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WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT Research DEV-GLO satory

The process of the advancement of women

Special issue 1996 No. 24/25

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Women Women

limination of poverty has been universally accepted as the central objective of all development strategies. Women and Development emerged as one of the main subjects on the international agenda in the early 1990s. There has been a consistent and persistent thread woven through cross cultural studies that women are poorer than men everywhere. During that decade the core issue in research connecting women to their unequal status in society was referred to as the "feminization of poverty"

The origin of INSTRAW can be traced to the year 1976 - the first year of the UN Decade for Women (1976-1985) when its mandate was established by an ECOSOC Resolution. The Resolution directed INSTRAW's activities mainly "towards the needs of women in developing countries and their integration in the development process". In that period INSTRAW in its research and training programmes attempted to analyze the main causes that determine discrimination against women at each stage of their life cycle. The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) which became effective in 1981, highlighted several facets of inequity and inequality of women in the existing national institutions and structures. Its main thrust was to remove all forms of discrimination against women to enable them to be equal partners in the processes of development. As a part of its programme on mainstreaming gender, INSTRAW, in 1983, invited a group of eminent economists to analyze the causes that determine women's subordinate position in the world economy. The conclusion contained in "Women and the World Economy" published in 1985 was enlightening: "that the international context has affected the economic lives of women everywhere, perhaps even more than the lives of men".

How much more than men? Which economic activities have a gender bias? How many women in which countries, in which sectors of the economy? What is the extent and degree of poverty of women? What are the social consequences of the redefinition of economic activity? Should women's work performance and productivity be differently and separately evaluated? How do women respond to survival strategies? Do they find different and separate solutions from men? How do they manage natural, economic and physical resources? If women are influenced more seriously than men by the international dynamics, how can these differentials be measured and quantified? These questions reflect a diversified approach to a problem that is multidimensional and multi-disciplinary.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Only preliminary and partial answers have been found to these fundamental issues in INSTRAW's first study "Women in the World Economy" (1985) and more recently after a decade in the Measurement and Valuation of Unpaid Contribution: Accounting through Time and Output ¹. The results of the latter indicate that the economic contribution of women (paid and unpaid) could be computed within the System of National Accounts (SNA). Some of these research results were transformed over a decade into regional and national training activities on gender statistics and furthermore on training materials especially compiled for planners and policy-makers (in areas such as waste, water and energy). INSTRAW's mandate on diffusion of information on "women and development" presents in the 1990s a research challenge on communication and new technologies. What techniques are more effective at the national level to reach women themselves!

The 1990 series of UN conferences on environment and development, human rights, population and development, social development, women and human settlements have all urged governments to introduce the concept of gender sensitivity in their future policies, programmes and projects. This would require a basic shift in the current development paradigm. If women are excluded from existing development strategies there is a serious economic and social cost to be paid by society. As a rule, women have less of everything except the number of years they live!

Despite two decades of concerted efforts by international community, more and more people, particularly women continue to fall below national poverty lines. This year has been declared by the United Nations as the Year for the Eradication of Poverty during which we must begin to remove the gender bias of poverty in favour of women. The continuing poverty of women, particularly in rural areas is directly linked to the existing poverty of the development paradigm. In the next millennium, the question is not to seek causes of "feminization of poverty" but move towards "feminization of development" solutions.

This issue of INSTRAW News makes a contribution to enhance the contribution of women to the development processes. There are "promises to keep and miles to go". In this, INSTRAW is playing its unique part in the UN system.

KRISHNA AHOOJA-PATEL
Guest Editor

¹Measurement and Valuation of Unpaid Contribution: Accounting through Time and Output ISBN-92-1-127007-3, Sales No. E.95.III.C.3 [INSTRAW, Santo Domingo, 1995].

Research,

One Enabling Factor for the Advancement of Women

Reflecting upon INSTRAW's activities and their importance for the coming years and for the 21st century; pondering upon the obstacles which women still face in their daily lives and upon the ways in which INSTRAW should respond to overcome these obstacles, as a researcher the first question I would pose is: Why at the end of this century - which has known such extraordinary scientific and technological discoveries and has known such an intense development of material well-being - women are still submerged in extreme poverty; are still victims of all kinds of abuse and exploitation; are still in obscured illiteracy; are still, more than ever, victims of incurable diseases? WHY is this so, when at what constituted the first conference on women (World Conference of the International Women's Year) held in Mexico in 1975, governments and national and international structures were requested to urgently find the most appropriate solutions to the nightmare of extreme poverty and under-development, of injustice and of violence against women.

There is no unique answer, there is no set of answers even. There are thousands of wonderful examples of individual and collective actions which throughout the planet honour distinguished women in their enthusiastic endeavour of participating in the finding of solutions. There are a lot of examples of political and institutional responses given in specific occasions in time and space. Nevertheless, a specific solution is only applicable to specific questions. THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IS MAINLY A STRUCTURAL MATTER and as such, should be analyzed comprehending the whole spectrum of societal endeavours. Hence, solutions of a structural character

should be proposed.

During the past twenty years, research, experience and documentation on the condition of women have shown not only that their role and scope of participation in societal activities have changed the perception of women's dynamic involvement in the development process at large, but have also broadened the understanding of the magnitude of the obstacles to fully recognize, value and mobilize their role within the broader context of gender relations in the society, the state and the economy. This broadening of perspective also implies that desired changes in the status of women are inevitably tied to the reorganization of gender relations in the household, in the community and in the nation. It has also become increasingly clear that in order to break out of the inequitable situations in which women find themselves, they have to be empowered to influence the decisions and the processes that affect their lives. Hence, the political and economic empowerment process should incorporate very innovative proposals and criteria, taking into consideration the very different perceptions, rules and practices of the different women's groups throughout the world.

The change in perception of women's value and the acceptance of women in the development process as one of the major actors and not as a disadvantaged group, is central to the work of INSTRAW. These conclusions

SAGE FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR

must be further clarified and supported by in-depth and innovative research to better understand the complexities affecting concrete population sectors, such as: women as environmental actors; rural women living in desert areas; elderly women and the girl-child in the migration process and in refugee camps; indigenous women in their four-fold situation: as part of a rural community, as elderly women and girl-child sub-age groups, as essential actors to maintain biodiversity richness, and as individuals living in very precarious socio-economic conditions, some of them under the pressure of extinction.

Improvement of INSTRAW's outreach and impact in changing mainstream development practices, working through cooperative arrangements with United Nations organizations and bodies, governmental and nongovernmental organizations, academic institutions and women's organizations and groups, has enabled the Institute to increase the effect of its too modest resources. Furthermore, the ever-changing approach of interdependent international financing systems and aid schemes, requires that institutions secure solid fund raising methodologies and strategies:

a. giving priority to efforts aimed towards raising the level of pledges by governments to the INSTRAW Trust Fund;

b. raising additional resources from private donors, academic/research institutions, NGOs, etc.;

c. raising funds for specific programmes and projects, both in cash and in kind, to secure operational reserves. As the Institute is funded entirely by voluntary contributions, experience has shown that its fund-raising possibilities depend entirely on its institutional and programmatic development.

The guiding legislative mandates of the Institute's activities are contained in its Statute, in the decisions of the INSTRAW Board of Trustees and in relevant Economic and Social Council and General Assembly resolutions.

INSTRAW's work programme for the 1996-1997 biennium has been prepared on the basis of the following general principles:

a. Meeting policy guidelines set by the INSTRAW Board of Trustees, the Board's Strategic Planning Committee, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly;

b. Securing a minimum financial reserve to ensure the implementation of INSTRAW's activities over the 1996-1997 biennium, pending payment of pledges by Member States, seeking additional resources for specific programmes by introducing a proposal for innovative actions for fund-raising activities;

c. Securing continuity of programmes where INSTRAW has already made significant innovations and breakthroughs therefore contributing substantially to the long term women's empowerment goals and opening worldwide options for women.

These issues are a reflection of twenty years of hard work towards an ambitious global objective "the advancement of women".

MARTHA DUEÑAS LOZA Acting Director



INSTRAW Priorities

INSTRAW's research and training programme

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women

he Fourth World Conference on Women presented an opportunity to assess the advancement made by women since the first World Conference held in Mexico City two decades ago. At the Mexico conference the world community affirmed gender equality as a central development concern. In 1985, the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies were adopted by 150 countries and the Second Decade for Women was launched.

The 1990s United Nations World Conferences also incorporated women's concerns as an integral part of their mandate: the 1990 World Summit for Children created special awareness to the situation and the rights of the girl-child; Agenda 21 of the 1992 Conference on Environment and Development treated women's issues as cross-cutting in all environmental questions; the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights explicitly stated that women's rights be integrated into all other human rights activities of the UN system, particularly those pertaining to economic, social

Main contributor: Eva Tuft, INSTRAW.

and cultural rights, and that they should not be confined to the Commission of the Status of Women alone; the 1994 Conference on Population and Development fully integrated gender equity and the empowerment of women through education, health and nutrition into the world's most important economic and social concerns; the 1995 World Summit for Social Development explicitly recognized that the future of our societies and social progress are linked to the advancement of women; and finally, the 1996 Habitat II Conference echoed the Fourth World Conference on Women by reaffirming that women's attainment of all aspects of the right to an adequate habitat, including land security and inheritance of rights to property and land, access to credit facilities and availability of housing services, is crucial for women's empowerment process.

For women, part of the value of recent international conferences has been to firmly establish their concerns as an integral part of the international agenda. This accomplishment is reflected in the evolution of international norms and standards which

PLATFORM FOR ACTION - CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN

1. The persistent and increasing burden of poverty 2. Inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to education and training

3. Inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to health care and related services

4. Violence against women 5. The effects of armed or other kinds of conflict on women, including those living under foreign occupation

6. Inequality in economic structures and policies, in all forms of productive activities and in access to resources

7. Inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels

8. Insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women

9. Lack of respect for and inadequate promotion and protection of the human rights of women

10. Stereotyping of women and inequality in women's access to and participation in all communication systems, especially in the media

11. Gender inequality in the management of natural resources and in the safeguarding of the environment

12. Persistent discrimination against and violation of the rights of the girl-child.

guide the development of national and international policy related to the advancement of women. These norms provide a basis against which the reality of the lives of women can be measured. Since Mexico, therefore, continuous and sustained advocacy has led to greater understanding and awareness of gender issues and women's organizations and networks have multiplied.

