

# INSTRAW INFORMATION BRIEF NOS. 5 & 6

FOR BOARD MEMBERS  
1 November 1994 - 28 February 1995

## EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

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

- To enhance the background paper on empowerment, a literature review on urban environment and Habitat II has been initiated. The purpose of this review is to provide documentation for linking sustainable macro-economic strategies in support of micro-level action to aspects of sustainable development as recommended in Agenda 21 adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

## GENDER IMPACT ANALYSIS OF CREDIT

(Theme I, A-1-b)

- The research paper commissioned to International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) as part of INSTRAW's global overview of women's access to credit, was received in late February as agreed. The first two sections explain why credit is important for women and describe the constraints that still limit women's access to credit. An overview of various modalities of existing credit programmes, an analysis of the impact of credit on women and alternatives for further expanding credit institutions to service poor women and men are provided in other sections. An internal review of the research paper has taken place and it will be submitted to an outside reader with expertise in the field for comments before printing.
- The analysis of data from the case study on ADEMI's credit programme will be ready for printing in early April. The delay in finalization for publication is due to internal problems with the computer system.

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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.

**STATISTICS AND INDICATORS**

(Theme II, A-1)

- The Terms of Agreement between INSTRAW and the National Statistics Office of the Dominican Republic for the National Survey on Time-use of Women and Men, have been reviewed with the UNDP office in Santo Domingo and in particular with the officer who is directly involved in the implementation of local projects in collaboration with government agencies. This review was done in order to incorporate all contractual practices and terms since several changes were requested by National Statistics Office. It is expected that the contract will soon be signed and the project formally launched thereafter.
- The case study in Nepal, which is being designed with the Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS) commenced in January. Ms Meena Acharya is in charge of the case study which will cover the period January-May 1995. Data for other case studies are being sought from Hungary and Finland.
- INSTRAW's project on methods for valuing unpaid contributions of women is gaining wide recognition among groups of researchers, professional associations and other international bodies involved in the area of statistics and economic accounting. As a result, INSTRAW has been invited to attend several international conferences and meetings in order to present the preliminary results of the project. Two of the most recently attended meetings are the Twenty-third General Conference of the International Association for Research on Income and Wealth (21-27 August 1994, New Brunswick, Canada) and the Work Session of EUROSTAT on Time-use and Valuation of Unpaid work (18-19 October 1995, Voorburg, The Netherlands). The outcome of both meetings has reaffirmed the importance of INSTRAW's initiative in this area. Attempts are being made to coordinate the substantive framework of the Institute's work which is primarily designed for developing countries and that of EUROSTAT which is basically designed for developed countries.

**SECOND EDITION OF WORLD'S WOMEN**

(Theme II, A-2)

- INSTRAW attended the fourth meeting of the Monitoring Group for the preparation of the second issue of The World's Women

which was held in New York on 27 September 1994. The meeting reviewed the first draft of the first four chapters of the publication. It is expected that the publication will be formally launched in August 1995.

### TRAINING MODULES ON GENDER STATISTICS

(Theme II, B-2)

- Following the recommendations of UNSTAT as reported in Information Brief No. 4, INSTRAW carried out a mission from 31 October to 4 November 1994 in Nairobi, Kenya to undertake the following tasks: a) discuss with the Women's Bureau of Kenya the results of their project on gender statistics for possible use in the development of the INSTRAW training modules; b) meet with the group of training experts, particularly the Cohort for Research on Environment, Urban Management and Human Settlement (CREUMHS), to exchange materials and ideas on the training package which INSTRAW is designing and on the materials which they have already produced; and c) attend a training seminar for planners on Gender Statistics and Development Policy scheduled to take place from 2 to 4 November 1994.

At the last minute the training seminar was postponed thereby cutting the mission short. The first portions of the modules are currently being prepared at INSTRAW and are expected to be finished by April 1995.

(Theme II, C-4)

- INSTRAW is undertaking preparations for the ECE/INSTRAW Work Session on Statistics on Women which is scheduled to take place in Geneva from 6 to 8 March 1995. These preparations include the finalization of technical papers for the Session.

### WOMEN, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(Theme III, B-2)

- The "Women, Water Supply and Sanitation" training seminar held in Namibia from 20 to 25 November 1994 has been considered as one of the most successful thus far conducted by INSTRAW. As a newly independent country, Namibia is in need of preparatory

training as well as capacity building, and in fact this was the first training seminar addressing women's concerns ever held in the country. As one of the results of the seminar, the participants learned various aspects of how to involve women more effectively in water projects and the need for a more comprehensive approach to water supply and sanitation that includes, among others, sanitary and environmental education as well as economical aspects of water supply and sanitation projects. It is expected that the report will be published in mid-1995.

