60.4
Rwanda 1978	2,364	1,290	54.6	2,481	1,372	55.3
Seychelles 1981	32	23	70.3	32	17	51.9
Madagascar 1975	4,010	2,249	56.1	4,151	1,928	46.4
Ethiopia 1980	15,685	8,571	54.6	15,381	5,435	35.7
Togo 1980	1,190	570	47.9	1,286	448	34.9
Cameroon 1982	4,429	2,214	50.0	4,453	1,329	29.8
Ivory Coast 1975	3,475	1,909	54.9	3,235	923	28.5
Botswana 1982	443	188	42.5	498	127	25.5
Reunion 1982	253	111	43.8	263	62	23.6
Benin 1979	1,601	708	44.3	1,738	406	23.3
Somalia 1975	1,567	875	55.8	1,603	365	22.8
Zambia 1981	2,898	1,311	45.2	2,971	514	17.3
Mali 1976	3,124	1,883	60.3	3,271	385	11.8
Tunisia 1980	3,204	1,447	45.1	33,165	364	11.5
Egypt 1980	21,487	10,252	47.7	20,734	1,191	5.7
Algeria 1977	8,336	3,071	36.8	8,494	300	3.5
Mauritania 1976	636	381	59.9	648	17	2.6

Note: 1. Activity rates are ratios of the economically active population to the total population.
2. Population figures are rounded for thousand.

Source: ILO: *Year of Labour Statistics*, (Geneva), 1982, 1983. Table 1. Taken from Women in Economic Activity: A Global Statistical Survey (1950-2000). ILO:/INSTRAW (Santo Domingo), 1985.

1. FAO: *Women in Food Production and Food Security in Africa* (Rome: FAO, 1983), p. 26.

International Year of Peace.
To safeguard peace
and the future of humanity



Logo of the International Year of Peace

Proclamation of the International Year of Peace

Whereas the General Assembly has decided unanimously to proclaim solemnly the International Year of Peace on 24 October 1985, the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations,

Whereas the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations provides a unique opportunity to reaffirm the support for and commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Whereas peace constitutes a universal ideal and the promotion of peace is the primary purpose of the United Nations,

Whereas the promotion of international peace and security requires continuing and positive action by States and peoples aimed at the prevention of war, removal of various threats to peace—including the nuclear threat—respect for the principle of non-use of force, the resolution of conflicts and peaceful settlement of disputes, confidence-building measures, disarmament, maintenance of outer space for peaceful uses, development, the promotion and exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms, decolonization in accordance with the principle of self-determination, elimination of racial discrimination and *apartheid*, the enhancement of the quality of life, satisfaction of human needs and protection of the environment,

Whereas peoples must live together in peace and practise tolerance, and it has been recognized that education, information, science and culture can contribute to that end,

Whereas the International Year of Peace provides a timely impetus for initiating renewed thought and action for the promotion of peace,

Whereas the International Year of Peace offers an opportunity to Governments, intergovernmental, non-governmental organizations and others to express in practical terms the common aspiration of all peoples for peace,

Whereas the International Year of Peace is not only a celebration or commemoration, but an opportunity to reflect and act creatively and systematically in fulfilling the purposes of the United Nations,

Now, therefore,

The General Assembly

Solemnly proclaims 1986 to be the International Year of Peace and calls upon all peoples to join with the United Nations in resolute efforts to safeguard peace and the future of humanity.

Adopted by the General Assembly on 24 October 1985
(resolution 40/3, annex)

in
PEACE

Women's issues in the UN: the debate continues

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

*Courtesy of the Branch for the Advancement of Women,
Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, Vienna*

In its first meeting after the Nairobi Conference, held in Vienna from 24 February to 5 March 1986, the Commission on the Status of Women had on its agenda, among others, the following items:

- Results of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace.

- Elimination of discrimination against women in accordance with the aims of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

- Participation of women in promoting international peace and co-operation.

- Role of women in development.

- Communications concerning the status of women.

The Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna, Mr. Mowafak Allaf, opened the meeting, and Ms. Olga Pellicer de Brody, from Mexico, was elected to the Chair by acclamation.

Mr. Allaf emphasized the significance of the session, coming as it did just after the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations at a time when the whole world was rediscovering the importance of global dialogue and multilateralism.

On the opening day, the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, Ms. Leticia R. Shahani, emphasized the importance of the session in view of General Assembly resolution A/40/108, which not only endorsed the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies but also

emphasized the central role of the Commission in matters relating to the advancement of the status of women, and called upon the Commission to promote the implementation of the Strategies.

The various items on the agenda were introduced by the Director of the Branch for the Advancement of Women, Ms. Chafika Sellami-Meslem.

On the *Elimination of Discrimination against Women* the delegates welcomed the progress being made and the fact that 85 countries had ratified or acceded to the Convention as of 10 January 1986. The delegate of the United Kingdom announced that her Government would be signing the instrument of ratification of the Convention in the week of 17 March 1986.

The question of the position of women in the United Nations system was also dealt with under this agenda item, and a resolution "emphasizing that an increased presence of women in all substantive areas of the organizations will enable these organizations to respond more effectively and efficiently to their mandates" and calling upon "Member States to continue to support the efforts of the organizations of the United Nations common system to increase the participation of women at the policy-making level" was recommended by consensus for adoption by ECOSOC.