However, while recognizing and reaffirming these accomplishments we are confronted by the harsh reality which affects the daily lives of a growing number of women worldwide. Women have historically been subjected to structural discrimination, which are found in political and economic systems, entrenched in law and reinforced by some cultural and religious

practices. Also, the rapid pace of economic growth obtained during recent decades has been accompanied by a contradictory growth in disparities between and within nation states. Of these disparities, inequality based on gender remain the most persistent. Women constitute a majority of the people living in poverty. This structural discrimination denies women access to key elements of empowerment such as education and physical and social freedom of movement.

Thus, we can only conclude that the development of international norms and standards has gone far beyond the improvements which have been made in the daily lives of women worldwide. Our greatest challenge, therefore, must be to close the tremendous gap between principles and ideals and the

reality of deprivation and discrimination suffered by women.

This gap underlines the continuous need for identification and implementation of development strategies to lay the conditions for women's empowerment. Both research and experience show that development strategies are not gender-neutral. In order to achieve development programmes that address the specific needs, conditions and situations of women, research is needed to provide policymakers with reliable statistics and indicators on women and gender issues. This kind of research must be based on a continuous effort to improve gender-specific concepts and methodologies.

The Beijing Platform for Action contains 12 critical areas of concern with their



• Special events - Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW)

"Economic and Political Empowerment of Women and the Need for Gender Statistics" (Beijing, 12 September 1995)

"Women and Natural Resources Management" (Beijing, 12 September 1995)

Panels at NGO Forum

"Time Use Statistics and Recognition of Women's and Men's Contribution" (Huairou, 31 August 1995)

"Women, Water and Environmental Sanitation" (Huairou, 2 September 1995)
"Economic and Political Empowerment of Women" (Huairou, 4 September 1995)
"Media and Communications for the Advancement of Women: Models for a Global Reach" (Huairou, 7 September 1995)

corresponding strategic objectives and actions. Some of these areas have already been subjected to extensive research, as is the case of the impacts of structural adjustment on women and women's access to credit.

Other areas still need accurate documentation and policy oriented research. This is the case with, inter alia, the current state of the globalization of the economy and its multifaceted impact on women's development prospective; women's access to political and economic decision-making; women's access to the management of natural resources and the environment; women's role in conflict resolution; women's rights to inherit and own property and land; enhancement of state accountability for violence against women in the private sphere; policy implications of valuing women's unpaid work; women's organizations access to new communication technologies and to information; the situation of elderly women and of the girlchild.

INSTRAW's research and training programme for the 1996-1997 biennium, which has incorporated the recommendations from Beijing as well as from other recent world conferences, focus on four sub-programmes.

These include:

- i. Empowerment of women
- Women in decision-making and leadership.
- Women and human settlements in conflict zones.
- Gender perspective in conflict resolution.
- Gender impact analysis of credit projects.

ii. Women, environment and sustainable development

• Gender-sensitive training and capacity building in the management of natural resources and the environment.

iii. Women and communications

• Training and capacity building in the use of new information and communication technologies.

iv. Statistics and indicators on gender issues

- Valuation of household production and the establishment of satellite accounts.
- Measurement and valuation of unpaid work.
- Training on the production and use of gender statistics and indicators in policy-making.

INSTRAW is developing projects on the situation of particular groups of women, including the elderly, migrant women and the girl-child.



Communications

New Communications Technologies

ince 1988, INSTRAW has been interested in what developments in communications technologies mean for women, especially women in developing countries. In a consultative meeting on "Communictions for Women in Development" held by INSTRAW that year in Rome with the support of the Government of Italy and the Frederich Ebert Stiftung in Rome, the importance of new communication technologies for the advancement of women was stressed, as was the need to mainstream women and development issues in the media. On the basis of the recommendations of that meeting, INSTRAW conducted a programme on mainstreaming women and development issues in the media.

As requested by the Board of Trustees at its XV and XVI sessions (1995 and 1996) and taking into account some recommendations emanating from the INSTRAW panel "Media and Communications for the Advancement of Women: Models for a Global Reach" (Huairou, 7 September 1995), during the last quarter of

a project "Empowering Women Through the Use of Computer Mediate Communications Technologies". In this project, INSTRAW is conducting a survey in Latin America and the Caribbean aimed at identifying the potentials and constraints of Computer Mediated Communications (CMC) for research, training, education, advocacy and development work among women's organizations and institutes. The survey will also assess how women organizations and institutes compare in terms of access and use of CMC to other development organizations and institutes not specifically women's. The results of this survey will be used to prepare motivational, user-friendly and audience specific manuals in both electronic and print formats in English and Spanish. It is expected that in future biennia, the same programme will be conducted in other regions of the world. CMC are becoming the most expeditious and expedient tools for information exchange and communication and are essential for women's empowerment. The main objective of the programme is

1995 the Institute prepared for

WOMEN, COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA

Evolution of Programme (1988-1996)

1988

International Consultative Meeting on "Communications for Women in Development" organized to discuss ways of implementing the recommendations of Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies (NFLS). (24-28 October 1988, Rome, Italy.)

1991-1995

Undertook a project
"Development of
Communication Materials
for Women and
Development" in Argentina,
Colombia and the
Dominican Republic (in
collaboration with
INSTRAW's focal point the
Italian Association for
Women in Development AIDoS).

1995

Organized a panel on "Media and Communications for the Advancement of Women: Models for a Global Reach", (NGO Forum, Huariou, China, 7 September 1995.)

1996

Initiated a research and training programme on "Empowering Women Through the Use of Computer Mediated Communication Technologies" (in process).

Main contributor: Julia Tavares, INSTRAW

to help women's organizations and institutes around the world make maximum use of CMC technologies by providing adequate training tools.

With the increasing developments in CMC and the need to ensure that women keep abreast of their development, INSTRAW commissioned a research study in 1995, "New Information and Communications Technologies: Their Role in Research and Training for the Advancement of Women" aimed at identifying existing and potential uses of CMC for women's organizations and institutes and the obstacles they face in terms of access to and use of these technologies.

The advent of personal computers and of CMC technologies is bringing about an economic and social transformation comparable to those facilitated by the printing press or by industrialization. Ever more powerful and affordable computers, connected to worldwide telecommunication networks, are changing our world in profound ways, by allowing all forms of information (text, graphics, audio, video, soon tactile stimuli) to be converted into digital form (a series of zeroes and ones) and sent

anywhere on Earth nearly instantaneously.

Telecomputing allows both national and international communication at a fraction of the cost of fax technology or long distance telephoning. It has the permanence of a letter or printed document, but none of the delays and costs associated with the use of postal services. It allows NGOs that have access to similar tools, while located in different cities or countries, to exchange experiences, coordinate lobbying efforts, obtain and share timely information, and communicate more effectively among themselves and eventually with the media. In a world where globalization and regional trade agreements are changing the significance of national borders, CMC would enable groups in civil society to add their voices to the international debate and to promote their interests. CMC facilitates both the carrying out and the dissemination of research and is a valuable training tool.

The potentials of CMC for development work are equally attractive. One particularly enlightening example is Healthnet, a system created by an American company (SatelLife) based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, which links health care workers around the world. It allows, for example, surgeons in Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda to consult

with one another on patient treatment and reconstructive burn surgery techniques. It allows health workers in Gambia to collect data for clinical trials without having to travel 700 kilometres per week.¹

Women's organizations and institutes in both developed and developing countries, however, face many obstacles in the use of CMC technologies. Sexual stereotypes discourage women from learning to use digital tools and hence girls and women suffer more from "techno-phobia" than boys and men. As to the use of CMC by women's organizations and institutes, an important limiting factor is that training in the use of CMC typically provides women with instructions on the mechanical aspects of the technology, but not of the potential uses for specific goals. Difficulty in finding the necessary information, results in women spending a lot of time searching. In many developing countries, the lack of adequate infrastructure (telephone lines) and high costs of the technology, is another serious limitation. Computer software and much of the information available on-line is mostly in English and therefore not accessible to the non-English speaking populations. This is also a severe constraint for women in many countries.

^{1. &}quot;Partnership in communications for Health" SatelLife brochure (Cambridge, MA, 1991) p. 6.

While the number of women's organizations and institutes that have access to CMC has been increasing tremendously, there is real concern that CMC might alienate women who have no equipment and no proper training, who do not know English, who have little time, etc. and increase the gap of information between the haves and the have-nots. It is therefore important to promote and facilitate the use of CMC among women's organizations and institutes around the world. Until women's organizations and institutes have more access to CMC technology and training, however, traditional and other off-line forms of information dissemination and communication need to be continued and supported. Those with access to CMC have an important role to play in "repackaging" information for those who do not have access.

The INSTRAW study, "New Information and Communication Technologies: Their Role in Research and Training for the Advancement of Women", emphasized the potentials of CMC for facilitating and conducting research, training, education and development work as well as information sharing and advocacy for the advancement of women. Specifically, it examined the use and potentials of CMC for research and training purposes. CMC, for example, can help avoid duplication arising through the lack of adequate dissemination of existing research; CMC can contribute to make the results of research more widespread

rather than limiting them to a restricted circle of scholars; the speed through which ideas, information and even electronic texts can be exchanged, can enrich and facilitate research in ways never before experienced. Furthermore, from a financial point of view, CMC can contribute to reduce mailing costs involved in the shipment of texts. The potential of CMC for training is no less attractive. The use of hypertext allows a student to learn at her/his own pace and to focus on what is most unfamiliar or more difficult to understand: hypermedia allows the user to call up illustrations, to run a videoclip etc., in order to enhance the learning process. For women's organizations and institutes, particularly in developing countries, CMC will facilitate access to information



t has often been said that information is power. If that is true, it is equally true to say that the mass media have an even wider power, since as well as providing us with information, they also entertain us. Modern media are the gate-keepers of messages of all kinds. They are able to reach our minds, hearts and senses- an awesome power. But with that power should come responsibility. No matter where in the world they come from, people have reported the same problem; that men and women are not only covered differently by the media, but that coverage is frequently both unrealistic and unfair. That is why (INSTRAW has) called this handbook 'Content Discontent'. Many people are not content with much of the contents of the mass media.