As follow-up to the seminar: a) the Department of Water Affairs and Ministry of Community Development expressed interest in holding two training seminars in the northern and southern regions of Namibia; b) the Ministry for Community Development expressed interest in becoming an INSTRAW focal point; and c) the representative of the Department of Women's Affairs indicated that the Government of Namibia would like to name a candidate for consideration at the next election of members of the INSTRAW Board of Trustees.

- During the INSTRAW National Training Workshop on Women, Water Supply, Sanitation and Waste Management held from 27 June to 1 July in Quito, Ecuador, the organization of a similar workshop was requested by the participants from the Dominican Republic. To comply with this request, INSTRAW has made contacts with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) office in Santo Domingo in order to obtain sufficient financial support. At present INSTRAW is organizing the workshop, scheduled to take place in October 1995, with the cooperation and financial contribution of UNDP and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

#### WOMEN AND COMMUNICATIONS

(Special Project)

- Dossier numbers 3 and 4 have been prepared by **Centro de Estudios sobre la Mujer - CEM** [Centre for Women's Studies] (Argentina). The third dossier on women and political participation is entitled "Half of the World, half of the power: political participation and women". Included in this dossier is a chronology of events related to women's political rights in Argentina, data on women's participation in parliaments at the international level, information about international networks and associations that support and train women in leadership roles as well as guidelines for women

politicians on how to use the media. Dossier number 4 entitled "Raising the voice: women and media" provides a national and global overview of women's participation in mass media. Along with a discussion of the problems of the portrayal of women in the media, the dossier presents successful strategies for improving women's image in the media. Also included in this dossier are guidelines for establishing community radio programmes.

- **Centro de Investigación Para la Acción Femenina - CIPAF** [Research Centre for Feminine Action] (Dominican Republic) has completed an educational kit. The educational kit, in Spanish, includes six booklets on topics such as Women and the Economy in the Dominican Republic; Women and Sustainable Development; Women and Legislation in the Dominican Republic; Women and Health in the Dominican Republic; Women and International Organizations and Events; and Women and Communications. The latter includes abstracts of selected chapters (1,2,3,5 and 6) and checklists from the INSTRAW manuscript *Content Discontent*.

CIPAF has also produced a video on Women and Development in the Dominican Republic which offers an overview of the situation of women in different aspects of social life. To utilize the educational kit and video, CIPAF has organized during the latter half of 1994 two workshops in Santo Domingo for women in the mass media on how to include gender perspectives in the issues upon which they report.

#### PREPARATIONS FOR FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

##### Regional Preparatory Conferences

- INSTRAW was represented at the Regional Preparatory Conference for Western Asia for the Fourth World Conference on women held from 6 to 10 November in Amman, Jordan, by Ms Daniela Colombo, President of the Italian focal point and former Board Member.
- INSTRAW participated and distributed 500 copies of its publications and flyers in English and French at the Regional Preparatory Conference for Africa for the Fourth World Conference on Women which took place from 16 to 23 November in Dakar, Senegal. This Conference was attended by representatives from fifty-two countries and more than 3500 NGOs. A significant part of the resolutions (22) emanating from the NGO Forum called for education. Related educational topics also received attention in numerous resolutions: five

on environmental education, seven calling for training on gender and development issues, and five concerning science and technology education.

At the African Regional Youth Consultation which met from 13 to 15 November, particular attention on the condition of young women and girls in Africa was called for. During the meeting, the young African women invited the young African men to participate in the deliberations and preparation of amendments and recommendations to the Draft Platform of Action for Africa in order to provide a more comprehensive approach to the platform objectives which are oriented towards development as the final aim of societal endeavours.

During the Meeting of Technical Experts, an INSTRAW presentation was made under the agenda item on Women, Environment and Sustainable Development. The African Platform for Action calling for specific gender-based antipoverty policies, programmes and projects integrated into overall development planning, was presented at the Ministerial Meeting and adopted by consensus.

#### Public Information Materials

- New public information materials are being prepared for distribution at the Conference in Beijing. Among these is an informative booklet on INSTRAW and its programmes. This booklet will also include annexes with regional lists of Board members, Focal Points and donors to the Institute.
- In collaboration with the UN Department of Public Information, an INSTRAW poster is also being prepared for Beijing.