A note by the Secretary-General on *Violence in the Family* (E/CN.6/1986/4), prepared pursuant to ECOSOC resolution 1984/14, was considered by the Commission. The note refers to the growing awareness that family violence is a real problem with serious

physical and psychological results for all members of families, but laying a particular burden on women and children. An expert group meeting will be convened on this subject during the biennium, and several Governments and NGOs expressed interest and offered help.

Under the agenda item of *Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace and Co-operation* a number of resolutions were recommended for adoption by ECOSOC.

The representative of the Secretariat for the International Year of Peace informed the Commission that the draft programme of the year, as contained in A/40/669 (annex I, 27(d)), referred to the growing influence of women as promoters of peace and equality, and noted that women were voicing their concerns for peace in new and innovative ways at international, national and local levels.

Extensive debate followed on the role of the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* (A/CONF.116/4) and its contribution to the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies. A resolution was recommended for adoption by ECOSOC requesting the Secretary-General to submit in 1988 the first draft of an updated Survey to the Commission. The resolution calls upon the United Nations system, "including all regional commissions and INSTRAW" to co-operate in the update.

It was finally agreed to recommend to ECOSOC that a session of the Commission should be held in 1987 which would be devoted to planning the programme of work for the Commission up to the year 2000. □

POST-NAIROBI INTER-AGENCY MEETING

The first post-Nairobi inter-agency meeting of the United Nations system convened in Vienna, from 6-8 March 1986, to discuss two major agenda items concerning women:

1. Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women: implications for inter-agency co-operation: —taking into account decisions of the General Assembly at its fortieth session; —recommendations of the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-first session; —monitoring and review and appraisal; —World Survey on the role of women in development.

2. Formulation of a system-wide medium-term plan for women and development.

The meeting called for preparation and dissemination of training material on the Forward-looking Strategies. National and international decision-makers and United Nations staff must be trained on how to translate those objectives into policies, plans and programmes. The United Nations system should bring to the attention of national policy-makers and other interested organizations the guidelines and checklists on women and development prepared by the UN family of organizations in order to enhance technical co-operation reaching women.

It was agreed that specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations should co-operate in the first update of the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development. For a more efficient use of work already under way, attention should be paid to exchanging information on ongoing and planned activities in the Women in Development field as widely as possible within the UN system.

It was also agreed that in the update of the World Survey, analysis should be based on macroeconomic factors and adjustment policies determining development styles and women's conditions, and include social and

cultural factors as well. Special attention should be paid to the experience of countries with various socio-economic systems and cultural traditions. In addition to the role of women in the services and the informal sector, in agriculture and food production and issues relating to women and population, the survey should include among the selected emerging development trends such issues as women's roles in the formal and informal sector, the harmonization of the productive and reproductive functions of women, the effects of drought on the status of women, the possible differential impact of dwindling resources and crises on men and women and their coping strategies at the household level, the legal status of women, and the effects on women of the introduction of higher technology.

Special consideration should be given to revising such concepts as women's "integration" and "role" in development, so as to take into

account women's multiplicity of roles and contributions, actual and potential, to the national product. Emphasis should be placed on women's contribution to economic growth, instead of being limited to women's greater vulnerability to the economic crises. Finally, efforts should be made to improve the statistical basis of the Survey.

Concerning the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development, the meeting agreed that its preparation would give the UN system an opportunity to reflect on the priorities required for the effective implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies. Since the focus of the plan is on women and development, the policy framework and the structure of the system-wide plan should reflect the objectives of the UN Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, in their interrelation, as stressed in the Forward-looking Strategies. □

Women and the rural energy crisis

The relation of women, particularly rural women, and energy, was discussed at the meeting of the UN Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, held on 9 June 1986 in New York.

INSTRAW's consultant, Ms. Nina Mines said that, while women are an important factor in the use and production of energy for household and community consumption, this fact has been largely ignored by policy-makers who rarely focus on the relationship between basic household needs and rural development. Time consumed in the collection of fuel prevents women from undertaking more productive

activities. Thus, the shortage of fuel not only deteriorates living conditions, but also hinders the general development process.

As training has been identified as INSTRAW's key programme for the 1986-87 biennium, the Institute will attempt to sensitize planners and policy-makers on the role of women in the energy sector. As the Institute sees it, women's groups and field workers could serve as channels to relay to women information and training in the use and maintenance of energy resources. Training could also be provided in the efficient use of available fuel supplies and simple technologies,

such as alternative designs for stoves. Developing appropriate training material will ensure that a major resource of the world is more effectively used.

The issue was further discussed in The Hague, the Netherlands, where some sixty policy-makers, field practitioners and representatives of non-governmental and governmental organizations attended the International Workshop on "Rural energy crisis, women's work and basic needs", from 21-24 April 1986. The workshop was sponsored by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Institute of Social Studies. Dr. Nada Svob-Djokic, INSTRAW's consultant on new and renewable sources of energy, attended on behalf of the Institute.