• We believe improvements can be made. We are not trying to push a "womanfirst" agenda. Nor will we try to thrust any dogma down unwilling throats. Instead, in this handbook we'll present the arguments and the issues, and offer some practical suggestions on how fairer portrayal of both sexes might be achieved."

Source: Content Discontent: Towards a Fair Portrayal of Women in the Media. ISBN-92-1-127052-9, Sales No. E.96.III.C.3 (INSTRAW, Santo Domingo, 1995).

and data-bases that could only be obtained otherwise through the advice of costly and relatively scarce consultants. These are just some of the envisaged benefits of CMC in research and training activities.

The results of the study entitled "New Information and Communications Technologies: Their Role in Research and Training for the Advancement of Women" were presented and discussed at a panel on "Women, Media and Communications: Models for a Global Reach" organized by INSTRAW at the NGO Forum on Women in Huairou, China, in 1995.

It is with these considerations in mind, that INSTRAW is implementing its programme, "Empowering Women Through the Use of Computer Mediated Communication Technology". Women need to enter the mainstream of the developments in information and communications, both as users and providers, in order to have the capacity to bring about the changes required for the attainment of sustainable and equitable development. The process of empowering women through the use of CMCs is therefore a vital element for the advancement of women and for the development process. Through research, training and networking, INSTRAW hopes to contribute to this most important endeavour.



NGO FORUM ON WOMEN • 7 SEPTEMBER 1995



Women's empowerment process

Credit for Women: Why is it so Important?

any questions arise when empirical analysis is done in search of plausible explanations dealing with the condition of poverty and of extreme poverty of "an imprecise number more than one billion people living in households too poor to obtain the food they need for work; half of these are too poor even to obtain the food they need to maintain activity"!

The understanding that richness and poverty are economic concepts reflects perceptions applicable to people's ability to accumulate material wealth and possessions. Thus, the present level of poverty and extreme poverty of so many millions may be equated to their inadequate access to financial resources and, therefore, their inability to find solutions to their status.

Poverty is a structural societal problem whose eradication requires remedial and short- to

Editor's note: This article is based on the Foreword written by Ms Martha Dueñas Loza, INSTRAW Acting Director for the INSTRAW/ICRW publication Credit for Women: Why is it so Important? ISBN-92-1-127051-0, Sales No. E.96.III.C.2 (INSTRAW: Santo Domingo, 1995).

1. "The Impact of Technology on Human Rights", Global Case studies, edited by C.G. Weeramantry, United Nations University ISBN 92-808-0821-4 (University Press: Tokyo, 1993).

Evolution of Programme (1986-1996)

1986

Survey on Research and Teaching of Women's Studies.

1987

Following the NFLS, inclusion of the issue women and credit (access and limitations) in INSTRAW's work programme as a basic approach to economic empowerment of women.

1988

Regional studies on women's access to credit in developing regions, analytical studies on women's property and tenure relationship with land as a key economic asset.

1989

Promotion of gender and development studies through publication Women's Studies and Development: Bridging the Gap (INSTRAW, Santo Domingo, 1989).

1990

THE PROCESS OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Review and analysis of mechanisms and policy guidelines for improving women's access to credit.

1991-1992

Gender analysis in INSTRAW's work programme reviewed and a work strategy on the concept empowerment of women defined. Further promotion of gender and development studies through preparation of Gender Training Portfolio (INSTRAW, Santo Domingo, 1993).

1993-1994

Overall concept of empowerment included in INSTRAW's work programme and development of the two-pronged programme on economic and political empowerment of women.

Gender impact analysis of credit included in the women and credit programme.

1995

Further exploration of the double dimension of women's empowerment as the means and the goal for the advancement of women and analysis of gender concepts for development planning purposes in publication Gender Concepts in Development Planning Basic Approach ISBN-92-1-127050-2, Sales No. E.96.III.C.1 (INSTRAW, Santo Domingo, 1995).

1996

Platform for Action reviewed and INSTRAW's work strategy redefined according to the critical areas of concern identified in Beijing, to include political participation and the girl child.

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long-term sustained solutions to be adopted and systematically applied by the people affected by such a situation, provided that they have the resources, the know-how and the possibility to take decisions that can be implemented into practical solutions. However the burden and perverse prolonged impact of poverty and of extreme poverty tend to eliminate people's ability to find sustainable solutions.

Thus, their condition becomes permanent with the risk of reaching the subculture of survival, a condition that, so sadly, so many millions have today.

Politicians and decision makers both in the public and private sectors, and at national and international levels, have a moral and ethical duty to help find solutions and provide some mechanisms, ways and means by which the societal structural problems leading to poverty and permitting extreme poverty could be corrected, hence facilitating lasting solutions to the exponential combined factor resulting from hunger and malnutrition; ignorance and illiteracy; lack of electricity, of clean water, and sanitation; and unemployment.

The alleviation and eradication of poverty, and particularly poverty affecting women's lives is one of the objectives of the United Nations Fourth Decade for

International Development, and therefore, a crucial issue for INSTRAW's Research and Training Programme.

Access to financial schemes and credit practices can constitute one possibility of acquiring products and services, as well as tools to increase capital and to produce wealth to a given system. Therefore, *Credit for Women* should be analyzed as containing solutions that present societal structures do not provide for the poor and for poor women in particular.

Power is defined as the ability and/or the capacity to act or to perform. Empowerment is defined as the capacity to exercise control. Economic empowerment should be defined as: the individual or collective capacity to solve matters pertaining to work and its cumulative value, to production, distribution and consumption of commodities, and to the output mathematically expressed as the first derivative of work with respect to time commonly measured in units of material wealth as part of individual, or household, or business, or national enterprise, permitting to solve adequately the necessities of life. Individual or collective empowerment is based essentially on: the access to, the ownerwhip of, and the

control over economic resources that leads to the attainment of another feature of power, which is the decision making process that will facilitate the political, legal and administrative mechanisms oriented to solve the economical and societal problems of any given society. Thus, facilitating and permitting economic growth and social development.

Nevertheless, access to credit, ownership of and control over financial resources are not simple concepts as such, and are even more complex as basic factors to permit full participation in the decision making process. Their meaning, rules and practices are very different for some groups of the economically formal sector. However, not all women (housewives and those with low salaries) under this category -formal sector- have the same facilities and possibilities. Poor women's access to, ownership of and control over financial and economic resources is a far more complex and difficult process, if not an impossible assumption, because poor people and poor women living in the so called "informal sector" do not have the capacity to make use of any of the "formal" political, institutional and financial schemes in order to have the economic empowerment necessary to influence the decision making process affecting their lives.

A considerable variety of credit schemes have been designed and some of them implemented to facilitate access to financial resources for the rural and the urban poor, among them women. In the last decade these poverty oriented lending schemes have been operating with varied degrees of success and efficiency, depending on the particular context and on the features each project has developed. Some of these programmes are internationally acknowledged as success stories in reaching the poor working in the informal sector. However, those living in the peripheral and marginal ones have no such access. The achievements of these credit programmes are limited, particularly in terms of the size of the population they have reached. The lack of working capital remains a major constraint for the poor to start up a business and generate an income, and this is particularly valid for poor women.

According to the conclusions and recommendations that emanated from the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, China) this approach will have to be refocussed in order to move ahead towards more specific issues in access

to credit, ownership of and control over resources that effectively can reach women, and an evaluation of the impact that credit has had on women who have received it. This will open-up new avenues for creative thinking, research and policy actions in the efforts to achieve equality and equity between women and men.

Are Women Learning Politics?*

Traditionally, most societies define "politics" as a male affair; with the result that women are detached from political issues, political institutions and structures. In addition, women continue to face numerous barriers hindering their participation in public life in general. This and other -actual or perceivedgender constraints have prevented them from participating in politics on an equal footing as men. Women have had less exposure to the public arena than men, therefore, community organizations, cooperatives, trade unions, political parties, private or public managerial positions, the Church, the military, are entities that have been to a large extent alien spheres of action for women.

Men have been 'practicing politics' since community life began, both in rural areas and in the cities. Early in history, men understood the need to regulate the use (and abuse) of their entitlements and economic endowment. They also understood the convenience of making decisions that affect the members of the community based on some type of 'collective agreement', while conditioning the degree and quality of the participation of its members. Throughout history, women were confined to their households and could deal, within limitations, with family affairs. Only as late as the turn of the nineteenth century did countries begin to recognize women's right to vote and be elected. The process of making these basic rights universal for (almost) all women in the world has continued for nearly one hundred years.

The economy in the public sphere has also traditionally been a male domain. Men were in control of the economy through the control of economic resources and the control of economic decisionmaking. Politics emerged not only as a necessary tool to rule the lives and interests of individuals and their community, but also to legitimize and protect men's economic entitlements and their access to and use of economic resources. As previously mentioned, during

^{*}Main Contributor: Florissa Abreu, INSTRAW

this time women dealt mostly with the family and the household economy, and their open involvement in economic aspects of life was marginal and subject to many gender restrictions that have been legitimized by males in society.

As women were formally excluded from economic life, they were also deprived of certain entitlements such as the right to own economic resources and endowments, that is, access to skills and abilities to manage such resources. A natural consequence to this economic exclusion was marginalization from political life as well. It can be said that politics is a process in which one learns by doing. In

this regard, men have been participating in the processes of politics for quite some time; women may not have had enough time and resources to catch-up with them in the public sphere.

However, despite the constraints women face to take part in politics, they are now steadily increasing their participation within political parties and mass organizations as well as in governmental elective and appointed posts. Following the rationale of the interlinkage between politics and economics, the explanation for this increase must be found in women's increased participation in economic life and economic activities, no matter how limited and

difficult this has been for women. The international women's movements in several countries played an important role in bringing women on the agenda of economic structures and institutions. This was mostly achieved through national organizations and institutions.

Women have been slowly gaining access to economic life and through this are gaining legitimacy for their participation in politics. Today, there is more and more support for women's participation in politics as it is becoming recognized that "the concept of democracy will only assume a true dynamic significance when political policies and national legislation are decided upon

IS WORKING WITH
GENDER ISSUES
THE SAME AS WORKING
WITH MEN
AND/OR WOMEN'S
CONSIDERATIONS?