#### Panels/Workshops

- Preparations for a panel on "Gender Statistics: Measurement and Valuation of Unpaid Work Using Time-Use" to be presented at the NGO Forum in Beijing, are underway. The objectives of the Panel are: 1) to identify further needs and data gaps in making women visible in statistics; and 2) to discuss measures and techniques for capturing, measuring and valuing women's productive contributions to all aspects and sectors of development and to better reflect these contributions in national accounts in economic statistics. The five-hour Panel will include presentations by experts and general discussions. It is envisaged that the result will be specific recommendations and statements supporting further work on developing techniques for measuring and valuing unpaid work

with proper gender perspectives. The Panel's information is aimed at experts in the field of statistics, development planners and scholars on gender issues.

Taking into account that the International Statistical Institute (ISI) is holding its fiftieth session in Beijing from 22 to 29 August (just one week prior to the NGO Forum), the possibility of holding the INSTRAW Panel immediately following is being explored. In this way the Institute could benefit from the participation of statisticians with less financial implications for INSTRAW.

- For the purpose of sharing experiences and designing new strategies for the use of communications for sustainable development with gender equity, INSTRAW is planning a four-hour panel to be held at the NGO Forum in Beijing. The panel will deal with such topics as the meaning of sustainable development with gender equity and how communication can contribute to its achievement; mainstream and alternative media and new communication technologies; and possible strategies, resources and legal framework for promoting communication for sustainable development with gender equity. The experiences of the INSTRAW project "Development of Communications Materials for Women in Development" conducted in three Latin American countries will be shared with participants in addition to the INSTRAW publication *Content Discontent*.

#### UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITIES

- The United Nations Pledging Conference was held from 1 to 2 November 1994. INSTRAW wishes to extend its deepest gratitude to all countries who pledged contributions to its Trust Fund. The Institute is especially appreciative of those contributions coming from developing countries; in our opinion all contributions -- regardless of their size -- are of equal value. The following is a list of countries from which pledges were received at the Conference.

Australia	Korea	Poland
Austria	Madagascar	Turkey
China	Maldives	United States of
Colombia	Morocco	America
Cyprus	Netherlands	Venezuela
Greece	New Zealand	Zimbabwe
India	Pakistan	

As occurs each year, there are several countries which do not make a concrete pledge at the Pledging Conference but do make contributions to INSTRAW. The Institute would also like to extend its gratitude to these countries which contributed funds for 1994, as per the following list.

France	Mexico
Indonesia	Norway
Italy	Spain
Japan	Sri Lanka
Mauritius	Thailand

#### ECOSOC Session

- On 3-4 November the ECOSOC session which had been postponed in July until the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions could review the report of the Secretary General (A/49/217-E/1994/103) pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/111 (20 December 1993) was resumed. As a result, Resolution 1994/51 (3 November 1994) was adopted which emphasized that the advancement of women should be an integral part of the economic and social development process within the main global issues, in national and international governance, sustainable development and gender equality. In view of this, the resolution then stressed the urgent need for appropriate leadership and staffing for INSTRAW so that it could continue to comply with its mandate.

#### Forty-ninth Session of the General Assembly

- On 6-7 December 1994, the Third Committee of the General Assembly met under agenda item 97 "Advancement of Women" resulting in the adoption of a resolution (A/49/163) pertaining to the Institute. In essence, this resolution reiterates the importance of maintaining the level of resources devoted to independent research and related training activities and calls upon States to contribute to the INSTRAW Trust Fund. Moreover, the Secretary-General is urged "to appoint, as expeditiously as possible, a Director" and "to fill the existing vacancies in order to permit the Institute to carry out its mandate". The resolution also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on this matter next year.

In another resolution adopted regarding the proposed merger of INSTRAW and UNIFEM (A/49/160), the Secretary-General is requested to submit through the Advisory Committee for



Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) an updated report to ECOSOC containing all the information requested in past resolutions as well as that information requested by the ACABQ. The resolution further requests that ECOSOC re-examine the issue in a resumed session to take place after the Fourth World Conference on Women and before the Third committee of the General Assembly considers the item on the advancement of women taking into account the deliberations of the Commission of the Status of Women at its thirty-ninth session, of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the ACABQ concerning institutional arrangements in the United Nations system for the advancement of women. In conclusion, it is decided in the resolution that a final decision on the proposed merger of INSTRAW and UNIFEM will be taken at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly.