The participants discussed the causes and effects of the energy crisis on rural households and approaches to solving these problems, giving special attention to people's participation and organization. Then they evaluated the strategies and policies needed to meet rural household fuel needs in the context of national policy and rural development planning.

A synthesis paper was presented by the ILO on the rural energy crisis and women's work. Country papers summarizing the results of the field research in Africa, Asia and Latin America were presented as case studies of household-level responses to the crisis.

Five panels examined the policy response to the rural energy and women's work crisis: on forestry and land for food, fuel and fodder; improved stoves and household fuel planning; energy and income-generation; national energy planning and household needs, and finally, technical co-operation projects.

Increasing attention has been drawn over the last decade to the critical role of energy both as an input into rural development and as a potential constraint. Most poor people and many small industries in developing countries use biomass fuels (wood, charcoal, animal dung, and crop wastes) to meet their household energy needs.

Although previously gathered for free, these fuels are becoming increasingly scarce and costly in many countries in terms of labour, cash, and/or environmental deterioration.

This rural energy crisis and its relationship with deforestation, soil erosion

and declining agricultural productivity has emerged as an issue of concern to many developing countries not least because of the connections among rural and urban fuel markets, fossil fuel imports and the balance of payments.

Women carry the main burden of rural fuel supply and use in developing countries. Results have shown that the rural energy crisis indeed has important implications for rural women's work,

and consequently for women's ability to earn income and produce food, for family budget expenditures and for nutrition and health.

It is thus crucial that women, particularly poor rural women, are involved in the search for solutions to the rural energy crisis. Throughout the workshop, the role of participatory action and people's organization research in energy and resource problems and planning was stressed. □

Policy aspects of water and women

A regional meeting on Socio-economic and Policy Aspects of Water Resources Management in Africa, co-sponsored by INSTRAW and organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 2-6 June 1986. The meeting was attended by high-level participants from 18 African countries and representatives from 14 United Nations bodies and agencies.

The meeting was opened by Mr. Tchouta Moussa, Deputy Executive

and management of water resources and their assessment; education, training and research; the role of water resources in national socio-economic development, and environmental and health aspects. INSTRAW was represented by Ms. Shafika Nasser, Ms. Ralphina Phillot-Almeida, and Ms. Borjana Bulajic, who described the two INSTRAW prototype training modules on women, water supply and sanitation, prepared with the ILO/Turin Centre.

The report of the meeting will be presented at the Interregional Seminar



From left: Mr. Pierre Najlis, DIESA; Mr. K.A. Edwards, ECA; Mr. M. Tchouta Moussa, ECA; Mr. Awad Idris, UNESCO; Mr. K. A. Tuffour, UNESCO; Ms. Shafika Nasser, INSTRAW Representative; Ms. Borjana Bulajic, INSTRAW.

Secretary of ECA, who indicated the importance of water resources development and management, and the need to use the African priority programme for Economic Recovery as a framework for the deliberations of the meeting.

Four themes were discussed: plan-

on Impact Efficiency in the Management of Water Resources in New York from 5-9 January 1987.

More information on the training modules will be included in subsequent issues of INSTRAW News. □

Basket-weaving
in Fayum,
Egypt.



UN/John Isaac

NEW IDEAS OUTSIDE THE UN SYSTEM

Nairobi 2000 Coalition

Discussions about how to translate the Forward-looking Strategies into action agendas began in Nairobi among several groups. Some of these discussions led to the convening of thirty leaders in donor agencies, international foundations, intergovernmental and non-governmental agencies, and university-based women's programmes at the Rockefeller Foundation Conference Center in Bellagio, Italy, from 16-18 December 1985.

The participants came to share informally both personal and institutional expertise and to pave the way for continuous purposeful, effective and collaborative action. All were or have been donors and implementors, with experience in and responsibility for policy development, implementation and resource allocation. It was the first time this mix of development experts had been convened to brainstorm about how to achieve greater collaboration. The participants decided to remain associated in a loose coalition. This "Nairobi 2000 Coalition" will be flexible and non-exclusive, broadly defined to include all who wish to join forces in effecting the "Forward-looking Strategies".

During three days of intensive discussion about priority needs and the potential to strengthen and build on the momentum of Nairobi through collaboration, a number of themes or foci for immediate common action emerged. In recognition of the different strengths, mandates and interests of the institutions represented by the participants, there was agreement that no one focus

for action would do justice to the diversity of the group, nor to the need for simultaneous progress in all spheres covered by the "Forward-looking Strategies". But the group agreed on three overarching and mutually reinforcing themes, under which joint work will be undertaken:

- economic independence and self-reliance through improved access to productive resources such as land, credit, technologies and information;
- improved efficiency, productivity and well-being of women through the introduction of technologies and facilities to ease women's work burden, by improving health, family planning, nutrition, education, support services and by eliminating violence against women;
- women's collective participation in the development process to ensure that their voice is directly represented at all decision-making levels and in all sectors.