Torking with women does not automatically mean that gender considerations are included. This is so because even though gender relations are always present, to take them into account requires a special interest in looking at them. In fact, much development work with women ignores such gender concerns as the overemphasis on women's reproductive and domestic roles and the "ghettoizing" of women in traditional jobs.

• Nor are gender relations necessarily taken into account when men become typists and women break through the so-called "glass ceiling"... Confusion over women/gender terminology is understandable, as it reflects the gradual conceptual shift from focus on women to a focus on gender that has not been without debate... Proponents of the gender focus maintain that discussions about women implicitly involve women, men and the relationships between them and that gender terminology has better prospects for influencing the mainstream. Others believe that the term women should be used because women have been ignored for too long, and that shifting to gender will take women off center stage.

• Both views have value and the answer lies not in *either-or* but in *and*. The concept of gender has proven essential for analytical purposes. But the terminology of women with its diverse descriptive modifiers remains useful.

Source: Gender Concepts in Development Planning: Basic Approach ISBN-92-1-127050-2, Sales No. E.96.III.C.1 (INSTRAW, Santo Domingo, 1995).

jointly by men and women with equitable regard for the interest and aptitudes of both halves of the population".¹ However, in many countries of the world women do not yet fully enjoy their political rights both in law and practice.

Another crucial element supporting the importance of women's involvement in politics refers to the concept of empowerment. The process of empowerment involves entitlement and access to economic resources (economic empowerment) and access to decision-making (political empowerment). These are two aspects of the same concept, although separate in terms of the means for achieving one or the other, and are reciprocally interdependent; one is not possible without the other. In order to pursue the empowerment of women as a means and a goal in itself for sustainable development, women need to be empowered both economically and politically.

As mentioned earlier, male members of humanity have had a long history of training in politics that will ensure equality, peace and sustainable development. Women's participation in politics has a much shorter duration in this century; some 40 years have

In any case, it is crucial to have more numbers of women in politics at all levels in political decision-making. It is necessary to arrive at the right number of women involved in politics in order to achieve an adequate critical mass. This would place women in a comfortable position to share power with men, thereby eliminating the tremendous pressure that women still have as a minority in the business of politics. Norway is one of the

few countries that has achieved this critical mass leading to policies and legislation which benefit women.

Of course, an "adequate critical mass" of women in politics and decision-making has implications that go beyond the mere quantitative aspect of more numbers of women in parliaments and congress. It means more women practicing politics in a different more holistic manner and influencing institutional and structural change for good governance. It also means practicing politics in line with the highest aspirations of achieving equality, peace and sustainable development. In other words, it means achieving gender-sensitivity in politics. However, for women to be able to have a positive impact on politics and decision making, they must be able to have equal footing with their male colleagues. This requires not only an increase in numbers of women, but also enhancing their abilities in leadership and decision making.

passed since a woman first became head of state or government through an electoral process (see chart). Interestingly, it was in a developing country, not in the industrialized North, that a woman was elected for the first time as head of state; this political breakthrough occurred in Southeast Asia. It is also remarkable that of the countries that have had women as presidents and/or prime ministers during the last few decades, the majority are from the developing regions, as indicated in the chart. This information could lead to a working hypothesis that argues that the more consolidated evolution of men's politics in the industrialized world has succeeded in restricting women's access to top echelons of political power. But there are other causes of this phenomena that need to be closely analysed.

^{1.} Inter-Parliamentary Union, Plan of Action. Paris, 1994.

WOMEN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OR STATES

regional distribution by first year in office

FRICA	ASIA & PACIFIC	LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN	WESTERN EUROPEAN 8 OTHER STATES
993-1995	1960-1965, 1970-1977, 1994	1974-1976	1979-1990
Sylvie Kinigi,	Sirimayo Bandaranaike,	Isabel Martínez de Perón,	Margaret Thatcher,
Prime Minister Burundi	Prime Minister*** Sri Lanka	President	Prime Minister United Kingdom
burunai	Sri Lanka	Argentina	Officed Kingdom
993-1994	1966-1977	1979-1980	1980-
Agathe Uwilingiyimana,	Indira Gandhi,	Lidia Gueiler,	Vigdis Finnbogadóttir,
Prime Minister	Prime Minister	President	President
Rwanda	India	Bolivia	Iceland
	1969-1974	1980-	1981-, 1986-89, 1990-
	Golda Meir,	Mary Eugenia Charles,	Gro Harlem Brundtland,
	Prime Minister	Prime Minister	Prime Minister
	Israel	Dominica	Norway
	1986-1992	1987-1986	1981-1985
	Corazon Aquino,	Maria Liberia Peters,	María de Lourdes Pintasila
	President	Prime Minister	Prime Minister
	Philippines*	Netherlands Antilles	Portugal
	1988-1990, 1993-1996	1990-	1982-1986
	Benazir Bhutto,	Violetta Barrios de Chamorro,	Milka Planinc,
	Prime Minister	President	President
	Pakistan	Nicaragua	Yugoslavia
	1991-	1991	1990-
	Khaleda Zia Rahman,		Mary Robinson
	Prime Minister	President	President
	Bangladesh	Haiti	Ireland
	1994-		1991-1992
	Chandrika Bandaranaike		Edith Cresson,
	Kumaratunga,		Prime Minister
	President**		France
	Sri Lanka		
			1000 1002
			1992-1993 Hanna Suchocka,
			Primer Minister
			Poland
			1002
			1993 Vim Campbell
			Kim Campbell, Prime Minister
			Canada
			1993-1996
			Tamsu Ciller,
			Prime Minister
			Turkey
Chart prepared by INSTR.	AW.		
	d by national constitution		



Environment-sustainability

The Role of Women in Environmental Development Issues

breakdown or breakthrough, we can allow our global environment to be devastated until it scarcely functions any longer as a habitat for humankind. Or we can accept that we can make peace with one another only by making peace with earth".1

The Rio Declaration, adopted by 172 participating governments, is a set of 27 principles whose goal is to establish a new and equitable global partnership through the creation of new levels of cooperation among states, key sectors of societies and individuals. Principle 20 states that:

"Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential for achieving sustainable development."

The UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) was an important event for women in that it achieved consensus on the crucial role of women in

Main contributor: Borjana Bulajic, INSTRAW

Evolution of Programme (1982-1996)

1982-1989

INSTRAW begins its work on women, water supply and sanitation. With UNICEF, assumes joint responsibility of the Secretariat for the Inter-Agency Task Force on Women and the UN International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (IDWSSD).

1986-1989

Training package on Women, Water Supply and Sanitation (prepared in cooperation with ILO/Turin Centre followed by national training seminars).

1989-1991

Environmental concerns expand to include energy. Training package on Women, New and Renewable Sources of Energy (NRSE) (prepared in cooperation with ILO/Turin Centre followed by training seminars).

1990

WOMEN, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Formulated a broader, more encompassing programme on Women, Environment and Sustainable Development. INSTRAW given lead role to coordinate, within UN system, activities on women and NRSE.

1991

Training package on Women, Water Supply and Sanitation revised and updated (in cooperation with former Department of Technical Cooperation for Development and ILO/Turin Centre followed by training seminars).

(Sound/slide presentation on Women, environment and sustainable development prepared in cooperation with ILO/Turin Centre.)

1992

INSTRAW designated by UN Steering Committee for Water Supply and Sanitation as lead agency on women, water supply and sanitation (Interregional Workshop on the Role of Women in Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development (Beijing, China) conducted in cooperation with former Department for Social and Economic Development).

1993

Training package on Women, Water Supply and Sanitation expanded with an additional modular unit on Women and Waste Management.

1995-1996

Training package on Women, Environmental Management and Sustainable Development (prepared in cooperation with International Training Centre of the ILO Turin). Training seminar at sub-regional level.

For more information on environment activities and materials, see section on UNCED, p. 39-40 and p. 65.

^{1.} Norman Myers *Ultimate Security* (W.W. Norton & Co., New York, 1993) p. 30, cited in W. Alton Jones Foundation, Inc. 1995 Annual Report, p. 6.

promoting sustainable development and recognized the need for strengthening women's expertise in the fields of environment and development as well as enhancing their legal and administrative capacities for decision-making and promoting managerial roles for women. Much must be done to bring this concept to concrete reality, and to elaborate on the closer relationships between economic growth, environment and development; between international trade and financial flows; and above all else, to direct greater attention to the crucial connection between environment, population and development; between women, environment and sustainable development.

Statistics tell the story. One billion people live on less than a dollar a day; one billion people do not have access to clean water: 1.7 billion people have no access to sanitation these figures together result in two to three million imminently avoidable infant deaths a year. 1.3 billion people, mostly in cities in the developing world, are breathing air below the standards considered acceptable by the World Health Organization. Seven hundred million people, mostly women and children, suffer from indoor air pollution due to biomass burning stoves that is equivalent to smoking

three packs of cigarettes a day. Hundreds of millions of poor farmers have difficulty maintaining the fertility of the soils from which they eke out a meager living. ("Valuing the Environment" by Ismail Serageldin and Andrew Steer in Proceedings of the First Annual International Conference on Environmentally Sustainable Development, held at the World Bank, Washington, D.C. 1993.)

We are aware of the trend that the poorest of the poor are women, since approximately one third of all households headed by women fall within this category. We are all aware of millions of women involved in the informal sector, vet their contribution to the economy is not adequately recognized. We are also aware that women are the main collectors of water and fuelwood, the main prerequisite for survival. Deforestation and desertification affect access to water, fuel, fodder thereby forcing women to walk further and further each day to obtain these essential items for survival. In many cases, the lack of food is not the sole cause of famine. Rather it is food shortage and lack of fuel with which to cook the food that create the most severe famine conditions. The issue is complex: it includes all aspects of women and the environment within the context of economic

development as well as the effects that global environmental conditions have upon their lives. It demands a holistic approach from development planners, policymakers, non-governmental organizations, women's organizations, the private sector and all other actors.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 46/167, "Women, environment, population and sustainable development", calls upon relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to coordinate and strengthen their efforts to contribute substantially to data collection and capacity-building in the field of women, environment, population activities and sustainable development. The Commission on the Status of Women in its resolution 36/6 of the 36th session, "Women and the Environment", urged governments "to adopt laws, policies and programmes to promote women's participation in the preservation of the environment..." Effective implementation of these mandates will depend on the active involvement of women in economic and political decision-making.