A resolution on the Integration of older women in development (A/49/162) was adopted in which the General Assembly took note with appreciation of the joint INSTRAW/UNSTAT publication entitled The Situation of Elderly Women: Available Statistics and Indicators (INSTRAW/Ser.B/44) and encouraged both organizations "...to continue their pioneering work in this field."

Also during the meeting of this Committee, delegations presented the overall situation of women in their respective countries and addressed issues related to the Fourth World Conference on Women. In the informal discussions held immediately following the Third Committee meeting, the draft Platform of Action for the Conference was discussed.

#### STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Members of the INSTRAW Board of Trustees attended a meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee convened by Mr. Ji Chaozhu, Under-Secretary-General - Department for Development Support and Management Services, from 23 to 25 January 1995 at UN headquarters in New York. Those members in attendance were Els Postel, Fatima Hassar, Aida González, and Amara Pongsapich. Items on the agenda for the meeting included a review of the implications of recent decisions related to INSTRAW and the proposed stronger interaction with CSW, CEDAW, DAW and UNIFEM; review of the financial and budgetary situation of INSTRAW; and the agenda and timing of the next Board of Trustees session.

The Strategic Planning Committee issued a series of recommendations among which were:

- ▶ the fifteenth session of the INSTRAW Board of Trustees should be held during the last week of April 1995 at INSTRAW headquarters in Santo Domingo;
- ▶ immediate action should be taken by the Secretary-General to fill the vacant posts of Director (before 1 February), Chief of Research and Training, Chief Administrative Officer and Chief of Information, Communication and Documentation (during February - March);
- ▶ preparations for the Beijing Conference must be continued at maximal speed and intensity - a consultant should be recruited to assist the staff in preparing documents for the Conference; and
- ▶ more attention should be paid to contacts with NGOs, at the national and international levels, in order to direct the orientation of programmes in the various regions.

We are pleased to inform you that in compliance with these recommendations, Ms Martha Dueñas-Loza was appointed Acting Director of INSTRAW

#### OTHER ACTIVITIES

- On 10-11 November 1994 in Washington, D.C., INSTRAW participated in a "Gender Symposium" organized by the World Bank to discuss the link existing between poverty reduction, sustainable development and the gender gap. The symposium was divided into three topics covering gender relations in: the family and economy; social security; and property rights. Emerging from the discussions was the fact that the process of changing perceptions about the inequalities affecting women in all sectors is not only a problem in developing countries and rural societies. Many misconceptions and traditional perceptions about inequality as a normal part of political, economical and social gender relations are well rooted in the political and economical criteria of influential development agencies and institutions.
- INSTRAW was invited to participate in the International Seminar on Women and Rural Development (Santo Domingo, 16-18 November 1994) organized by the Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura-IICA (Inter-American Institute

for Agricultural Cooperation) and the UN International Fund for Agricultural Development-IFAD. In addition, the Institute was requested to prepare a presentation on rural development incorporating elements pertaining to gender analysis.

- During the meeting of the Commission for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) held in January 1995, a group of representatives from a number of the newly formed republics emanating from the former Soviet Union, approached the Acting Director of INSTRAW to express their interest and support to the Institute. Amongst the representatives present at the meeting there was a consensus that in many countries in the East and Central European region, there was a lack of understanding about women and the development process. Furthermore, women's organizations such as the ones they represented felt isolated in a society with great economic and social difficulties. In this regard they felt that support from a United Nations body such as INSTRAW was indispensable for overcoming this situation. They made particular mention of INSTRAW's work in statistics and emphasized the crucial importance of such work for the transition countries.
- On 13 February 1995 in Santo Domingo, an INSTRAW representative attended a workshop on "Development and Human Rights from an Ethnic and Gender Perspective" convened by the Red de Mujeres Afrocaribeñas y Afrolatinoamericanas [Network of Afro-Caribbean and Afro-Latin American Women].

#### FOCAL POINTS

- The U.S. Council for INSTRAW reported on their activities, namely, the "PRIORITIES 95" conferences. The U.S. Council held these conferences throughout the United States in 1993 and 1994 with the main objective of transmitting the message that "the UN helps put the priorities on the global agenda, but local actions get things done".