The group also agreed that an expansion of the traditional partnership between donors and governments is needed to encourage greater linkages to and between the *micro-level groups*

geared towards satisfaction of immediate needs; *national organizations*, including universities, that can give voice to women's concerns at the grass-roots level and provide, directly or as intermediaries, management and skills training to the micro-level groups; *international non-governmental organizations and foundations* that can provide resources and articulate at the international level the needs of women at the local and national levels; and *multilateral donors* that can fund small-scale efforts and foster their expansion into mainstream activities.

Concurrently with efforts to expand linkages between institutions that have not traditionally seen themselves as close partners, a broad policy dialogue at the highest decision making level must be initiated on how the Forward-looking Strategies will be translated into action. Such a policy dialogue must be carefully planned and prepared and will be the subject of continued discussion by Coalition members. To pursue existing interests on specific topics, the Coalition formed Consultative Groups on sub-topics under the main themes*. □

Dawn for women

Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN) met in Rio de Janeiro, Brasil, from 21-23 February 1986. DAWN evolved from a meeting in Bangalore, India, August, 1984, where a group of women of different ideologies, problems and approaches found a consensus on the

three themes of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace.

Attempting to interlink these themes, DAWN later presented a conceptual framework on the transformation of existing economic and social structures through full and total partici-

* The report of the meeting has been published in English and may be requested from the International Women's Tribune Center, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10017.

pation of women at all levels of society. This thesis, reflecting new perspectives on development alternatives by Third World women, is an important step in research to build new visions and strategies not only for women but for society as a whole*.

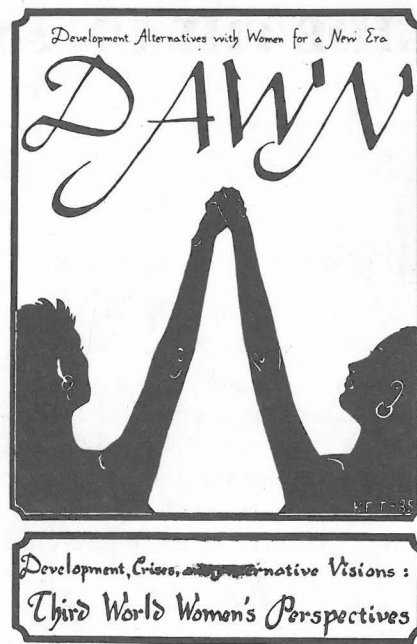
As the closing of the UN Decade neared, DAWN, among others, energetically joined the global debate on women and development. In this process several women's groups and organizations both in the North and the South contributed collectively to refine its broader framework. The effort of pulling together resources and knowledge has culminated in a new type of research on the connections between women and international economic relations. The research methodology of DAWN is based on two pillars: participation of women and influencing policy at the local, national, regional and international levels.

DAWN continues to be a network among researchers, activists and policy makers to promote research on key areas and develop training techniques for analysis and advocacy on Third World women's perspectives.

At their February meeting in Rio de Janeiro, consensus was reached on evolving theoretical perspectives on a comparative regional basis in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Major research topics and priorities considered to be connected with the current international crisis are, according to DAWN, first "Women's Visions and Movements", and second "Food, Energy and Debt Crisis".

It is generally recognized that women should be properly trained in many subjects including in technical and scientific areas, but what are the specific needs of women in the Third World? The DAWN Group focused on upgrading women's skills with respect to research action at the policy level and concentrating on political skills which will help them to cope with the power structure.

* DAWN - *Development, Crisis, and Alternative Visions: Third World Women's Perspectives*. Norway, 1985, p. 111.



INSTRAW contributed by analyzing the compatibility of its research and training programmes with the Third World women's perspective of DAWN.

The Institute will further collaborate in implementing the research programme and linking networks of women's organizations in developing countries.

The importance of networking for the women's movement cannot be stressed enough. One of the major achievements of DAWN has been to multiply its message in many countries where women as individuals and in institutions have been struggling to organize and communicate on basic societal questions. The DAWN Group has now constructed a communication line across regions, countries and groups for women separated by geographical distances, cultural differences and linguistic problems.

The most important challenge before the DAWN Group now is to continue to move women in the Third World towards an independent, separate and distinct perspective in development alternatives! □

A North-South dialogue

A workshop on "Women in Development: Research and linkages" was organized by the Pearson Institute for International Development with financial support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the North-South Institute in Halifax, Canada from 3-8 April 1986. It brought together academics, researchers, students, practitioners in the field and policy-makers involved in women's activities from Africa, Asia and the Caribbean, Latin America, the Middle East and Canada and from international and intergovernmental organizations, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the North-South Institute.

The objectives of this workshop were to identify priorities for further action-oriented research involving women in specific sectors and to foster links between research institutes and organizations involved with Women in Development (WID) programmes in Canada and the Third World.

Sixty experts in the field of WID gathered to discuss issues of women working in the informal sector, in agriculture and rural development, and in industry. They also deliberated on health issues relating to women in development, education and training for women in development.

Through discussion of case studies, methodologies and problems which would ensure successful research pro-

grammes related to women were identified. First of all, means of improving current research programming through *inter alia* linkages of relevant research programmes and their utilization must be developed. Secondly, general plans for WID activities in the specified sectors must include research for effective programme planning and implementation. Thirdly, a list of programmes and projects should be developed to enable their successful collaboration. Finally, the group decided the ongoing co-operation of various WID research programmes and the sharing of information between institutes and organizations in the Third World and Canada should continue.