CHAPTER 24, "Global Action for Women Towards Sustainable and Equitable Development," (in Section IV, Strengthening the Role of Major Groups) is of particular concern for the integration of women, the environment and sustainable development into all efforts of the United Nations system and those of governmental and non-governmental organizations. Chapter 24 of Agenda 21 proposes a number of objectives:

i) Access to all levels of education and increased participation of women in all levels of decision making, particularly at the highest levels, are basic requirements for this goal. Governments must take the initiative in this regard to increase the proportion of women decision-makers and planners in both technical and managerial roles.

ii) Awareness of the needs and experiences of women are also highlighted. Thus the dissemination of gender related knowledge in educational policies and curricula must be pursued. The value of women's roles must be promoted. Chapter 24 targets 1995 for the set up of national, regional and international gender impact analyses to assess the impact of development and environmental programmes on women and to ensure that they both participate and benefit.

iii) Research and data collection should also focus on women's knowledge and experience in managing natural resources and on the impact of structural adjustment programmes and environmental degradation on women. Governments are also strongly encouraged to begin counting the value of unpaid work including "domestic" work when measuring the state of the economy.

iv) Health facilities including safe and effective woman

centered and managed reproductive health care and family planning services must be *strengthened* and made *more accessible*.

Comprehensive health care should include prenatal care and information on maternal and child health.

v) Programmes should be implemented to increase equal employment opportunities and equal pay for women. Such initiatives should be strengthened by providing day care facilities and parental leave. To reduce the heavy workload of women and girls, governments must establish affordable nurseries and kindergartens. In addition, national programmes need to be initiated to encourage men to share household tasks equally with women.

vi) To integrate women into sustainable development

WOMEN, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT Training Package omen, particularly those living in the rural areas of the developing countries, play a major role in managing natural resources - soil, water, forests, and energy. Women, as childbearers, family caregivers, consumers, food producers, fuel and wood gatherers and users, and as field, forest, factory land office workers, are primary beneficiaries, managers and often preservers of natural resources. Because of their daily tasks in the care of family and community, women in developing countries affect and are closely affected by their environment.

• It is poor women, more than any other vulnerable group, who have a special relationship with the environment by virtue of the daily tasks which they perform. Close daily contact makes women, more so than men, familiar with properties and uses of natural resources. Women are aware before any group when natural resource bases are changing or are being dangerously depleted. Women represent a valuable source of information about the local environment."

Source: UN INSTRAW/International Training Centre of the ILO. Women, Environmental Management and Sustainable Development - Training Package, INSTRAW/Ser. B/48, IBSN-92-1-1270006-5, Sales No. E.95.III.C.2 (Turin, Italy, 1995).

activities, the following steps inter alia are proposed. All countries should implement the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, which emphasize the need for women to participate in ecosystem management and control of environmental degradation.

vii) Environmentally safe
technologies should be
developed in consultation with
women and should promote
access to clean water, adequate
sanitation facilities and
efficient fuel supplies. Women's
crucial role in changing
unsustainable patterns of
consumption and production
must be promoted.

viii) Rural and urban
training and resource centres
are needed to disseminate
environmentally sound
technologies to all women.
Programmes are needed to
develop consumer awareness
and encourage investment in
environmentally sound
productive activities.

ix) In addition to fully involve women in decision making, another area that requires urgent action is that of averting the ongoing rapid environmental and economic degradation that affect the lives of women and children in rural areas that are hampered by drought, desertification, and deforestation or armed hostilities and natural disasters.

x) All governments are urged to ratify all relevant

conventions relating to the status of women and to transform these women's rights into legal measures to ensure the full and equal participation of women in development decisions. In addition, consideration should be given to issuing, by the year 2000, a strategy for eliminating constitutional, legal, administrative, cultural, behavioural, social and economic obstacles to the full participation of women in sustainable development and public life.

xi) To insure that women are full participants in and beneficiaries of these processes, by 1995 there should be national, regional and international mechanisms to assess the implementation of and impact of development and environmental programmes on women. Gender impact analysis should be an essential component in programmes.

xii) Paragraph 24.10 of Agenda 21 requests that "each body of the UN system review the number of women in senior policy-level and decision making posts and, where appropriate, adopt programmes to increase that number, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/ 17 (of 31 May 1991) on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat"

The subject of Women, Environment and Sustainable **Development** encompasses inter-alia, such varied areas as agriculture, water, energy and forestry. Moreover, it includes all aspects of women and the environment within the context of economic development as well as the effects that the global environment has upon their lives. Because of this complexity, today we are still in the process of transforming environment and sustainable development from a general concept into pragmatic actions at the local, national, regional and international levels.



Gender statistics

How Much Women Contribute to Production

espite a lack of standard methods and techniques for measuring and valuing unpaid production, indicators derived from recently conducted country studies are indeed striking. These confirm the substantive and significant work and performance of women in the economy. The most recent INSTRAW study reveals that of the total economic production in Nepal, about US\$4 million is unaccounted for, of this amount, 84 per cent unpaid work hours are performed by women. In more economically advanced countries such as Canada and Finland, 60 per cent of the 'invisible productive outputs' are contributed by women. Estimates based on available data have provided a dramatic total. The 1995 Human Development Report, has concluded that "\$16 trillion of global output is invisible, 11 trillion of which was produced by women". The impact of this statistical distortion is much more far reaching than gender bias. It can affect the validity of fundamental policy decisions on virtually every aspect of economic and social planning.

Evolution of Programme (1984-1996)

1984

Development of guidelines for improved utilization of existing data on women, and revision of concepts and methods applied in the current system of collecting, processing and analyzing data.

1985

GENDER STATISTICS AND INDICATORS

Development and implementation of a training programme on improving data on women and men for producers and users of data.

1986-1987

Understanding women's participation in and contribution to the informal sector through existing data.

1988-1989

Design of methodological approaches in compilation and analysis of statistical data on women in the informal sector.

1990-1991

Review and analysis of existing data on elderly women.

1992

Closing data gaps in the measurement and valuation of women's paid and unpaid contribution.

1993

Review and analysis of existing data on women's migration for research and policy.

1994

Development of new training materials and methodologies on the actual application of gender-specific statistics and indicators in policy designs, programme planning, implementation and monitoring.

1995-1996

Establishment of conceptual and methodological framework of measuring, valuing and integrating household production, of women and men, into economic indicators (through satellite accounts).

Main contributor: Corazon Narvaez, INSTRAW

Its range is wide, from transportation to nutrition services.

Comprehensive and accurate collection of the basic data becomes even more urgent and the question still remains: which methodology is appropriate to fully account for women's contribution to the economy, family and society? What constitutes invisible outputs? How can they be properly valued and reflected in national economic indicators? What are the policy implications? These indicators constitute a challenge to the research and training agenda. Much of the work that INSTRAW has done, particularly in the last five years, has highlighted the complexity of the task. Some of the conceptual and methodological breakthroughs achieved by INSTRAW since 1984 in collaboration with several international agencies in this area are but the first steps towards a more comprehensive understanding of women's economic contribution to the wealth of a nation. This was done by identifying, compiling and analyzing the available data from national sources in a consistent manner on a

comparative regional basis. The primary goal was to develop standards and guidelines for compiling statistics that will include all goods and services, marketable or non-marketable, paid or unpaid. The core requirement is to devise measurements that can be readily translated into internationally comparable terms which are roughly equivalent to or consistent with the conventional GDP values, but which are also flexible enough to adapt to widely differing national economies and cultures.

As a result of its research on "Measurement and Valuation of Unpaid Work" 1 INSTRAW initiated, in 1992, and defined the concept of and a framework for establishing "satellite accounts" on unpaid household production. A number of moot questions arose in this area which were indeed a challenge to the researchers, statisticians and economists. The most debatable issues relate to "setting the boundary for the definition of satellite accounts on unpaid household production". Should it include activities such as fetching water, collection of fuelwood, and secondary food processing? These have all been included within the production boundary of the revised System. of National Accounts (SNA), and are not reflected in the

calculation of GDP. Why? Because there has been a lack of data and dearth of techniques with which to count them or account for them. On the other hand, should the boundary be limited only to unpaid household activities which are, by definition and practice, totally excluded from the SNA? Both points of views are directly addressing the invisibility of women's contribution to national production, as those traditional activities are generally performed by women. If a more comprehensive definition of production were to be applied, both options will have to be counted, even though the approaches may initially differ.

The initial INSTRAW recommendations in "Measurement and Valuation of Unpaid Contribution" outlined a comprehensive listing of activities to be included in the proposed satellite SNA categories. These are household maintenance activities including meal preparation, housecleaning, simple repairing services, shopping, caring for children, elderly and the sick, and related travel; personal development activities such as education, skills development and related travel; and volunteer community work. Resource and time constraints, however, limited this initial

^{1.} Measurement and Valuation of Unpaid Contribution: Accounting through Time and Output ISBN No. 92-1-127007-3 Sales No. E.95.III.C.3 (INSTRAW, Santo Domingo, 1995).

feasibility study to a measurement of household maintenance activities only. For example, volunteer community work and education (considered an investment), also formed part of the proposed satellite accounts, and were included in the calculations of the estimated value of unpaid work in Canada.

