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Centre for International  
Cooperation and Development  
Ljubljana, Yugoslavia



Zimbabwe Institute of  
Development Studies  
Harare, Zimbabwe

# WOMEN AND SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

## Bridge to the Mainstream

a Research Programme Proposal\*

\* This proposal is prepared under support and guidance of International Research and  
Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)

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Ljubljana, Harare, Santo Domingo

1988

PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR RESEARCH PROGRAMME

on

Women and South-South Cooperation: Bridge to the Mainstream

(to be coordinated jointly by UN INSTRAW, RCCDC, Yugoslavia and  
ZIDS, Zimbabwe)

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON FIRST STAGE OF RESEARCH PROGRAMME

A. Proposed Research Programme: First Stage

1. INSTRAW with the Research Centre for Cooperation with Developing Countries (RCCDC), Ljubljana, Yugoslavia and the Zimbabwe Institute for Development Studies (ZIDS), Harare is initiating a strategy for research on women and development within the broader mandate of the "Action Programme for the South".<sup>1/</sup>
2. This action programme will highlight the immense potential of South-South cooperation as a means of widening development options open to the Third World. It will also address itself to the task of equitable management of an increasingly complex and interdependent world economy".<sup>2/</sup> Within the framework of this paragraph on development strategy and action programme for the South, the main objective of the research programme is to introduce a new dimension on women and development so that their economic and social contribution becomes an integral part of whichever development alternative is selected by a country. The most significant part of the strategy deals with issues of sustainable, people-centred, self-reliant development.

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1/ South Commission: "Towards Development Strategy and Action Programme of the South", objectives and Terms of Reference of the South Commission, (Kualalumpur, 1-3 March 1988)

2/ Addressed by Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere, Chairman of the South Commission at the FORMAL OPENING SESSION, Second Commission Meeting

3. One of the most significant elements of the South strategy relates to its being people-centred. As expressed by the Prime Minister, The Honourable Dat Seri Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamad: "For decades the countries of the South have been struggling to look for ways and means that would help them to eliminate the inequities and impediments which exist in the world economy." INSTRAW's research programme activity has clearly indicated that one of the main inequities which seriously influence the world economy concerns inadequate understanding and insufficient insight to the important contribution made by women to national wealth.
4. The sectoral studies were done for following areas: trade; financial and monetary cooperation; primary commodities; food and agriculture; energy; direct investment and TNCs; science and technology; standardization, metrology and quality control; insurance; role of women in development; computers and telecommunications; housing; engineering, consultancy services and construction; health; tourism; and sports. Cooperation was prepared as background documentation for the 8th Summit of the Non-Aligned Countries in Harare in September 1986, the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 on ECDC in Cairo in August 1986, and the Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Countries on ECDC in Pyongyang in June 1987.
5. The Research Programme gathered the results of the empirical research and its main objective was to assess critically achievements and experiences on South-South cooperation. It was intended to provide suggestions and new ideas for the promotion and upgrading of South-South Cooperation. This was the first attempt to review the South-South Cooperation in a comprehensive manner by a research programme, carried out by research institutes of developing countries.
6. From the very beginning, the Research Programme was conceived to obtain data and information on the status, achievements and prospects of South-South cooperation as perceived by its actors:

UN bodies and agencies, private and public enterprises, chambers of commerce, development and commercial banks, consulting and engineering companies, trading organizations, universities, research institutes and scholars, experts and individuals concerned. This data gathering was done primarily through a questionnaire, but also a number of field interviews were carried out by RCCDC staff, in cooperation with ZIDS. The results of these interviews are briefly described below.

- 6.a. The majority of respondents felt that self-reliance and mutual cooperation among developing countries should become a central part of the development strategy of the South. The fulfillment of national development goals and access to new markets was considered to be the most significant motives for economic cooperation among developing countries.
- 6.b. A major conclusion of the Research Programme was that a long-term strategy of South-South Cooperation can materialize only if it becomes an objective and an integral part of the long-term development of developing countries. Among possible measures to promote South-South Cooperation, the respondents emphasized the need for a comprehensive and systematic exchange of information among the actors and promoters of South-South Cooperation in order to overcome the lack of adequate information on potentials for mutual cooperation.
- 6.c. Yet, the respondents were very critical of the experiences and achievements of South-South cooperation to date. For many, economic cooperation among developing countries still tends to reflect the prevailing political interests of the governments rather than the economic ones. Among the obstacles to greater South-South Cooperation, they indicated so-called "traditional ties" between former colonial powers and their ex-colonies, now independent states. Different industrial standards, educational systems, legal systems and regulations make South-South cooperation a more complicated and time consuming process. Also, stagnation and even decline in economic development, experienced