The Director of INSTRAW, Ms. Dunja Pastizzi-Ferencic, gave the keynote address entitled "Women in the International Economy: Existing Economic and Social Research and Future Priorities", in which she reviewed the main characteristics of research on WID. She concentrated on the studied linked to women and international economic relations. The speech raised some salient issues related to future research needs for policy analysis including long-term concepts and strategies of economic development, innovative methodological approaches to planning and programming techniques and adequate institutional frameworks.

Ms. Krishna Ahooja-Patel, Chief of Research and Training, spoke about the "World Crises and Women's Work and Welfare". Among other things she noted the world economic crisis could be transformed into an opportunity for women. She pointed out that most jobs in this sector are tenuous and that financial constraints have imposed severe reductions in welfare programmes and social security benefits. In this environment, the responsibility of meeting basic needs falls on the shoulders of women, whose incomes are low and whose employment contracts are unsettled. □

Conference of Iraqi women

The General Federation of Iraqi Women (GFIW) invited INSTRAW to attend its 12th Conference, held in Baghdad from 31 March-3 April 1986. The Conference discussed the progress made on women's rights since the 11th Conference, held in 1983, when their programmes included statistics and water and sanitation. It also considered plans for the next years.

Among the main objectives of the three-year plan approved by the Conference is an increase in the participation of women in the economic development of the country and an increase in the population, as well as reducing infant mortality. The GFIW will also organize a series of meetings and seminars to raise the political and cultural awareness of women.

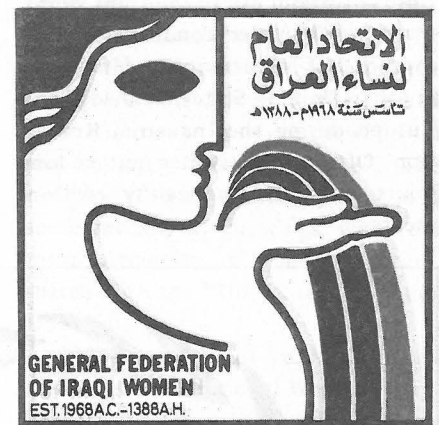
According to its documents, the GFIW, active since 1968, aims at preparing and mobilizing the Iraqi women to undertake their role in society, raising their status, ensuring that they enjoy equal rights with men and promoting bonds of sisterhood among Arab women. Currently the GFIW has over 400,000 members.

At the opening session of the Conference, the Vice-President of Iraq, Mr. Taha Muhieddin Ma'rouf said that the GFIW has endeavoured to find appropriate solutions to the obstacles impeding women's full integration into public life in all economic, social, cultural and political aspects.

Ms. Manal Younis, who was re-elected Chair of the Federation, reviewed the activities of the last three years.

She said that the GFIW has concentrated its efforts on meeting the basic needs of women and society under war conditions.

INSTRAW was represented by Ms. Mercedes Sayagués, Information Officer, and Ms. Stephanie Duckworth, Research Assistant. At the closing session, Ms. Sayagués spoke on the



centrality of women in the development process and explained the work of the Institute and its consistency with the Forward-looking Strategies. She also thanked the GFIW for their generosity in extending the invitation to the Institute.

While in Baghdad, the representatives of INSTRAW held conversations with the Economic Commission for Western Asia and the GFIW with the purpose of securing funds for the translation of INSTRAW publications into Arabic, as a means of extending the reach of the Institute in the Arab world. □

International Women's Day: The dream is alive

Every March 8, all over the world, the women's movement celebrates women's rights and contributions to the history and the culture of the world. International Women's Day was launched in 1910 to honour the struggles of women for a better life, particularly of working women.

According to unofficial estimates, there are approximately one billion women in the workforce globally, two thirds of whom live in the Third World. Many work under conditions similar to those of sweatshops and factories in the United States, Canada and Europe during the Industrial Revolution. Often these women put in long hours in unsafe, unhealthy environments.

Despite the diversity of their experience and status, despite the wide gaps in health, education and income between developed and developing countries, today women around the world join forces across culture, class, race and nation, in pursuit of the timeless dream of equality.

On March 8, women all over the world rejoice in what has been achieved and gather strength for what remains to be done. The dream is alive. □

● In New York

At the United Nations in New York, the Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar opened a panel discussion on "Women and Change" saying that

the full participation of women in the United Nations is "an essential prerequisite" for it to be effective. Issues debated covered the financial situation of United Nations programmes for women and for female employees, the prospects for changing attitudes towards women in the United Nations and the possible implementation of the programme of action on the status of women in the Secretariat.

Panelists included Ms. Mercedes Pulido de Briceño, Co-ordinator of the Status of Women in the Secretariat; Mr. Bradford Morse, Director of the Office of Emergency Operations for Africa (OEOA) and Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Mr. Patricio Ruedas, Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management; Ms. Eimi Watanabé, Senior Programme Officer, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); Ms. Anna Frangipani Campino, Acting President of United Nations Staff Committee.