Regarding the postponement of the INSTRAW-UNIFEM merger, on 4 February 1994, the Council President - Ms Irene Tinker, circulated a short paper entitled "Rethinking United Nations Institutions for Women" to all Board Members. This paper points out that the World Summit on Social Development (March 1995) and the Fourth World Conference on Women (September 1995) together with the various preparatory and regional meetings provide critical opportunities to: a) reconsider the optimum socio-economic role of the United Nations; b) reconceptualize the interventions for women possible for a

global body; and c) rethink the institutions for women that will ensure these roles. Some of the most salient points of the paper refer to the fact that the merge, as proposed by the Secretary-General, would eliminate the direct reporting access on women's issues to the General Assembly currently held by INSTRAW, and the fact that the merge has been postponed not rescinded.

The Council also reported that Ms Bettina Corke had been included in the U.S. Council staff to work on issues related to communication and information. In her capacity as Chair of the Communications Task Force of the U.S. Council for INSTRAW, Ms Corke sent faxes on 16 December 1994 to all INSTRAW Board Members containing information on the reports and resolutions emanating from the resumed ECOSOC session and the Third Committee meeting of the General Assembly. In the fax, the Council put particular emphasis on the following: 1) the fate of INSTRAW will be decided at the Fiftieth Session of the General Assembly; and 2) the next session of the INSTRAW Board of Trustees will have to make its own recommendations as to the advisability of merging INSTRAW and UNIFEM. In conclusion, the Council stated that the Board must give a clear and forceful opinion, at its next session, as to what it considers the fate of INSTRAW should be.

- The Institute has received a fax from the Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to the United Nations informing of the appointment of the "Centre d'études de promotion et d'informations sur le développement social" as the official INSTRAW focal point.
- The Instituto de la Mujer (Women's Institute) in Spain has notified INSTRAW that a collaboration agreement between the Women's Institute and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation should be forthcoming. Said agreement is for translating the INSTRAW Gender Training Portfolio into Spanish.
- Initial contacts were made with the Focal Point in the Dominican Republic, Dirección General para la Promoción de la Mujer [General Bureau for the Advancement of Women] to coordinate activities for the upcoming International Women's Day.
- To date, a total of 23 focal points have responded to INSTRAW's request for information about preparatory activities for the Beijing Conference. This information will be presented in a special INSTRAW publication.

ACTIVITIES WITH HOST COUNTRY

- INSTRAW has formed part of Inter-Agency Committee on Women comprised of the agencies of the UN system located in the Dominican Republic, since the Committee was first organized. Such inter-agency coordination in gender issues has been effective among the different agencies of the UN system in the country and has led to the implementation of important projects with government counterparts such as the Dirección General para la Promoción de la Mujer [General Bureau for the Advancement of Women]. Now after more than one year of working informally, it has been decided that the Committee should be formally established. For this purpose a "Protocol Agreement" has been drawn up to set the basis for the formal constitution of the Inter-Agency Committee on Women. Care has been taken to ensure proper representation of INSTRAW as an autonomous body of the UN with headquarters in the Dominican Republic in the Protocol Agreement which is scheduled to be signed in early March.
- During the period under review, the Institute has participated in a number of conferences and meetings in the Dominican Republic, one of which was a follow-up meeting to the International Conference on Population and Development. On several occasions, INSTRAW has been requested to make a presentation on measures to prevent domestic violence by the Host Country focal point. At a regional workshop on "Peoples and Nations of the Caribbean", the Institute was invited to make a presentation on the United Nations and Women's Rights.
- The OXFAM Regional Bureau, with its office located in Santo Domingo, has invited INSTRAW to form part of the national team for the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean Gender Initiative research project in which research on gender is being conducted at the national and regional level. Originally an OXFAM initiative, this project has received such acceptance within the region's research community on women's issues, that it now operates almost independently. OXFAM is currently organizing regional and national teams, consisting of a pool of development agencies and NGOs that would coordinate collaborative efforts to continue the initiative. The type of collaboration that the Institute will provide to the project has yet to be determined.
- In January, INSTRAW attended a meeting convened by UNDP-Santo Domingo in which a document on social reform and poverty alleviation was presented as the basis for the preparation of the official document to be submitted by the Dominican

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Republic at the World Summit for Social Development (6-12 March 1995, Copenhagen). The document will also serve as a platform of action for the country to achieve social reform.

IN-HOUSE NEWS

- The Officer-in-Charge of INSTRAW hosted a Christmas party for INSTRAW staff on 20 December 1994. Entertainment was provided for guests of all ages: a band played Christmas and popular music in accompaniment to a choir comprised of INSTRAW staff while a clown delighted the children with games and activities.