12. The most significant accomplishment of the cooperation among developing countries on the issue Women and Development has been the convergence on different points of view, and in the understanding and insights on the position of women and its linkage to development, equality and peace in the world. Inter-relatedness of the status of women and the level of national development also signifies improvement that the position of women depends crucially on the overall development and that qualitative national development can only be achieved with their direct participation. This issue was at the centre of discussions between developed and developing countries.
13. Extensive policy level actions at the international level have influenced various changes within the individual countries, which have had a profound influence on the position of women. New research evidence has helped to better understand the position and the role of women in individual countries, as well as advanced policy measures at the national, regional and international levels. However, the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies call for strengthening of pragmatic action, particularly by developing countries themselves, in order to reflect their own national identity and their specific needs.
14. Through NACs ministerial and expert conferences (Baghdad,1979; Havana,1981; New Delhi,1985) developing countries have their own responsibility towards advancement of women. The conference underlined that constitutional and legal action for all types of promotional work. They specifically defined policy in favour of the advancement of women within general and sectoral development plans at the national level.
15. Yet, the analysis carried out in preparation of the study on the role of women in development revealed a serious contradiction. The decisions, unanimously adopted by the NACs and DCs governments are quite clear, but there is a complete lack of activity in the implementing of these decisions on women in development. The analysis showed there are many international and national constraints to a more effective South-South cooperation on this

subject. Apart from these which are general in nature, specific obstacles on women's issues were identified as follows:

- lack of awareness of the economic and social contribution of women to the development process;
- lack of knowledge about the NACs and DCs decisions - particularly Action Programme of South-South Economic Cooperation;
- women's issues not incorporated in negotiation of mutual cooperation of DCs;
- insufficiently developed methodologies and data on the role of women in development;
- lack of information about existing activities, programmes, projects, and needs.

16. The study concluded with the recommendation that there is a definite need for elaboration of new, innovative patterns for integrating women into development policies, which must be based on thorough knowledge of the status of women in a given society. More consideration needs to be given to the development of human resources in general as well as identification of national priorities and factors influencing the use of these resources. Joint efforts of DCs in accelerating their cooperation should be directed towards the search for solutions to advance the status of women and their faster and more effective involvement in development efforts of DCs. It may be underlined that no innovative development policies could be fully effective without improvement of the status of women, guaranteed legal equality, without appropriate instruments and mechanisms within the society, along with the social and economic policy measures to overcome the existing obstacles.

#### C. Women and South-South Cooperation: Selected Legislative Mandate

17. At the Ministerial Conference of Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries on the Role of Women in Development, held in New Delhi, April 10-11, 1985, the delegates agreed, that

"Mutual cooperation is an important and valuable instrument for the promotion of the rational use of human, material, financial and technological resources of developing countries, and thus for the advancement of their collective self-reliance and welfare.

Cooperation on the role of women in development should become an integral aspect of all other areas through which cooperation among the non-aligned countries is pursued, and consideration of this aspect should be ensured in all phases of cooperation, from design to implementation and assessment."

18. At the same Conference the role of INSTRAW was explicitly recognized :

"It is also necessary to strengthen the activities of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, which performs through its network mode of operation an important role in this field , and to request, in particular, the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to appraise what has been done to improve the status of women, to increase their financial support."<sup>5/</sup>

19. At the Fifth Meeting of the Coordinating Countries of the Action Programme for Economic Cooperation of Non-Aligned Countries, the co-ordinating countries have recommended that the activities of the non-aligned countries in the forthcoming period should be directed (among others) to the following:<sup>6/</sup>

"d) Continuing to study, in an organized and coordinate manner, the problems associated with the advancement of women in areas of particular importance for their status in society:

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5/ Final Report of the Ministerial Conference of Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries on the Role of Women in Development, New Delhi, April 10-11, 1985, A/40/365, para 295, 297 and 313.

6/ Final Document, Report of Coordinating Countries in the Sphere of the Role of Women in Development, Chapter XV., (New Delhi, April 1986) NAC/CONF.7/APEC 5/ Doc.5/Rev.1)



agriculture, legislation, education, information, technology and technological cooperation, etc. in order to pinpoint appropriate measures and take concrete actions in all areas of development of non-aligned countries.

e) Working out an adequate conceptual and methodological framework for the development of statistical and other indicators which can help enable the evaluation of steps taken for the advancement of women.

f) The promotion of all forms of economic and technological co-operation among non-aligned countries at various levels through the inclusion of the aspects relevant for the advancement of women."

20. The Eight Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Harare, Sept.1-6, 1986 adopted an Economic Declaration which includes one chapter on the Role of Women in Development (Chapter XX, para 136 - 140). According to it "...full participation by women in social, political, economic and cultural development should remain an integral part of national development plans of non-aligned and other developing countries and of overall efforts aimed at the establishment of the New International Economic Order."