The moderator was Ms. Beverly Hyman, a Management and Human Resource Development Consultant. □

● In Geneva

The theme "The Decade for Women, a New Beginning?" dominated the celebration of International Women's Day attended by the staff of the United Nations system and their guests at the Palais des Nations. Among the panelists were Ms. Maj Britt Theorin, a member of the Swedish Parliament and Ambassador to the Disarmament Conference, Ms. Nozizwe Madlala, Chair-



person of the Women's Organizations of Natal, South Africa, and Ms. Janet Bruin, from the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Ms. Theorin inspired her audience by recalling the struggles of two well-known Swedish leaders, Alva Myrdal and Olaf Palme, who believed that "only the weak turn to violence. The strong want peace," and advised that "you have to have patience... and a burning conviction." Focusing on women in situations of violence, Ms. Madlala spoke of the role of black African women in eliminating apartheid and building a democratic, egalitarian and peaceful society.

Ms. Bruin, of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, spoke on behalf of the participants in the NGO seminar on Women and Peace. Many participants fear, she said, that if women do nothing to ensure that governments live up to the commitments made in the Nairobi Forward looking Strategies, much paper and time will have been wasted and little of substance achieved.

It was agreed that the situation of women in the United Nations leaves much to be desired, in particular as regards the participation of women at decision-making levels. Ms. R. Martineau, President of the Ad Hoc Group on Equal Rights for Women and the moderator of the panel, noted that most women in the United Nations were in service-oriented occupations and very few had impact on areas such as disarmament or political affairs. □

● In the Dominican Republic

The National Office for the Promotion of Women organized an impressive celebration in Santo Domingo. President Salvador Jorge Blanco awarded the newly established Medal of Merit to several outstanding Dominican women, including, Aida Cartagena Portalatín, poet; Margarita Tavárez, lawyer; Idelisa Bonelly de Calventi, scientist; Ivelisse Prats-Ramírez de Pérez, educator; Carmen Ena Moore Garrido, teacher; Onaney Sánchez de Guerra, sportswoman; Ana Julia Hernández, rural leader; Sofía Leonor Sánchez Baret, lawyer; Mineta Roques, educator; Minerva Bernardino, feminist leader; Yolanda Guzmán, feminist leader.

Posthumous medals were awarded to sisters Minerva, Patria and María Teresa Mirabal, political leaders, and to Mamá Tingó, rural leader.

In his speech, President Salvador Jorge Blanco referred to Dominican women as "a dynamic element in the public and private sector" and called on all sectors of Dominican society to fully integrate women.

In this speech the President emphasized that the establishment of INSTRAW in the Dominican Republic makes it one of the few countries in the world, particularly in the Americas, where an autonomous body of the United Nations has its headquarters. He noted that the work of the Institute in the orientation of programmes and promotion stimulates Dominican women to join international activities, through conferences, seminars and

meetings. In addition he stated that the international presence of such an international organization in his country has changed attitudes towards women's social, economic and legal status. □

● At INSTRAW headquarters

Every mother is a working mother, and most of INSTRAW's staff has first-hand knowledge about it, since they are experts at balancing paid work and family responsibilities. To bridge the gap between home and the workplace, on March 8 they asked their children to produce drawings on the subject "Mommy works". The children reacted enthusiastically, and some wonderful drawings were the main attraction of the celebration, shared with the "UN family" in Santo Domingo.

This was the first year INSTRAW celebrated International Women's Day, because, in the words of Marie Paul-Aristy "it is only recently that the Institute has become a full-fledged United Nations body." Mercedes Sayagués spoke about the struggles of women workers since the second half of the nineteenth century, and Krishna Ahoja-Patel related how March 8 came to be celebrated within the UN system.

After seeing the new Spanish version of the INSTRAW film "A Dynamic Dimension in Development-Women" and the UN animated film on the sharing of domestic work, entitled "The Impossible Dream", a game was played which promoted reflection on the topic - Does women's work have a value? □

INSTRAW meetings

● The Mediterranean Women's Studies Institute, headed by Helen Stamiris, INSTRAW Board President, organized a women's studies summer programme called "Building Strategies for Mediterranean Women." The programme, co-sponsored by INSTRAW, ECE and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), took place in Spetses, Greece, from 22 June - 6 July 1986.

The Director of INSTRAW, Dunja Pastizzi-Ferencic, spoke on "Redefining women's work: new approaches and concepts in statistics on women". The Chief of Research and Training, Krishna Ahooja-Patel, lectured on "Women and the international division of labour: North and South linkages."

● In co-operation with the CARICOM Secretariat, INSTRAW held a workshop in Barbados, 29-31 July 1986, for users and producers of statistics and indicators on women in development. INSTRAW contributed training material and resource personnel. The workshop focused on the revision of current statistical concepts to produce better visibility of women and their work and thus improve development plans and programming.

● Following the Third International Sociological Congress in New Delhi in August, INSTRAW, with UNESCO, is sponsoring a joint international seminar to train trainers in social sciences on women and development issues. The seminar, Rethinking Women in Development: Research and Training, will be held 25-27 August 1986. The main objective of this seminar is to identify and analyze the mechanisms by which the social scientists (whether they are academicians, activists or researchers) have incorporated the women's dimensions in the existing training programme schemes and courses during the UN Decade for Women. The results and conclusions of this international seminar

will then be synthesized to design prototype curricula on women and development issues linking them to international economic relations.