Moreover, the INSTRAW studies used output or productbased calculations - a method chosen in order to determine the real economic contributions of household services without "double counting" other products or services. The process begins with traditional time use studies, which measure input in terms of labour, and could readily be disaggregated by gender. The final outputs, however, are the result of a series of different activities. For instance, a meal is the result of producing, gathering or buying raw unprocessed foods, cleaning, cutting, cooking and washing the dishes. The product-based method used by the INSTRAW researchers, combined conventional time-use

The methodology is considered to be valid although some problems inevitably arose which indicate certain refinements that need to be made in the design of future studies. Many of the difficulties were generic. Measuring child care, for example, involves a number of other social issues which must be taken into consideration. Different weights must be given to the relative importance of the hours spent actively tending the child feeding, bathing, telling stories, and a host of other activities as opposed to the hours when the child is sleeping but is still the caregiver's responsibility; difficulties were also faced in estimating a GDP measurement for household services for which there are often no market equivalents, especially in developing countries such as Nepal. Calculating the household's meal preparation also requires auxiliary data on comparable prices of meals prepared outside the home, type of meals eaten (snack, full lunch, dinner) and time of preparation. Although these issues and problems appear to be basic, they are more

difficult to resolve in most developing countries due to the unavailability of data. To compensate for these problems, INSTRAW tried to develop a list of activities and corresponding outputs, as detailed as possible. Without many other similarly detailed adjustments for other activities, establishing comparable statistical standards on a nation-wide basis will be problematic.

The implications of quantifying and reflecting women's social and economic contribution into statistics and indicators are multifarious and they should not be only viewed from the economic (monetary) perspective but rather in a holistic effective way to improve the quality of life of the family, particularly of women.

Results of the INSTRAW study in Nepal, Canada and Finland have provided indications of the magnitude and proportionate value of women's work. It is yet another curtain-raiser. Much of women's work still remains undervalued and invisible in official statistics and indicators. In Nepal, it was estimated that counting the value generated by unpaid household production is twice the value of the regular GDP. Regular GDP in Nepal includes agricultural production, trade and commerce, service and construction. Part of household

accounting with household expenditures and other production data collected through a small scale survey in Canada, Finland and Nepal.²

^{2.} The selection of these three countries was primarily based on 1) availability and quality of time-use and other collateral data collected at the national level [from developed and developing countries]; 2) accessibility to these data; and 3) availability of local expertise who could carry out the study.

production which should enter GDP as per the 1993 revised SNA manual remain unaccounted for in the recorded GDP in Nepal. These include subsistence economic activities such as fuel/fodder collection, fetching water, house repair and construction, hunting and food processing. When valued these activities represent a significant part of the total production in Nepal in which women's contribution is highly visible. Moreover, whereas, women contribute only 27 per cent to

the regular GDP, more than 58 per cent of the total value of subsistence economic production (i.e. fuel/fodder collection, fetching water, house repair and construction for self use, hunting, gathering and food processing) is contributed by women. Furthermore, almost all production related to meal preparation, housekeeping, clothing care, caring for children and elderly people (93 per cent) was done by women. When all these measurable products or outputs are accounted for in the

expanded GDP, women's contribution to the total economic production goes up to 63 per cent. Although the magnitude and type of unpaid household production in more economically advanced countries like Canada and Finland may differ from that of Nepal, the general proclivity in both scenarios seems to follow a similar pattern.

The gender division of unpaid production runs exactly counter to that of paid production in Canada and

WOMEN AND SYSTEM OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS (SNA) f policy makers can see only one side of the economy, by viewing the economy with one eye covered, their decision-making cannot help but suffer. Currently, they see clearly (?) the market economy. In contrast, their vision of the nonmarket economy is limited or obscured by existing theory and practice since a portion of non-market economy —domestic and personal services produced by members of households for consumption by themselves or other members of the same household (1993 SNA, 6.84, p. 133)— is not included within the production boundary of the system. This activity must also be quantified and observed if policy makers are to have a full view of all productive activity.

• In particular, women are believed to provide the majority of non-SNA activity, that is activity in the production of goods and services for one's own or conceptual consumption and unpaid community service. Considering only domestic activities, an analysis of evaluations in unpaid work in developing countries concluded that women's contribution ranged from two-and-a-half times to fourteen times that of men (Goldschmidt-Clermont, 1987b).

•Evidence from some case studies suggests, for example, that street food production and its selling, generally undertaken by women, accounts for a very significant part of food for the poorer sections of urban areas in developing countries. Currently meal preparation falls outside the SNA unless it is sold. However, if a portion of such production—the portion sold—is included in the SNA while the unsold, self consumed portion is not, a misleading picture of production and changes in it will be provided. Similarly, the contributions of women's domestic work—including caring for the elderly and the young and "maintenance" of members of the household engaged in market sector activity—remain unaccounted for but constitute a significant contribution to productive work. Such work would otherwise need to be provided by purchase from the private sector or through public provision.

Source: Measurement and valuation of unpaid contribution: Accounting through time and output ISBN No. 92-1-127007-3 Sales No. E.95.III.C.3 (INSTRAW, Santo Domingo, 1995)

Finland. While in Canada, males account for 63 per cent of market GDP, females account for 61 per cent of unpaid production. Similarly, in Finland, while males account for 59 per cent of market GDP, females account for 59 per cent of unpaid production. However, due to the large volume of unpaid production, the contribution of women to the total (paid and unpaid) production considerably increased when compared to their estimated contribution to the regular GDP. Women were reported to contribute only 37 and 41 per cent to the regular GDP of Canada and Finland, respectively. However, these estimates rose to 44 and 48 per cent when unpaid production was taken into account.

The implications of the above data could revolutionize policy-making and planning and ultimately women's social status. Recognizing the value of unpaid work is acknowledging the fact that the total economy is a two-legged entity - fueled and maintained by complementary inputs from both the market and the household sectors. While men dominate the market sector, women maintain the larger part of the household sector. These results taken together, points out that women contribute as much labour as (if not more) than men and, therefore, are entitled to an equal share of the

total productive outputs or resources of a nation. Equitable distribution of resources does not imply rewarding women with material assets or properties nor is it limited to providing them with social benefits to alleviate their multiple burdens. What is necessary is empowering women through equal access to education and training, by improving and enhancing their skills and providing them with credit facilities that will allow them to compete equally with men in the market sector. Policies that advocate equal sharing of domestic work and other household responsibilities as advocated in the international standards could be transformed into practice if economic and social values are assigned to women's household activities

INSTRAW maintains its commitment to finding acceptable methods and guidelines for the full recognition of women's contribution, both paid and unpaid, to society as a mechanism towards achieving gender equality. As mentioned earlier, the results of INSTRAW's preliminary work have been published in a monograph Measurement and Valuation of Unpaid Contribution: Accounting through Time and Output (1995). The sequel to the study, Valuation of Household

Production and the Satellite Accounts ISBN-92-1-127053-7, Sales No. E.96.III.C.4 (INSTRAW, Santo Domingo, 1996) contains data and a presentation of satellite accounts for Nepal, Canada and Finland derived from an empirical application of the methods and techniques developed earlier by INSTRAW.

SPECIAL FOCUS Women and habitat II

Why Beijing is on the Road to Istanbul?

he Road to Istanbul must pass through Beijing", said Dr. Wally N'Dow, Secretary-General of the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). "The Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing is about equality, development and peace. Habitat II, held in Istanbul in June 1996, is about sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world. The two Conferences are separate events on the same continuum."1

"We waved no magic wand during those two weeks. After we left Istanbul, nearly a billion people were still homeless or living in inadequate and dangerous shelter, exploding cities were still ill-prepared for the growing numbers inundating them, the urban ills of our day —poverty, crime, drugs, disaffected youth, polluted air and water— were not suddenly cured, and stagnant rural areas still offered little hope for tomorrow.

But the Istanbul Conference spoke with one voice to say loudly and clearly, 'Enough!' No. Change will not happen overnight. It will take time, agonizing time, but the process—the Habitat Process—has begun. For those who decry United Nations Conferences, Istanbul—even as Rio and sustainable development,

Cairo and population, Beijing and the empowerment of women, and all the other United Nations conferences that made up the remarkable continuum of the 1990s—offered eloquent testimony that they can and do play a vital part in building and strengthening the entire international system."²

• Women in Megacities

uman settlements are where organized human activity takes place. Human settlements are not simply housing or the physical structure of a city, town or village, but an integrated system of all human activities residence, work, education, health, culture, leisure. Human settlements provide the basis for society's ability to function, grow and develop. Therefore, investment into housing and human settlement is directly linked to the overall objectives of economic and social development. Within this framework, women, as the primary users and providers of the infrastructural facilities within a settlement, should be

seen as the main agents of change for human settlement development.

One of the most crucial issues that must be dealt with in the area of human settlements is the urbanization process which is occurring throughout the world at an accelerating rate. By the year 2010, the urban population of the world will exceed 4000 million, a rise of 70 per cent from the 1990 total of 2390 million. The urban populations of developing countries will double, from 1500 million to 3000 million by 2010. This means that in that year, significantly more than half the world's population will be city dwellers.

Megacities will continue to grow. By the year 2000, there will be 24 cities with populations exceeding 10 million. Sixteen of

^{1.} United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (UNCHS) Press Release HAB/95/39, Istanbul, 28 August 1995.

^{2.} United Nations: Excerpts from the Statement by Dr. Wally N'Dow, Secretary-General of the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) to the High-Level Meeting of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), New York, 2 July 1996.

Main contributor: Borjana Bulajic, INSTRAW

LARGEST URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS

(in millions)

1 9	9 5	2 0 1 5	
CITY	POPULATION	CITY	POPULATION
Tokyo, Japan	26.8	Tokyo, Japan	28.7
Sao Paulo, Brazil	16.4	Bombay, India	27.4
New York, USA	16.3	Lagos, Nigeria	24.4
Mexico City, Mexico	15.6	Shanghai, China	23.4
Bombay, India	15.1	Jakarta, Indonesia	21.2
Shanghai, China	15.1	Sao Paulo, Brazil	20.8
Los Angeles, USA	12.4	Karachi, Pakistan	. 20.6
Beijing, China	12.4	Beijing, China	19.4
Calcutta, India	11.7	Dhaka, Bangladesh	19.0
Seoul, South Korea	11.6	Mexico City, Mexico	18.8

Source: United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): Global Report on Human Settlements 1995 UNCHS, Geneva.

these cities will be in developing countries. The fastest growth will be in the poorest areas. By the end of this decade, 17 of the world's 25 mega-cities with populations exceeding 10 million will be in developing countries.

The box summarizes the global trends and projections of such mega cities.