21. In addition, the Programme of Action of Economic Cooperation, adopted at the same conference spelt out the research and policy measures needed: The Conference:

"d) recommended that organized and co-ordinated studies of problems associated with the advancement of women in areas of particular importance for their status in society: agriculture, legislation, education, information, technology and technological co-operation, be undertaken in order to pinpoint appropriate measures and take concrete actions in all areas of development of non-aligned countries;

- e) recommended also that an adequate conceptual and methodological framework for the development of statistical and other indicators which can enable the evaluation of steps for the advancement of women be developed;
- f) called on non-aligned countries to promote all forms of economic and technical co-operation at various levels through the inclusion of the aspects of relevance to the advancement of women;
- g) underlined the importance of a co-ordinated participation of non-aligned and other developing countries in the work of United Nations commission on the Status of Women and in other bodies and agencies of the United Nations system with a view to realizing the "Forward-Looking Strategies by the Year 2000" and in this context stressed the need for non-aligned and other developing countries to participate in the future activities of the Commission, the Economic and Social Council(ECOSOC) and the General Assembly dealing with questions relevant to the advancement of women."

## II. RESEARCH PROGRAMME: THE SECOND STAGE

- 22. South-South cooperation is an important means by which the developing countries could solve some of the acute development problems by their own active involvement and affirmation of their own opportunities. Its basic goal is to exploit more effectively the developmental potentials of developing countries in all fields of production and creativeness. The development of human resources is also crucial to achieving equal participation of developing countries in the international division of labour as well as in the international economic relations.
- 23. Another general difficulty encountered by South-South cooperation is that it has not been predominantly regarded as a manifestation

of development needs but rather as a top-down activity, initiated by the governments within their official policies and commitments. Also, up to now South-South cooperation has not yet been given a proper acceptance or legitimization in the long term development strategies of several developing countries. Unfortunately, the dominant relationships in the international economy, the international division of labour, and other sectors of a modern economy such as capital financial resources have not adopted the principle of collective self-reliance of developing countries and the framework of South-South cooperation.

24. The research results of the first stage of the Research Programme have pointed out the need to initiate new approaches to South-South cooperation in all fields. The newly formed South Commission under the leadership of H.E. Julius Nyerere, would be one way of revitalizing the concept of South-South cooperation and will consider pragmatic action to stimulate such cooperation. The Commission seeks to fashion a well-founded, realistic strategy and programme of action for the Third World, to make a positive contribution to an equitable management of the growing interdependence of the world economy.<sup>7/</sup>

25. As an integral part of promoting South-South cooperation, it is important to consider more thoroughly and systematically the relevant aspects of the economic contribution of women to bring them into line with national development efforts. This would then result in promoting implementation and mutually agreed programmes of cooperation among NACs and other DCs at regional and international levels. This should be the basic objective of the second stage of research Programme on Women and South-South cooperation. As such it could also provide valuable inputs also into the work of South Commission.

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7/ Towards a Development Strategy and Action Programme for the South, South Commission, 21 December, 1987

26. Following the recommendations of the New Delhi and Harare conferences, the second stage of the Programme would focus specifically on elaboration of adequate conceptual and methodological frameworks and guidelines. This will assist governments, non-governmental organizations, private and public sector, research and academic institutions and all other potential developmental agents of South-South cooperation to include the new dimension in their programmes on women and development. The Programme could be also used for the preparation of the basic materials for the Conference of NACs and DCs on the Role of Women in Development, centered on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies tentatively scheduled for 1990.
27. The study on the role of women in development, carried out in the first stage of the Research Programme, has identified major obstacles to the implementation of more active South-South cooperation. Therefore, the second stage will move beyond exclusively research activities and should concentrate on programming specific actions to overcome these identified obstacles. The work under the second stage will thus be action-oriented, with specific tasks aimed at selected target groups (national governments, public and private sector, NGOs, women's organizations, UN agencies, etc.).
28. The proposed research programme will closely follow the programme of action and decisions of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies. More specifically as stated in para 312:

"Research and policy analysis should focus greater attention on the economic role of women in society, including access to economic resources such as land and capital. Research and policy analysis related to women should be action-oriented without losing sight of key analytical considerations. Further investment in evolving adequate gender-specific data is also required."

### III. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

29. It was noted during the first stage of research Programme that institutional networking in all fields relevant for South-South cooperation has not yet been established. This is, in a sense, in contrast to women's issues where now exist formal and informal channels of networking.
30. Many countries, encouraged by the UN Decade for Women, have started developing internal institutional frameworks and networks of information on the position and the role of women, research programmes and related activities. Several have set up focal points for the UN Decade for Women, e.g. focal points and correspondents established by INSTRAW. Some research centres have developed cooperation at regional level, but there is still a gap in collection, processing and dissemination of information at international level. Thus, there is a lack of institutional infrastructure dealing permanently with the issues on Women and Development. It has also been identified as one of the major obstacles to the promotion of South-South cooperation.
31. In a number of discussions on the measures to overcome this obstacle, two possibilities were suggested: one - to set up special national mechanisms concerned only with the issue of women and development, or, two - to secure that the existing developmental network dealing with South-South cooperation also undertakes the monitoring\* of women and development as an important element of South-South cooperation.
32. The experience of post-Nairobi period shows that more important than setting up rigid institutional framework is to secure feasible developmental programmes, by forming functional coalitions of all interested parties, centered on the pragmatic elaboration and implementation of particular programmes. Such "functional coalition" can be formed around a particular project, uniting the common interest of all participating parties. Being

based on common interest, there is no danger of inactivity of any individual party, as often happens within the formally established institutional framework.