● INSTRAW and the UN Statistical Office, in co-operation with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, will hold an expert group meeting to review in detail statistical issues concerning women's income and production and the informal sector in the context of the System of National Accounts, to be held 13-17 October 1986 at INSTRAW headquarters in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

● INSTRAW, with the Instituto Latinoamericano de Planificación y Economía Social (ILPES), is organizing a joint training seminar on Women in Development and Planning in Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in Santiago, Chile, 27 October - 14 November 1986. The first workshop in the region to gather development planners, policy makers, and programme directors from Latin America and the Caribbean with practical experience and responsibilities in development plans, it aims to make planning and programming techniques more responsive to women's needs.

● A national training workshop for users and producers of basic statistics and indicators on women will be held in Pakistan in either late October or early November. The workshop is organized by the Pakistani Statistical Office, in conjunction with the Women's Division, and INSTRAW is providing advisory services.

● INSTRAW, The Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, and FAO are sponsoring a workshop to develop strategies for testing women in development checklists and guidelines at the national level. The workshop, scheduled for the last quarter of 1986, will take place in Bangladesh. □

Dr. Raul Prebisch on women's issues

With the passing of Dr. Raul Prebisch soon after his 85th birthday, the United Nations has lost an idealist and internationalist whose faith in the organization never faltered. An Argentine economist, Dr. Prebisch already had a brilliant career before joining the United Nations in 1948. He was only 34 years old when he organized and became the first Director-General of the Central Bank of Argentina in 1935, a post he occupied until 1943. He was Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America (now ECLAC) from 1950 to 1962 and Secretary-General of UNCTAD from 1964 to 1969. After 1969 he resumed his close association with ECLAC. In recent years he had been directing the publication of the CEPAL Review.

In 1985, INSTRAW invited Dr. Prebisch to attend a consultative high-level meeting in Geneva to review a study on women and international economic relations. When Dr. Prebisch accepted INSTRAW's invitation, the Institute felt it was a privilege and honour to have his presence at such a meeting. Dr. Prebisch must have organized and attended hundreds of meetings during his long United Nations career but during the discussions of the INSTRAW meeting, he paid particular attention to the specific problems of women in the development processes. It was characteristic of his modesty that he remarked to a colleague that he had seldom attended a meeting in which he listened and learned so much. When asked whether this was the first time he had participated in a meeting devoted to women's perspectives in the international scene, he said with earnestness, "I have great sympathy with women's issues." □

Bookshelf: selected INSTRAW publications

Summary of INSTRAW Series of Studies on the Role of Women in International Economic Relations. *INSTRAW. Santo Domingo, 1985. 80 p.*

Summary of a series of studies, also published separately by INSTRAW, on the impact of the world economic situation on the role of women in the development process, focusing on the interdependence between the international and national levels of the economy.

The Changing Role of Women in International Economic Relations, *by Dr. Brigitte Stern, University of Paris. INSTRAW. Santo Domingo, 1985. 56 p.*

Conceptual framework for the INSTRAW series mentioned. Describes the determinants of the world economy and women's situation. Suggests directions for changes needed to ensure that the full potential of women as agents and beneficiaries of the development process is promoted, thus improving the status of women and the total development effort.

Women and International Development Co-operation: Trade and Investment, *by the North-South Institute, Ottawa. INSTRAW. Santo Domingo, 1985. 52 p.*

Covers the impact on women of certain key trends in investment, production and trade in developing countries. It shows that women frequently have not benefited from economic development to the same extent as men. Sometimes their situation has actually worsened, since they experience a disproportionate share of the dislocation that usually accompanies economic change and development.

Impact of Monetary and Financial Policies upon Women, *by Dr. Subila Gidwani, Manhattan College, New*

York. INSTRAW. Santo Domingo, 1985. 42 p.

The use of money as a medium of exchange is a characteristic of the modern economic systems dominated by the production of the markets. Money, although unproductive in itself, imparts economic and political power and social prestige to its owner. Women, as consumers and producers are also subject to the forces of the monetary systems and therefore, to monetary policies. The study analyzes the impact of these policies upon women and suggests rectifying strategies.

Women, Technology and Sexual Division, *by Dr. Amartya Sen, University of Oxford. INSTRAW. Santo Domingo, 1985. 44 p.*

Analyzes the asymmetrical impact of technological changes on women, stemming from the factors that determine the sexual division of labour in the household. This has implications for decisions on policies to increase women's share in the gains from such technological changes, both in rich and poor societies. The study brings out the very strong interconnections between the status of women and their access to technology through productive employment.

Women and Technology in Developing Countries: Technological Change and Women's Capabilities and Bargaining Positions, *by Deborah Bryceson, University of Oxford. INSTRAW. Santo Domingo, 1985. 44 p.*

Discusses four social institutions—household, community, market and state—as they exert social constraints which mediate women's relationship to technology: its adoption, maintenance, control and invention in the process of deagrarianization, industri-

alization and urbanization. The working hypothesis of this study affirms that the issue of women and technology can be understood holistically only when women's socially defined roles and bargaining positions are traced vis-à-vis the prevailing patterns of production and human reproduction, and when the interrelationship between demography and technology is highlighted.