Settlements for the poor in urban areas however, lack many essential services. Much of the housing in both the rural and the peri-urban areas of developing countries lacks the most basic requirements for health. More than 2000 million people live in life-threatening and health-threatening housing and living environments¹ Most of the housing is

overcrowded; space is nearly always at a premium, and many families live in one-room shelters or single rooms in tenements. Such overcrowding encourages the spread of acute respiratory infections, tuberculosis, meningitis, and intestinal parasites. The risk of infection, particularly from pathogens associated with excreta, is high. Most illegal settlements have one rudimentary water supply system and no sewers or drains. An estimated 30-50% of the solid wastes generated in urban areas in developing countries is left uncollected.

In urban areas, and particularly peri-urban areas, a high proportion of housing are illegal settlements built of flammable materials; many dwellings are built on land prone to flooding, on steep hillsides or otherwise dangerous sites. Fear of eviction is one constant worry for most tenants and inhabitants of these settlements. One result of this status is negligence on the part of both governments and dwellers with regard to the preservation of and improvements in the environment and infrastructure and safety conditions.

For the majority of the poor in developing countries —most of which are women— the challenge is still one of survival and the satisfaction of the basic needs for their families. They still have to struggle for a bare minimum income, for food, for shelter and employment. As the primary care givers of children, home and family, women are most directly affected by the place in which they live. Women are faced with a

^{1.} World Health Organization (WHO), Report of the WHO Commission on Health and Environment, Summary. WHO/EHE/ 92.1, 1992.

number of hardships in both poor urban and rural settlements. These include:

- lack of social services
- unsanitary conditions
- unsafe working environments
- inadequate or inappropriate housing

Unsafe working conditions: For a large number of women, the home is also their workplace. Their daily tasks cooking, washing, childcare, and economically productive work — confine them to the home environs. In some societies, women must remain inside most of the time. Yet the internal environment of the home is often dangerous as fumes from open wood and charcoal fire damage eyes and lungs. World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that more deaths are caused by respiratory diseases from the inhalation of smoke from cooking and heating fires than from diarrhoeal diseases.

Outside of the home, in the workplace, conditions are often no better. Increasingly, industries are hiring women and paying them much less than what men would receive. These women have few rights, and have little power to demand less hazardous working environments. Often they work with toxic chemicals, or damage their eyesight performing meticulous tasks with poor lighting. The hours

are long and they rarely receive overtime. Where employers provide living quarters, women live in cramped dormitories, sharing beds in tiny rooms. Worldwide, women workers are among the lowest paid and least organized into unions, which makes them vulnerable to many forms of exploitation thus leaving them unable to secure a better living for themselves and their children.

Shelter is now recognized as a basic need. Worldwide more and more local housing organizations are also surfacing, encouraging community participation and awareness of their needs for legal access to land, building materials, credit and employment to sustain investment in better housing. In countries such as Namibia and South Africa, where under the apartheid system shelter for the non-white populations was simply not even considered a right, it has become a priority for national development policies and programmes.

Women, however, are often excluded from full participation in such housing programmes around the world. With little or no formal training, women have a more difficult time entering the sphere of paid employment and thereby taking part in housing programmes since men dominate the modern approach to shelter planning and construction.

House designs and plot sizes rarely consider the fact that many women will want to use their homes as workshops or as shops to sell goods - indeed such enterprises are often forbidden on low-income housing projects.

Strategies for the future

The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT) has strongly promoted the role of women in its Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000. This Strategy states that women as incomeearners, home-makers and heads of household, and women's organizations fulfil a crucial role as contributors to the solution of human settlements problems which should be fully recognized and reflected in equal participation of women in the elaboration of housing policies, programmes and projects. Likewise, the specific interests and capabilities of women should be adequately represented in human settlements policy formulation and at all levels of government mechanisms for the implementation of housing policies, programmes and projects.

Planning cities with gender sensitivity

Planning needs to include women as well as men if

human settlements are to be responsive to women's perspectives on the use and function of private and communal living and working space. Coordination between the agencies which provide water, sanitation, wasterecycling, health, childcare and education needs to be undertaken to ensure that the burden of domestic chores is lessened. Some measures to lessen this burden include: ensuring the convenient location of schools, healthcare centres, water pipes and waste collection sites and access to transport and markets.

The design of human settlements needs to take into account the various economic. social and cultural activities of both women and men as well as the different needs they have for space, privacy, security and basic services. For example, women who engage in incomegenerating activities within the home need space to combine domestic tasks with their childcare responsibilities. Communal spaces for childminding is also a major housing concern of women as is space for socializing with other women.

Enough knowledge and resources exist in most developing countries to improve housing and basic services at a relatively low cost. New participatory partnerships between local

authorities, non-governmental organizations, and community organizations, which include such groups in the decisionmaking process, have shown this to be true and have proved cost-effective. Institutional frameworks at national and local levels are needed to encourage and support partnerships between the government and community organizations and women's groups which can increase women's participation in housing programmes. However, care must be taken that the resulting activities are practical and can be easily implemented by the communities so as not to constitute an additional burden on women.

Worldwide, there are many examples of how women have taken on a number of active roles in the improvement of their settlement and living conditions often in partnership with the government. The publication produced in anticipation of the Global Assembly on Women and the Environment (Miami, 1991) and Success Stories of Women and the Environment (Dankelman & Davidson, 1988) provide some case studies of women actively involved in improving their home environment or in becoming involved in the construction of human settlements. These are:

In Indonesia

• basic housing in rural areas is financed by the government while the women finance improvements such as bathrooms and latrines.

In Panama

• with the support of the Ministry of Housing, poor women (half of them single parents) aimed to construct 100 homes. They received land, building materials, training and a modest monthly wage.

In Kenya

• the Mabate Women's Group is a self-help building cooperative which received help from the Kenyan Women's Finance Trust to start up a loan-guarantee scheme to help women finance shelter improvements.

In Jamaica

• the Women's Constructive Collective (WCC) was formed to train women in masonry and carpentry to meet a high demand for trade workers in the construction industry. To place these women in jobs, the WCC developed a strategy in which the workers would work without pay for a trial period. After the trial periods women were given permanent positions and many received further training and were promoted to other positions. WCC demonstrated that mutual support among local women can open up opportunities for women to work in a male-dominated industry.

• Women and Human Settlements in Conflict Zones

ound table on "Women and Human Settlements in Conflict Zones" jointly organized by INSTRAW and Habitat and held on 11 June 1996 at Habitat II.

The right to adequate habitat is a fundamental human right. The definition of the right to adequate habitat or adequate housing, which is the most common linguistic formulation, goes far beyond merely everyone's right to four walls and a roof over one's head. Under international law and national legislation habitat rights include security of tenure (protection from forced eviction from lands or dwellings), access to land, housing affordability and provision of housing credit, popular participation and control over housing resources, guarantees against any form of discrimination, harassment or abuse in the housing sector, housing resources worthy the term "adequate", access to public services such as potable drinking water, sewage disposal, drainage, electricity,

heating or cooling (when necessary), infrastructure, roads, public spaces and emergency services and specific housing rights entitlement of traditionally excluded groups, such as women, migrant workers, the disabled or ill and ethnic minorities.1 This basic human aspiration, however, has become unattainable for a growing number of the world's

Among the structural causes of the global habitat crisis, economic disparity and armed conflict have been identified by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities as two of the 12 most important ones.2 As we approach the 21st century, there seems to be a rise in the global denial of the right to habitat due to these causes. The poorest sectors of society, that is, the social group already disproportionately denied other rights related to an adequate standard of living, are the most frequent victims of this denial of socio-economic opportunities. Women constitute more than 70 per cent of the world's poor.

At the international and national levels, relatively scarce coverage has been given to the impacts conflicts have on

women's habitat. The United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), therefore, presented an excellent opportunity to raise awareness and to identify policy-oriented research priorities on the situation of women whose habitat have been dramatically changed due to human-made conflicts and disaster.

INSTRAW and Habitat jointly organized a Round table on Women and Human Settlements in Conflict Zones (11 June 1996, Habitat II) at Istanbul. The panelists included women from a broad range of professions: academics, politicians, representatives from grass roots organizations and United Nations agencies, including INSTRAW, UNCHS and UNWRA. The panelists' perspectives and thematic approaches were coloured by their own experiences from conflict situations, including those taking place in Afghanistan, Burundi, Colombia, Palestine, Rwanda, South Africa, Turkey, and former Yugoslavia.

The panelists discussed how the concept and nature of conflict have changed as we approach the 21st century and how the impacts of conflict on women's habitat must be

2. UN document E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/

15, paras. 21-57.

Main contributor: Eva Tuft, INSTRAW 1. UN document E/CN.4/Sub2/1992/ 15, Annex, paras. 1-12; Scott Leckie, "The Right to Housing" in Eide, Krause and Rosas (eds.) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers Group, 1995, p. 108.

understood in light of these changing and complex dimensions of conflict. Despite conflicts' different characters, they all seem to have a common denominator: women and their children constitute the vast majority of their victims and it is an undeniable fact that conflicts increase women's vulnerability. The panelists challenged, nevertheless, the common wisdom which sees women as vulnerable by nature. Women are rather made vulnerable by a complex web of discriminatory practices in society and they are often made to conform to cultural norms which restrict them from developing their full physical, mental and spiritual potential. Women in a conflict situation must not only confront these practices, they have also become specific targets of war strategies.

The need to analyze conflicts from a gender perspective was central to the debates of the Round table. Participants stressed that conflicts rarely change gender relations at a fundamental level, but simply rearrange them. Experience shows, however, that this rearrangement might provide women more space for manoeuvre in situations of conflict. As a result more and stronger women's organizations emerge, which means empowerment through collective organization, common

purpose and common identity. This kind of empowerment is closely linked to individual empowerment based on self-acceptance and self-respect.

Individual empowerment translates into acceptance of and respect for others, which is crucial in conflict resolution.

deriving from it" at this

Symposium held during the

• Living Longer... Living Better: A Symposium

Ageing: a chronological process, social and economic questions deriving from it*

The Symposium organized by the American Association of Retired Persons on 6 June 1996 at the Habitat II Conference, Istanbul, Turkey, discussed the quality of the lives of older persons in the years to come particularly because most governments have not planned for the emerging older populations. INSTRAW has addressed this issue through its programme on statistics and indicators which aims to more adequately reflect the socioeconomic situation of older women in order to result in more positive development policy action.