33. The implementation of the Programme on Women and South-South cooperation depends crucially on the identification of potential partners in establishment of functional coalitions. With this in mind, the main objective of the Programme is to identify and develop a number of specific project proposals, allowing for different functional coalitions to be formed around particular project or action proposal.

34. South-South cooperation in this programme has been conceived as an open system, not limited only to the institutions from the South. The programme should be an element of global cooperation, specifically aimed at enhancing the South-South cooperation, yet not excluding the cooperation with the North.

35. Being Initiators of the Programme on Women and South-South Cooperation, the following institutions may be initially identified as forming one such "functional coalition":

- The United Nations Internal Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) with its network of focal points and correspondents in developing countries;
- The Research Centre for Cooperation with Developing Countries (RCCDC) Ljubljana, Yugoslavia;
- The Zimbabwe Institute of Development Studies (ZIDS) Harare, Zimbabwe.

36. The initiators of the Programme hope that the work done under the Programme will represent an important contribution to the work done by the South Commission. In particular, the outputs of the Programme on Women and South-South Cooperation can be used in the part 3 of the South Commission's Programme: The South-South



cooperation for collective self-reliance. In order to secure this, close coordination between the initiators of the programme and South Commission, a core secretariat is envisaged.

37. After formalization of the programme and the consultations, a Programme Council could be established. The overall organizational structure of the Programme should be flexible in view of the proposed methodology of implementation.

38. Possible cooperating partners:

1. National governments of non-aligned and other developing countries
2. Regional integration groupings and systems ( those associations which could contribute to the Women and Development issues) like SELA, Andean Group (in particular the Agreement A.Bello), ASEAN, CARICOM, Organization of Islamic Conference, etc.
3. ECDC mechanisms within the United Nations system: UNDP, UNCTAD, UNIDO, ILO, IDEP, ILPES, CSTD, UNIFEM, WIDER - UN University, etc.
4. TCDC special unit
5. UN Regional Commissions such as: ESCAP, ECA, ECLAC, ECWA, etc.
6. Regional Development Banks ( Interamerican Development Bank, African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank) and special funds established by developing countries like OPEC Special Fund.
7. Regional research and training institutions, such as: CIRDAP, APDC, CLASCO, ESAMI, etc.
8. Existing South-South Women's Networks, e.g., DAWN, Association of African Women for Development.
9. Inter-governmental institutions, concerned with South-South Cooperation, such as: ICPE.
10. Non-governmental organizations, interested in South-South cooperation, and those interested in women's issues, both in developing and developed countries.
11. Academic, research and training institutes at the national level.

12. National governments of developed countries, interested in promoting global cooperation and supporting the South-South cooperation and Women and Development issues.

39. According to the specific tasks of the programme, identified potential partners will be invited to participate in the formulation and the execution of the Programme by applying the approach of forming task-oriented functional coalitions.

#### IV. FRAMEWORK OF THE PROGRAMME

##### a) Basic premises for strengthening of South-South Cooperation:

40. The fundamental goal of the Programme "Women and South-South Cooperation" is the elaboration of the programmes for South-South cooperation according to the principles for innovative development policies. Innovative development policies have to be designed for the people with the participation of the people. At the same time the role of women in development should be incorporated into all fields and areas of development planning, and decision making processes in all spheres of socio-economic life.

41. Existing programmes for South-South cooperation were based to an extensive degree on imitating the cooperation developed between North and South, with particular attention paid to the exchange of goods. This was clearly reconfirmed in the first stage of Research Programme on South-South cooperation, and is still persisting in the "mainstream" thinking about South-South cooperation. Due to the current state of international economic situation with its severe implications on overall economic cooperation and specifically on South-South cooperation, and also due to a number of identified structural obstacles to "traditional" concept of South-South cooperation, it is now urgent to move beyond this stage and to reconceptualize South-South cooperation. This means that South-South cooperation, with its specific aim to increase

collective self-reliance of developing countries, requires non-traditional, innovative approaches and concepts to be elaborated and brought forward for pragmatic implementation.

42. Yet, particularly from the point of view of incorporation of women in South-South cooperation, the past experience is not very encouraging. While extensive political support was always expressed, both for the integration of women in South-South cooperation as well as general acknowledgment of integrative approach, practically no South-South cooperation programme in specific sector paid any attention to the issue. This was partly due to lack of knowledge how to formulate and implement women related programmes which by essence call for innovative development approaches. If we now recognize the need for innovative development policy and the need for re-conceptualization of the South-South cooperation philosophy, we must therefore bring the role of women in development to the forefront of a new conceptual approach.

