

INSTRAW  
INFORMATION BRIEF NO. 4  
FOR BOARD MEMBERS  
1 September - 31 October 1994

EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

(Theme I, A-1-a)\*

- A paper on empowerment is being prepared to clarify the concept and make it operative for a discussion with experts and potential consultants at the forthcoming Inter-regional Research Seminar on Empowerment: women, economy and decision-making. Also being explored, with the same objective, is the linkage of empowerment to proposals of sustainable, social and cultural development.

GENDER IMPACT ANALYSIS OF CREDIT

(Theme I, A-1-b)

- The data from the survey conducted on ADEMI's clients (the selected case study) is being analyzed by INSTRAW staff with the assistance of the Economic Research Unit of the University of Santo Domingo. The analysis will be completed in late December 1994.
- Responding to a request from FAO, INSTRAW contributed to the sixteenth issue of Rural Development under the topic "The Impact of Macro-economic Policies on Women and the Poor" with an article outlining the link of INSTRAW's programme to rural development.

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\* These codes refer to the programme codes identifying each programme as appears in the document "Research and Training - Programme of Action 1994-1995". For those programme activities whose code does not appear, there is no progress to report at this time.

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### GENDER TRAINING

(Theme I, A-2-a)

- The INSTRAW seminar on the "Assessment of Research and Training Needs for Arab Women" was postponed until further notice. Logistical and financial difficulties faced both by INSTRAW and ESCWA determined the decision. Preparations for the seminar comprised a draft agenda, aide memoire, background paper and presentation based on the Gender Training Portfolio.
- Numerous requests to purchase the Gender Training Portfolio have been received since it was announced that the Portfolio will be distributed for a nominal cost of US\$10 (for developing countries) and US\$20 (for industrialized countries) plus mailing costs. However, since airmail costs in the Dominican Republic have recently risen sharply, as much as 400%, a less expensive way of distributing the Portfolio is being sought.

### WOMEN IN TRANSITION ECONOMIES

(Theme I, B-2-b)

- To date, three studies have been received from the Bulgarian consultant. These studies are currently being synthesized into one and will be analyzed along with the Hungarian study for publication. The best manner for publishing these studies is still under consideration. Because of the limited data available on the topic in both countries, additional documentation has been requested to enhance the content of the publication and the subsequent training needs assessment. These additional documents will also be used in exploring the effects of transition on the status of women in other economic sectors, as needed for the elaboration of the research proposal for the expanded research project covering other geographical areas, recommended by the Board at its last session.
- Regarding the expansion of this project to include research on the effects of transition on women in other economic sectors and geographic areas, as recommended by the Board at its last session, communications have been sent to ECA and ESCAP

requesting information as to the countries currently undergoing transition within their respective regions as well as a list of topics relevant for such studies in each region. To date, no response has been received. Inputs from Board Members would be very welcome.

### STATISTICS AND INDICATORS

(Theme II, A-1)

- A brainstorming session was organized and conducted by INSTRAW in New York (15-16 Sept. 1994) to discuss the work planned for the implementation of the second phase of the programme. The session was attended by four experts, most of whom have been directly involved in the project, and two representatives from the UN Statistics Division (UNSTAT). The results of the discussion reiterated the importance of the proposed national survey on time-use of women and men in the Dominican Republic to test the viability and applicability of the survey methodology (developed in the first phase) for wider use in most developing countries. In this regard, an agreement is currently being arranged with the National Statistics Office of the Dominican Republic in order to test the methodology.

The group also discussed the possibility of exploring other options for collecting time-use data besides conducting a separate survey. One such option is the possibility of linking the time-use survey methodology to the Multi-Purpose Household Survey (MPHS) which the Central Bank of the Dominican Republic together with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) regional office in Costa Rica is designing for the Dominican Republic. The advantages of such an approach are quite obvious in terms of the relative financial implications and the likelihood of having the methodology integrated in the regular surveys of either the national statistics office or the Central Bank. The role of the Central Bank is indispensable particularly when applying the valuation techniques for the establishment of satellite "accounts" on women's work.