Towards Strategies for Strengthening the Position of Women in Food Production: an Overview and Proposals on Africa, *by Achola Pala Okeyo, University of Nairobi. INSTRAW. Santo Domingo, 1985. 36 p.*

Presents a number of policy options and strategies to rectify the negative impact many agricultural policies have had on women's role in agriculture and food production. The premise of this study is that in the search for solutions to Africa's food problems, insufficient attention has been paid to women's important role in food production.

Industrialization, Trade and Female Employment in Developing Countries: Experiences of the 1970s and after, *by Susan P. Joeques, University of Sussex. INSTRAW. Santo Domingo, 1985. 65 p.*

Being the most productive economic activity, industry is at the core of the structural transformations constituting economic development. Women have played an important role in the industrialization of developing countries over the past 20 years, but they have been limited due to the sexual division present in all societies. Emphasis in this study lies on women's participation in industrialization, but also because access to wage employment is the precondition—though not the guarantor—for improvements in women's social position and related beneficial changes. □

In-house news

• In January, a small group of international experts met in Santo Domingo to complete the study "Women and the World Economy". The group included Ms. Ifigenia Martínez (Mexico); Ms. Nobuko Takahashi (Japan). The INSTRAW team participating in this effort included Ms. Dunja Pastizzi-Ferencic (Director), Ms Susan Joeker and Mr. Ralph Townley (consultants).

• The participants in UNICEF workshop "Regional Programme on Participation of Women in Development" (Santo Domingo, January 1986) visited INSTRAW to discuss the Institute's operational plans and methodological approach to its programme.

• A delegation of women from the United States attending International Women's Day in the Dominican Republic visited the Institute. Among them were members of the Haitian Information and Documentation Center, Women's International Resource Exchange (WIRE), Collective of Dominican Women in New York and the Indigenous Women's Network.

• In March, Mildred R. Leet and Glen Leet, co-directors of the Trickle Up Program, Inc., visited the Institute and spoke with representatives of women's groups about their project. Through small grants, Trickle Up encourages

low-income groups in developing countries to start their own businesses.

• Over 50 Dominican women architects gathered at INSTRAW for a seminar on "Women, architecture and society", organized in April by the association of architects Grupo Nueva Arquitectura. During the 3-day seminar, INSTRAW informed the participants that 1987 will be the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.



• Dr. Krishna Ahoja-Patel has recently been appointed Chief of Research and Training. A lawyer and journalist, in 1969 she joined the ILO in Geneva. Her areas of work included employment, migration, labour law and general development issues. For the UN Decade for women she was assigned to the ILO Office for Women Workers' Questions where her responsibilities included editing the ILO newsbulletin, Women at Work.

• Mercedes Sayagués has been appointed Information Officer. A Uruguayan journalist who has covered women's issues, human rights, and transitions to democracy in Latin America, she received her masters degree in journalism from New York University. While in New York she worked with the Committee to Protect

Journalists and continued her work on women's issues.

• Andrea Okwesa, a communications specialist, joined INSTRAW in May as Social and Economic Affairs Officer. A Jamaican, she worked previously in the Caribbean with the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization since joining the United Nations in 1974. Prior to this she worked in Canada with the Toronto Board of Education and in London with the British Broadcasting Corporation and Commonwealth Institute.

• Grace Bediako has joined INSTRAW as a research and training officer. A Ghanaian, she received her masters degree in demography from the University of Pennsylvania. Before coming to the Institute she worked as a consultant to the United Nations Statistical Office in New York where she developed a data base on women and compiled statistics and indicators on the situation of women.

• In March, Ruth Olson began working as a research assistant at INSTRAW. A native of Minnesota, United States, she worked before as a she worked as a loan processor for First Gibraltar Mortgage Corporation and did publicity for the Friends of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

New Board Members

Three new members have been appointed to INSTRAW's Board of Trustees, starting 1 July 1986. The 11 members of the Board are nominated by Member States and appointed by ECOSOC with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution. Members of the Board serve in their individual capacities for a term of three years and are eligible for reappointment by ECOSOC for one further term.

The new Members of the Board are:

Inés Alberdi (Spain). Assistant Professor, Faculty of Political and Social Sciences, Universidad Complutense, Madrid. Has vast teaching experience at university level, especially in the sociology of the family. Author of a number of publications concerning women, higher education, and social structure and change.

Siga Seye (Senegal). President of the Red Cross Organization in Senegal and Vice-President of the African League of Red Cross Organizations. Deputy-mayor of the municipality of Dakar. Active in women's issues, especially in areas related to health. Has participated at the national level in studies and surveys on the integration of women in the development process, problems facing women within the process of modernization, family code and traditional practices detrimental to the health of mother and child.

Berta Torrijos de Arosemena (Panama). An educator with experience in pedagogics. Actively involved in education and setting up programmes for the handicapped and the gifted child. Developed courses on human resources. Has taken an active role in issues relevant to women at national and regional levels. □



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* Term expired on 30 June 1986.

UNITED NATIONS
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