43. The major task of the newly established South Commission will be to provide guidance for new concepts and methods related to the South-South cooperation. With substantial amount of research and analysis already accumulated, there is already a sufficient amount of data available to move into the stage of policy conceptualisation, of designing specific programmes and measures and of identifying the most promising South-South cooperation projects. In some cases the available knowledge-base may still be unorganized and even "un-identified", yet it should become the basis for all South-South programmes. Sharing of a vast amount of developmental knowledge and experiences of developing countries, should become the backbone of the cooperation between DCs and yield substantial economic and social benefits to cooperating partners.

44. Some of the basic elements of new approaches to South-South cooperation should be the following:

- people-oriented development;
- integration of knowledge and information component in all forms of South-South cooperation;
- a bottom-up approach based on the interests of directly participating parties in SSC - instead of only political governmental declarations of mutual interests; this means that direct micro-economic and social agents of SSC should decisively influence the designing of strategy of SSC, and ways and means for its promotion;
- graduality and building-block approach in the conceptualisation as well as in the implementation of the South-South cooperation;
- flexible functional integration of interested agents, without insisting on the cooperation of all developing countries in every single project;
- flexibility in identification of possible sectors, types of activities, instruments and objectives for South-South cooperation;
- acknowledgment of complexity and interdependence of activities in different sectors rather than concentrating on the activities in selected fields. In short, an application of integrative approach to South-South cooperation is required;
- redefinition of solidarity and preferential treatment among all cooperating parties, paying specific attention to the least developed countries, in all forms of South-South cooperation.

b) Innovative approaches on women and development:

45. Any innovative development policy should first acknowledge the contribution of women to the development process. Thus one of the basic tasks of the Programme should be to change the existing notion of women's marginal contribution to the national economy. Women are not just the observers of the economic progress, but

contribute essentially to the national economy in a number of direct and indirect ways. To fully take into account the active participation of women in development, the conceptual framework of their work is already changing so as to pay full attention to the informal and household sectors of economy.<sup>8/</sup> This, of course, means a non-traditional approach to the evaluation of women's work and its due reflection within the system of national accounts (SNA). Such non-traditional approach is also an essential prerequisite if one is to elaborate the methodology and principles for the integration of women in South-South cooperation based on the need to design innovative development policy.

46. One of the major reasons for not incorporating the women's dimension in sectors and projects carried out within the framework of South-South cooperation is generally insufficient awareness and recognition of women's contribution to development in general as well as to the particular economic sectors (trade, finance, technology, etc.). Thus one of the major tasks of the Programme will be to raise general awareness of the role women play in the development process through dissemination of the research results, experiences, case studies, project evaluations available to date. If properly analyzed and applied, this will by itself already lead to changes in conceptual framework of South-South cooperation, since it will bring forward new( or at least at the time being invisible) actors: women.

47. Various women's organizations and networks existing in developing countries should play the central role in increasing the general awareness on women's contribution to development. To do so, they have to develop the necessary capability. A substantial part of the Programme will thus have to be devoted to the increasing of the capability of women's organizations through expert meetings, workshops and special training seminars.

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8/ UN/INSTRAW: Expert Group Meeting on "Women's Income in the Informal sector", Santo Domingo, October 13 to 17, 1986.

48. Parallel to the activities concentrated to increase the general awareness of the role women play in development process, elaboration of adequate conceptual and methodological framework on how to integrate women as active participants into development planning, policy elaboration and programmes on South-South cooperation has to be carried out as a part of the Programme. Unless very specific guidelines are prepared, it is unrealistic to expect a major break-through in practical implementation of integrating women in projects of South-South cooperation.
49. Due to the lack of experience so far, the methodologies for monitoring and for evaluation of women and development as well as integrating women in SSC, need to be developed. This requires an additional effort to be carried out simultaneously with the programming exercise. The methodology will have to be designed so that every project of South-South cooperation will have in-built elements for monitoring and evaluation during its actual implementation. In such a way, through formative evaluation, the knowledge base will be built continuously. To sum up: two basic methodological approaches should be resolved through the work on the Programme:
- how to integrate women in the South-South cooperation and which are the feasible ways and means of doing it; and
  - how to monitor and evaluate the process of integrating women in South-South cooperation.
50. The results and knowledge gathered through monitoring and formative evaluation of integrating women into South-South cooperation could have a catalytic impact on further conceptualisation of the changes required within SSC, as well as on formation of innovative development policies.



## V. PROGRAMME OUTLINE

### a) General projects

#### 5.1. Establishment of basic data base on Women and South-South cooperation

51. There is a need for establishing a comprehensive data base relevant for the Programme.<sup>9/</sup> The initial data base should include the following information:

- a list of regional and other integration groupings of developing countries, which should include women and development component in their programmes;
- a list of research and training institutes, involved in topics like Women and Development and South-South cooperation;
- a list of research and training programmes, workshops, seminars, expert meetings, etc., covering the topic of women and South-South cooperation;

52. Organizational structure for creating data base should be established according to the following proposed division of tasks:

INSTRAW: gathering of information from UN system and Latin America

ZIDS:           "                   "                   "    NAM, Africa and African  
  regional grouping.