Initial contacts with the Central Bank of the Dominican Republic and the ILO Office in Costa Rica have been made to present the possibility of adding a two-page module onto their MPHS questionnaire. Negotiations are currently being pursued

while INSTRAW is developing the module for submission to the above mentioned institutions.

### TRAINING MODULES ON GENDER STATISTICS

(Theme II, B-2)

- A brainstorming session attended by one expert (of those attending the above mentioned meeting), a representative from UNIFEM, two representatives from UNSTAT and INSTRAW, was held to review the draft outline for the training Modules. The group concluded that what remains to be done and which must be done urgently, is to develop training materials that establish direct links between gender statistics and development policies. Development planners who will be the target users of such training materials, must be provided with hands-on exercises and guidelines for the use of gender statistics in policy design and programme planning. As a result of the session, the outline of the manual has been re-drafted. Furthermore, UNSTAT strongly recommended that INSTRAW attend a seminar-workshop on gender statistics and policy for planners organized by UNSTAT and the women's bureau in Kenya to be held there in November 1994.

### WOMEN, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(Theme III, B-2)

- Preparations for the first INSTRAW national training seminar on "Women, Water Supply and Sanitation" to be held in Windhoek, Namibia from 20 to 25 November are underway. The main content of the seminar will come from the Women, Water Supply and Supply and Waste Management training package. In addition, national lecturers will present papers on topics such as Women in Community Management of Water Supply Systems in Namibia; Waste Management in Windhoek, and the UNICEF experience in Namibia; among others. Expected participants will include senior planners from the Departments of Water Affairs and Women's Affairs, engineers, trainers, project officers, and representatives of women's and non-governmental organizations.

(Theme III, C-1)

- INSTRAW attended the Fourth Session of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee on Water Supply and Sanitation, (19-20 Sept 1994) and the Fifteenth Session of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources (21-23 Sept. 1994). These two meetings are the main coordinating meetings of the water sector in the UN system, in which INSTRAW is the only institution representing women.

At the first meeting under an agenda item on "Women, Water Supply and Sanitation", INSTRAW presented a "Framework for Action for Women, Water Supply and Sanitation" which was adopted by consensus at the meeting. The UN agencies present at the meeting decided to apply the framework in their regular programme budget activities. In addition it was decided that in future meetings under this agenda item, all members of the Steering Committee will report instead of INSTRAW alone.

At the second meeting, it was noted that the theme for World Water Day in 1995 is "Women and Water". Consequently it was proposed that members of the ACC Subcommittee send public information materials and substantive reports through the UNDP Resident Representatives in order to increase and create awareness and advocacy on the issue.

- The Working Group on Gender Issues of the Water and Sanitation Collaborative Council, which INSTRAW co-chairs along with PROWESS (World Bank/UNDP Water Supply and Sanitation Division), held its meeting from 27 to 28 October 1994. The main agenda item of the meeting concerned preparation of a sourcebook on gender issues for the policy-making level of the water and sanitation sector to be presented at the Collaborative Council meeting in 1995. It was agreed that the sourcebook will include, among others, the following chapters: Introduction to Gender Issues at the Policy Level; A Conceptual Framework; Overview of Agency Policies concerning Gender and Development; Overview of Agency Policies for Gender issues in the Water and Sanitation Sector; Tools for Operationalizing Policies; and Examples from Experience. INSTRAW will provide essential inputs to all chapters and the first draft will be ready by March 1995.

WOMEN AND COMMUNICATIONS  
(Special project)

- INSTRAW has continued monitoring the project entitled "Development of Communications Materials on Women and Development" during the second phase of this project.

A summary of the progress in each of the three participating countries follows:

**Argentina**

Centro de Estudios sobre la Mujer (CEM) has prepared two of the five dossiers for media persons. The topic of the first dossier dealt with women and human rights. The second deals with reproductive rights. These dossiers have been used in several training seminars and workshops. For example, they were used in a seminar conducted at the University of Buenos Aires as an accredited elective course at the post-graduate level in the Inter-disciplinary Women's Studies Programme. The outcome of the seminar was the development of guidelines for evaluating women's image in TV and publicity.