RCCDC:           "                   "                   "    Group of 77, the Asian and  
Mediterranean region.

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<sup>9/</sup> Here, UN Subprogramme 5.4.(page 28, E/CN.6/1987/2) will be also taken into account, as well as all other existing systems for collection of information on women in development.

## 5.2. Bibliography on Women and South-South Cooperation

53. For conceptualisation of the Programme, it is essential to collect the existing knowledge and data on integrating women into South-South cooperation. As a first step in this direction, an updated bibliography should be prepared.

- a) preparation of updated bibliography (RCCDC/INSTRAW), based on existing information ( revision, editing, printing)
- b) continuous work on compiling bibliography and annual publishing for the needs of various actors of South-South cooperation

## 5.3. Strengthening of statistical data base on women

54. On the basis of INSTRAW methodologies, actions will be taken to improve the availability of statistical data on women through:

- a. improving compilation of existing data;
- b. improving concepts for 1990/91 Census;
- c. improving concepts for labour statistics;
- d. improving conceptual framework on women's work in informal economy in order to be reflected in System of National Accounts.

## 5.4. Elaboration of methodological framework

55. The lack of methodological framework requires that one of the first steps of the Programme should be the elaboration of methodological guidelines on how to integrate women in South-South cooperation as well as how to monitor and evaluate the implementation of such concept. To build up the methodological framework, one of the initial steps required is the following:

- select some of the major regional cooperation groupings (like SELA, ECOWAS, ASEAN) and look at their cooperation programmes in order to identify possible areas to incorporate issues related to women into them;

- design the methods( guidelines and checklists), to secure popular and consequently women's active involvement. Potential developmental and economic benefits of such exercise should be clearly stated.

#### 5.5. Workshop on policy design for integration of women in South-South cooperation

- 56. On the basis of the project related to the methods and guidelines, an expert workshop should be organized, where the overall outline of the Programme and its methodology will be examined by the potential cooperating partners.
- 57. The workshop should be organized in the second half of 1988 in Harare, Zimbabwe, by ZIDS, upon securing outside funding.
- 58. Timeframe: continuous activity, to be started upon launching of the Programme and receipt of initial funding.

#### b) Specific projects

- 59. The project proposals developed here are only example of possible work to be carried out throughout the implementation of the Programme. As such it is open to other initiatives in other areas, such as education, culture, environment, habitat, etc. Also, the existing selection of project proposals does not attach any priority to these sectors. The majority of project proposals is classified according to the sectoral classification used in The World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, Part Eight on the Concept of Self Reliance and the Integration of Women into Development. However, it has to be underlined, that sectoral approach in its traditional meaning should be avoided in order to apply system's approach and inter-relatedness of issues when further elaborating each proposal.

#### 5.6. Trade

60. In an attempt to intensify mutual trade and thus influence the change of their international position, developing countries have taken a series of measures and actions, the most important of which are undoubtedly tariff cuts and other measures to liberalize trade ( for example preferential treatment) and to stimulate mutual trade through special arrangements.
61. The participation of women in trade and in particular, the effects of South-South cooperation in trade on women, have not been examined in developing countries. Still, experiences show that many of the products entering the exchange of goods are so-called "women's products", meaning that a substantial amount of women's work is invested in their production (from primary products like coffee, cocoa, tea, to light manufacturers like textiles and garments, processed foodstuffs, electrical and electronic products, etc.).
62. The proposed project within the Programme "Women and South-South Cooperation" should identify innovative trade mechanisms which could promote trade in these so-called "women's products". In particular, attention should be paid to trade not related to transnational production (on which developing countries have only a limited influence) but to products of informal sector, which have been entering foreign trade more on ad hoc, sporadic pattern (artisan production, woollens and hand-made garments, specific products produced and used only in developing countries).
63. The results of this project will provide important input in designing new policies for trade promotion among developing countries where the concept of increased participation of people will be fully taken into account. The results should assist policy makers and negotiators of South-South cooperation, trading organizations, women's groups and other NGOs in their work.

64. In this connection, specific questions analyzed will be:

- the role of State Trading Organizations (STO's): can STO help in organizing the marketing of these products and thus indirectly stimulate their production which, in turn, will provide improved income-generating activities for women.;
- the role of women's cooperatives : case studies on women's cooperatives (i.e. on two cooperatives in Yugoslavia, Sirogojno and Grimsce, both successful in international marketing of typical women's products) will be done. On the basis of the case study, plus other available information, training material can be prepared for women's groups, NGOs, etc. in other developing countries. This in itself will be a form of South-South cooperation based on knowledge sharing;
- the role of GSTP : can the preferences be set so as to promote trade in these products ( there is evidence that due to their minor role at the moment, more can be achieved in negotiating special preferences for these products than for some of the major items, like textiles or some industrial products).

#### 5.7. Agriculture

65. Despite the fact that agriculture is the key sector in the economics of all developing countries, co-operation among developing countries is least effective in the sphere of agricultural production. Though lip-service is paid to the need to improve agriculture and food production, the agricultural sector is still largely regarded as a traditional production sector in which international cooperation is not easily established and developed.

66. The majority of women in developing countries live in rural areas and contribute to agriculture and food supply, as well as food processing. Rural women participate in all kinds of agricultural

production, but much of their work is home-based or seasonal, and mainly relates to subsistence agriculture. The insufficient attention paid in the past to the role women play in agriculture, particularly in food production, is part of the reason for the food crisis some developing countries are experiencing today.

67. The project will concentrate on designing guidelines on how to overcome already identified obstacles to fuller participation of women in agricultural production. In doing so, different approaches and experiences found in different developing countries will be collected and assessed.

68. The following questions will be approached:

- the legal and economic problems pertaining to land ownership;
- access to credit: difficulties related to the management of their savings, of rising necessary capital at the banks, etc.;
- lack of proper information sources on available services and support facilities;
- insufficient information on proper tools, production and processing techniques, seeds and plants most suitable for a specific climate;
- organization of appropriate training on domestic and international marketing of their produce;
- all other relevant questions identified during the project execution.

69. When the guidelines are prepared, training seminars will be organized for different target groups: government officials (development planners), women's organizations on national/community level, development agencies, etc. The South-South component: sharing of experience and existing knowledge.



## 5.8. Industry

70. The rapid industrialisation of developing countries constitutes an indispensable element and a dynamic instrument of the sustained self-reliant growth in their economic and social transformation. In a number of developing countries women constitute an important part of industrial workers, particularly so in export-oriented production.
71. In an attempt to secure additional funds for their development, many developing countries are trying to attract foreign investment, with rather different results, both in terms of the amount of investments received and of the kind of investment. It is important to analyze the foreign investment codes and see whether they have any impact on integration of women in industrial production (minimum wage legislation, maternity and sick leave benefits, job security, health protection, training, etc.).
72. Even though in many countries industrial sector employs a substantial number of women workers, there are few women in managerial and entrepreneurial positions. There should be more attention paid to training programmes in this field to help women achieve better positions. The Programme will use the experience of ILO, UNIDO, ICPE and particularly that of INSTRAW in designing specific South-South activities.
73. The project will concentrate on two areas:
  - a) women's managerial and entrepreneurial role in industry-preparation of specific training materials for women in developing countries and organization of training programmes, with special reference to small and medium-scale enterprises.
  - b) foreign investment and position of women workers:
    - comparative analysis of foreign investment codes and related legislation (labour code) in a selected number of countries

- to examine the impact of legislation on the position of women workers in the sectors where foreign investment is substantial;
- identification of specific elements from legislation, supportive of equality for women;
- identification of specific elements from legislation with negative impact on women workers;
- preparation of guidelines for foreign investment codes in developing countries with special attention paid to women.

#### 5.9. Energy

74. Co-operation in the field of energy fits into the overall framework of international economic co-operation for development, and should encourage and accelerate energy conservation and the development of energy resources, in particular, new and renewable ones. Apart from numerous economic, financial, technical, technological and other problems to be solved, developing countries must also face a number of related social and economic issues which should be taken into consideration in all activities related to the development and use of renewable and other energy resources. Participation of the population, based on a better knowledge of the use of renewable energy resources, is especially significant.
75. In this respect, the participation of women deserves special attention, not only because women in developing countries are directly affected by all aspects of the use of energy, but also because women are often in the position to plan, use and produce energy for their households. This refers in particular to unconventional sources of energy.
76. In different developing countries, a substantial amount of knowledge and experience exist on conservation of energy, on using different renewable energy sources. Yet, also a number of ways of using the energy in wasteful manner due to lack of proper

technical solutions can be identified. Through knowledge-based South-South cooperation cases of either can be identified and energy situation in developing countries thus much improved.

77. INSTRAW with ILO Turin Center, Italy, is preparing training modules on Women and New and Renewable Sources of Energy (NRSE). Organization of regional training seminars in developing countries will be part of the Programme.

#### 5.10. Money and Finance

78. Financing systems generally fail to take into account vulnerable social groups, including women. In many countries, women are directly discriminated against banking systems, particularly when it comes to the extension of credit. On the other hand, many developing countries are eager to design special policies to stimulate household savings as an important means of increasing locally available resources for national development. The integration of women in their plans is thus becoming essential for success of such financial policies.

79. Major tasks of the project are:

- elaboration of suitable system for stimulating household savings both in rural and urban areas, with special attention to women savers;
- organization of a workshop on South-South exchange of experience on stimulating small-scale( household) savings;
- circulation of the results of the workshop and of a suggested system to the regional development banks, special funds in developing countries and national development banks;
- organization of training programmes for officials in regional development banks and national banks in developing countries.