Other training activities included two workshops conducted in different provinces with personnel working in the Women's Programme of the Ministry of Education. The workshops aimed at developing guidelines to be used by professors of primary and secondary schools in teaching students how to evaluate the image of women in the media.

**Colombia**

CINE MUJER completed a feasibility study for the production of a weekly television programme on issues related to women and development. The final version of a 30-minute pilot TV programme was also finalized and tested among different groups of viewers. The pilot TV programme focuses on prostitution in Colombia and combines journalistic reporting with elements of a documentary featuring testimonies, interviews and panel discussions moderated by a renown woman reporter.

CINE MUJER also published the results of the diagnostic study conducted in the first phase of the project and as well as an



inventory of communication materials on women and development available in Colombia.

### **Dominican Republic**

Centro de Investigación para la Acción Femenina (CIPAF) has completed a photographic dossier for media persons. The first of a series of training seminars was conducted at INSTRAW premises (26-27 October 1994) to present the dossier containing WID, GAD, development, and sustainable development concepts to media personnel and explain the ways in which the material may be used. Approximately 60 participants from the mass media, communications units of women's NGOs, political parties and syndicates attended the seminar.

- The "Discussion Paper" comprising a comparative analysis of the findings of the three country studies conducted in the first phase as well as the activities being carried out in the second phase, has been completed and is ready for printing. This paper presents an overview of women in the media with specific examples taken from Argentina, Colombia and the Dominican Republic.

### **PREPARATIONS FOR FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN**

- INSTRAW, represented by the Officer-in-Charge, attended the Regional Preparatory Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean for the Fourth World Conference on Women (Mar del Plata, Argentina, 26-30 September 1994). A statement was presented which emphasized the need to find the appropriate methodology that allows a true representation of women in all sectors of activity, formal and informal, public and private; in order to break the barrier of women's invisibility insofar as their contribution to social progress. Relevant INSTRAW documents for the region, following a new distribution policy for Conferences and meetings, were packaged in envelopes and delivered to each delegation, NGOs, and focal points in attendance.
- The High-Level Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace (Vienna, Austria, 17-21 October 1994) was also attended by INSTRAW represented by the Officer-in-Charge. The INSTRAW statement presented at the Conference called for stronger commitments to research on gender issues in order to obtain a

sounder base for policy change and to identify the crucial elements for successful policies that will lead to equality, development and peace.

Firm support for INSTRAW was received from the representative of the East-West Caucus, Ms Heidemarie Wuensche-Piétzka, in her statement, when she pointed out that encouraging countries to increase their support to UNIFEM in the official documents of the Conference insufficiently reflected the mandate of ECE to mainstream women's issues and gender perspectives within its activities.

On 19 October, 1994, INSTRAW's focal points attending the Conference (Hanne Jepson of Denmark, Marina Subirats of Spain and Bettina Corke of the United States of America) called a press conference to reiterate the need to: a) continue the kind of work carried out by INSTRAW and b) reject the merge between INSTRAW and UNIFEM as proposed by the UN Secretary-General.

- The Officer-in-Charge of INSTRAW attended a session of the Norwegian Housewives Association in Oslo, Norway (23 October 1994) at which their participation (as part of the Norwegian NGO and Official delegation) at the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference was to be evaluated as was their participation in activities for the UN Year of the Family. During the session, they inquired as to the overall situation of INSTRAW and the preparations for Beijing.
- On 27 October, a "Planning Meeting for a New England Regional Meeting in preparation of the Fourth World Conference on Women" was attended by the Officer-in-Charge of INSTRAW and distinguished directors of women's research and women's studies institutes and interested graduate students (Harvard Institute for International Development, Cambridge, Massachusetts). This meeting had two segments. The first dealt with the planning process of the United States NGOs in preparation for the Conference to which INSTRAW provided information as to the preparations being undertaken in other regions. During the second segment, attended only by the above mentioned directors, the possible merge between INSTRAW and UNIFEM was discussed. All those present made clear comments about the need to decide on the merger issue after the Beijing Conference.
- A one-day INSTRAW/UNICEF workshop on Women, Water and Environmental Sanitation is being organized for the NGO Forum