80. Changes at the national level would necessarily lead to further changes at the international level, and a specific treatment of women's integration into development in all financial programmes may be an important transformative element of the entire approach to development through financial co-operation among developing countries.

#### 5.11. Science and technology

81. Recent technological innovations, especially the application of biochemistry, microbiology and genetics, electronics and microelectronics, as well as the growing communication and information potential already have an impact on the current production, transport, communication and distribution in the world and more and more so, in developing countries. Their ultimate importance lies in the fact that they may help to eliminate inadequate development models and strategies and to promote an integrative approach to the productive role of women.

82. But such a contribution of new technologies will not come by itself: there is a need for active and enlightened policy on the side of developing countries towards new technologies and new discoveries which will bring about their positive implications for development strategies and for integration of women.

83. Two projects are proposed:

a) women and information technologies( IT):

- analysis of information technologies on employment of women, both in formal and informal sector - use of data available on developed countries and some of the NICs with extrapolation to other developing countries;
- based on the results of analysis, preparation of guidelines for changes in the educational systems, to adjust them to the requirements of new technologies;

- preparation of guidelines for specific training programmes to help women to develop necessary skills and obtain the knowledge to use information technologies for their benefit;
- assessment of the importance of computer literacy for women, identification of means for achieving it (design of training programmes).

b) Women and transfer of technology - establishment of ISTP (Information System on Technologies and Projects)

- identification of appropriate available technologies in developing countries: development of a system for identification and assessment of technologies, suitable for women, by using CICD experience with ISTP, ISTP methodology and organizational framework.
- elaboration of the network for exchange of information on technologies;
- training of national planners, consulting agencies, etc. on ISTP, with special attention to identification of appropriate available technologies;
- training of women and women's organizations on the use and further development of ISTP.

#### 5.12. Health

84. It is generally known fact that women in developing countries, especially in rural areas, besides their responsibility to provide food, water and fuel for their family, have to take care also of family health conditions. The innovative development policies should therefore devote special attention to the programmes that would raise knowledge of women on basic health care requirements.

85. South-South cooperation should focus in particular on sharing the experience and knowledge in providing primary health care for their population. There are many specific approaches, using traditional healing methods, supplementing them with modern findings, already available in some developing countries. Their wider popularization in other developing countries can have significant beneficial effect on their population.
86. Accept for paying attention to the primary health care, a project concentrating on sexually transmitted diseases with special emphasis on AIDS, should be part of the Programme. Within the project, following activities are planned:
- gathering of the experiences of developing countries in their fight against AIDS and other diseases;
  - in cooperation with WHO and national health centres, preparation of information materials and organization of informative seminars for women and women's organizations on AIDS in developing countries.
87. Access to safe drinking water is one of the major problems of developing countries. Many programmes to provide better access to water were initiated, but not sufficient attention was being paid to the central role of women.
88. With the use of INSTRAW training modules Women, Water Supply and Sanitation, regional training programmes will be organized. One of the tasks of the Programme will be to assist INSTRAW in dissemination of its multimedia training modules. Also, a system of gathering information on specific country solutions to securing safe water supply and sanitation, will be establish to form a base for future knowledge sharing among developing countries and as a additional feedback into the training programmes.



## VI. TIME FRAME

89. As outlined in this proposal, the intention of the initiating institutions is to launch a long-term programme, concentrating on knowledge-based South-South cooperation. After the initial expert workshop devoted to the elaboration of the methodological approach, and finalization of the programme and upon consultations needed for the establishment of the functional coalitions around each of the proposed projects, exact time frame for the implementation of the programme should be outlined.

90. Generally speaking, the time frame could be organized in the following manner:

### 1. 1988-1990:

- meeting of the initiators of the programme and the coordinators of the NAM;
- elaboration of the concepts and methodology (project proposal 5.4.);
- construction of data base (project proposal 5.1.);
- identification of interested cooperating partners in order to form "functional coalitions";

### 2. 1990:

- presentation of the Programme to the Conference of NACs on Women and Development, tentatively scheduled for 1990.
- presentation of the achieved Programme's results to the South Commission, which will be ending its work in 1990.

### 3. 1988- 1995:

- wider implementation of the proposed Programme.

4. 1995- 2000:

- emphasis on the evaluation of the Programme and presentation of the results to the Conference on the Implementation of Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the year 2000.

Note: the final time frame and exact project organization should be discussed with cooperating partners and is subject to the availability of funding.

VII. PROGRAMME BUDGET

91. In view of the expressed strong support by Non-Aligned Countries for the issue "Women and Development", an assessed contribution could be requested from the NACs and other DCs for the implementation of the Programme. This could be done at the next scheduled meeting of the coordinating countries of NAM.
92. Parallel to this, the initiators of the programme will launch fund-raising activities, based on detail elaboration of particular integral parts of the programme and formation of functional coalitions. The list of possible funding sources could be elaborated.
93. The underlying principle of the entire programme is to start activities upon securing of necessary funding.

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