of the Fourth World Conference on Women. At the workshop, INSTRAW and UNICEF representatives will present policy papers covering global problems as well as the programme and project activities of their organizations. Experts from Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and China will address overall water resource management in their region (or country) including strategies, guidelines and possible solutions. Outcomes expected from the workshop are recommendations, strategies and guidelines for future activities, until the year 2000, in water and environmental sanitation.

UNICEF funds will cover the participation of the experts, the production of a promotional leaflet and a public information kit. INSTRAW is funding its representative.

#### OTHER ACTIVITIES

- INSTRAW was present at the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, Egypt, 5-15 September 1994) where INSTRAW documents and brochures were distributed.
- INSTRAW was represented by Prof. Ake Svenstam the Expert Group Meeting on Gender, Education and Training (ILO International Training Center, Turin, Italy, 10-14 October 1994). The Institute prepared instructions for the representative that presented arguments to be emphasized during the discussions. These arguments, which focussed on education as a fundamental human right for girls and boys and on the fact that adherence to fundamental human rights cannot be exercised by reinforcing gender distinctions, were reflected in the resulting report and recommendations.
- A one day meeting (24 October 1994) was held between the Officer-in-Charge of INSTRAW and Dr. Karin Ask of the Development Studies and Human Rights Division of the Christian Michelsen Institute in Bergen, Norway. The Social Science and Development Department of this Institute has six research programmes: Gender Relations in a Comparative Perspective; Economic Policies and Management; Organization and Development; Population and Resources; Democratization and Development in Southern Africa; and Human Rights Programme. The main objective of this meeting was to establish contacts and possible cooperation in aspects such as gender relations,

economic management and other programmes where their expertise could represent a substantial input to INSTRAW's endeavours.

- The Officer-in-Charge of INSTRAW met with Dr. Paul Hofseth, Special Adviser of the Royal Ministry of Environment and Mr. Kare Bryn, Director General of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 25 October in Oslo to discuss possible means of cooperation with INSTRAW's activities related to natural resources, energy and environment as well as possible financial support for INSTRAW.
- A meeting was held with Mrs. Antoinette Gosses, Deputy Head, Special Programme Women and Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands and the Officer-in-Charge of INSTRAW on 28 October 1994 in New York. During the meeting the present situation of INSTRAW was discussed as was the Dutch contribution.
- The Officer-in-Charge of INSTRAW met with a group of the U.S. Council for INSTRAW on 31 October 1994 at the United Nations to explain the Institute's situation and answer questions. Later that evening, a reception was offered to the U.S. Council for INSTRAW and another NGO in New York to which some 200 persons attended.

#### FOCAL POINTS

- INSTRAW received a fax communication from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations notifying that the International Organizations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been designated official focal point in Bulgaria.
- A change in director was also announced by the focal point in Canada. The Institute is still awaiting information on the new Director.
- The focal point from Tunisia requested INSTRAW's 1994-1995 work programme to explore the possibilities for carrying out joint projects.

#### ACTIVITIES WITH HOST COUNTRY

- During the period under review, INSTRAW has participated in numerous conferences and meetings held in the Dominican

Republic, some of which were follow-up meetings to international events such as the World Summit for Children and the World Conference on Population and Development. On one occasion, INSTRAW staff made a presentation on the conceptual evolution from WID to GAD. In collaboration with UNDP and other UN organizations in the Host Country, a newspaper article covering current biennium programmes and activities was prepared for publication on UN Day, 24 October.

- The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) office in Santo Domingo held a seminar entitled "National Strategies for Improving Food-intake and Nutrition" at INSTRAW premises as part of the activities for World Food Day, 14 October 1994. INSTRAW shared the podium with the FAO representative and the Vice-President of the Dominican Republic who gave the opening address.