The Acting Director of INSTRAW was one of the main speakers and presented the paper entitled "Ageing a chronological process, social and economic questions included in their communities' development process to help provide a history of the past. As world forces beyond our control increase, such as wars and occupation, financial and economic reconstruction, there is a tendency to totally replace existing structures without examining the reasons for those structures. By involving older people in the development process, and taking advantage of the cultural and traditional patterns of life that already exist, decisions can be averted that will inevitably lead to failures. It is important to

Habitat II Conference in Istanbul, Turkey. Other speakers at the event included Srdan Mrkic, United Nations Statistical Office; Honorable Jaime Ravinet de Fuente, Mayor of Santiago, Chile; Margaret Dixon, President, American Association of Retired Persons; and Alicia Gentolia Murphy, Adviser to Coalition of Services to the Elderly, Philippines.

Older people must be

^{*} Editor's note: This article is extracted from the paper "Ageing: a chronological process, social and economic questions deriving from it" prepared by Martha Dueñas Loza, Acting Director of INSTRAW.

maintain cultural and traditional patterns of life. The creation of "hybrid societies" where there is no reference to the past, provides little hope for the future. There are valuable lessons to be learned from the past.

At the same time that older persons maintain and transmit their cultural heritage to future generations, they need to learn more about themselves and their role in the present. How can an older person influence or impact the environment? What responsibilities do older persons have for their own personal health? Rather than responding to, and internalizing, the stereotypes of ageing that are set by their society, older persons need to value themselves and to project their own image of pride, respect and contributions. Older persons worldwide must organize and emphasize the crucial role they play in their families, communities, and societies.

The challenge will be to find ways to involve older persons in the development process and set up the mechanisms that will allow them to participate in policymaking, and have access to services, income-generating activities and programme implementation.

The INSTRAW Acting Director made several recommendations addressing policy and programmatic questions, that were adopted by the Symposium and presented to the Plenary of HABITAT Conference.

- that planners, governments, NGOs and financial institutions begin now to factor the trends of population growth into their considerations in order to avert a crisis in the future when population change becomes a reality;
- that communities design housing and develop guidelines for service delivery, in preparation for the forecasted ageing population. Such design and availability should be suitable for both the young —who will within the next 40 years be the future old— and those in their middle years —who will within the next 20 years approach old age;
- that a worldwide set of minimum standards for the delivery of social services for older people; such as health services, housing accommodations, social insurance/pensions, be developed;
- that older persons' purchase of energy, food, safe water, security, transportation be analyzed to ascertain the benefit -not only to the individual- but also the economic health of the society;
- that the contributions of women and older persons that are made beyond the time of a

person's "economically active" years be included in measuring the national economy;

- that volunteerism be developed as a worldwide concept to offer a structure for older persons to contribute their acquired lifelong expertise to people and their communities in need. The value of volunteer work needs to be better known, measured, and included as part of the national economy;
- that mutually beneficial, low-cost intergenerational programmes involving older persons and youth be developed to offer a point of contact, giving help, providing information resources, and offering emotional support;
- that before implementing their own programmes, policymakers, local authorities and NGOs in developing countries and least-developed countries should inform themselves of the successes and the failures of programmes and practices which developed countries have instituted to provide for their older population. Lessons can be learned from both successes and failures;
- that local authorities educate their older citizens as to the organization of services within their communities and how to participate in the planning process within their local governments. Older persons need to know the

system, and be able to work within it, in order to improve it;

- that older persons involve themselves in a process to educate local authorities, policymakers, health service professionals, and caregivers about the changing daily life patterns of older persons residing in their communities, so that relevant decisions will be made;
- that attention be given to the security of older women in rural areas. Older women who have been left behind in rural areas during the urbanization process are vulnerable to the unrest and resulting violence caused by shifting economics, infrastructures and urbanization. In order to support themselves and frequently their grandchildren, they need security so that they can access basic services such as water, wood or fuel for cooking and sanitation; and
- that attention be given to the security of older persons who are victims of natural disasters or civil strife, who are now homeless and live as refugees and beggars because they have no homes or families to return to.

OLDER WOMEN and the Family Structure

The increase in life expectancy and decline infertility have given rise to a more vertical family structure —three, four and even five generations alive at the same time but with fewer members per generation.

This has a direct impact on the lives of older women, their families and their economic and social support. To track this trend, INSTRAW is concerned with indicators and data on older women and their needs, both in the developed and developing world.

This demographic trend has three connotations directly applicable to care-giving. First, the middle generation in the family may be weighed down in attending to the needs of multiple dependents of other generations. Second, family members may spend a major portion of their adult life with surviving parents and grandparents. Third, a significant proportion of those involved in the care of older parents are themselves aged.

Source: INSTRAW Report, (INSTRAW, Santo Domingo, 1993).

NETWORKING INSTRAW's mode of operation

NGO Statement¹ on Women and Habitat

Human settlements development must be a major concern at the Fourth World Conference on Women because the development maintenance of our human habitat is an essential part of the struggle for equality, development and peace. Whatever else they do, women operate within the subsistence economy, both in the urban and rural contexts, especially in the developing countries of the world. In these countries, but also in the developed countries, the daily struggle to eke out an existence for their families is becoming increasingly difficult. The lack of humanly adequate housing and infrastructure - especially safe water, adequate sewerage, schools, health and child-care facilities, economically feasible and timely transport, street illumination, etc., make women's roles more burdensome and often dangerous.

Housing is a basic human right, which is, however, not adequately recognized or enforced. Residential struggles are more and more prevalent and women are at the forefront. Women have new leadership roles both in rural and urban human settlements, but these roles are not sufficiently recognized. Massive evictions are still quite prevalent in many countries and it is the women and children

who are most affected. Destruction of communities, for any reason is inhumane, socially and economically counterproductive, and is a practice that must be brought to an end. This is the meaning of resolution 14/6 of the 14th session of the UN Commission on Human Settlements of 1993.

Even though women are active human settlements managers, they are often discriminated against when it comes to access to and control over land and property. Not so much laws but customs and traditions prevent women from inheriting and controlling land and buildings on an equal basis with men.

Women's equal rights in this respect must be treated as fundamental human rights.

In the last two decades, women have suffered even more because of the prevailing model of economic growth. People centered development is needed. Women, as well as men, must gain control over the decisions which affect their living and working environment.

The fact that women are not equitably involved in the decision making of the design of the home, the choice of the area to live in, the planning and development of the neighbourhood and even more importantly - the planning, development, and maintenance of our villages, towns and cities - makes the world further removed from achieving the right kind of sustainable development for its families and communities.

Human Settlements Policies must be based on priorities coming from the community level, where women are active organizers. Policies must be based on community development.

NGO Activities

UNITED NATIONS NON-GOVERNMENTAL LIAISON SERVICE

In support of the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) organized a number of NGO briefings and consultations which brought together UN organizations and women's activists. Specific focus of the work was on enhancing the involvement of women's organizations from Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. To translate the implementation of the Platform for Action of the Conference into action, NGLS organized two subregional meetings in the Baltic states and in the Russian Federation, involving NGOs, government representatives and UN organizations.

INSTITUTE OF ARAB-AMERICAN WOMEN

The Institute of Arab-American Women for Research and Development held a three-day conference entitled "After Beijing: The Empowerment of Women for the Year 2000" in New York (12-14 January 1996). Discussions took place around the following themes: "Promoting Equality Between Men and Women in the Sharing of Political and Economic Power and Decision-Making at All Levels"; "Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of Women"; and "Stereotyping of Women and Promotion of Women's Advancement Through

^{1.} Joint statement of HIC (Habitat International Coalition): Women & Shelter Network, ICW (International Council of Women), GROOTS (Grassroots Organizations Operating Together for Sisterhood), and UNCHS (HABITAT) Women and Human Settlements Development Programme for the UN Fourth World Conference on Women.

All Communication Systems Including Arts and Media".

The Acting Director of INSTRAW addressed the Conference on "INSTRAW's Strategies for Women After the Year 2000". This is the third conference that the organization has held on women and leadership roles. Previous conferences were entitled "Advancement of Women" (1994) and "Contributions of Women to Development, Democracy and Peace" (1995).

The Institute of Arab-American Women Inc. (for Research and Development) is a non-profit organization established for the purpose of supporting Arab and Arab-American women's development and advancement both in the United States and in the Middle East and North Africa. Its mandates call for, inter alia, the undertaking of research and studies on the status of women, supporting their advancement; and establishing relations with, institutions, groups and associations formed for the purposes of enhancing opportunities for women.

For more information, contact: Institute of Arab-American Women, Inc. (for Research and Development), Rajaa Mukaddam, Founder-President, P.O. Box 4055, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163, U.S.A. Tel/Fax: (718) 601-2046.

ONE YEAR AFTER "BEIIING" MEETINGS

Twenty two Arab countries were invited to the "One Year After Beijing" meetings in Amman, Jordan in September, 1996. Both an official government meeting and an NGO forum were held to develop regional plans of action.

Additionally, each country continues to work on implementing the Platform for Action at the national level.

For more information, contact: Salwa Nasser, Coordinator for NGOs, Jordanian National Committee for Women, Amman, Jordan. Fax: (962-6) 82-73-50.

ASIAN WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Asian Women's Human Rights Council (AWHRC) has decided to transfer the AWHRC Regional Secretariat from Manila, Philippines to Bangalore, India. The change comes from an earlier decision to rotate the hosting of the Regional Secretariat every three to five years. AWHRC has named poet and human rights activist Corinne Kumar of India as Regional Secretariat Coordinator, with Madhu Bushan as Coordinator-India Office, and Nelia Sancho as Coordinator-Manila Office.

For further information, contact: Corinne Kumar at AWHRC Regional Secretariat, 2124 1st A Cross, #16 Main H.A.L.H. Stage, Bangalore 560008, India. Fax(91-80) 527-8628. For AWHRC-Manila Office, contact: Nelia Sancho at P.O. Box 1013, Citimali, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines. Fax: (63-2) 924-6381. E-mail:<AWHRC@phil.gn.apc.org>

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

Over its 77 years of existence and by virtue of its Consultative Status with ECOSOC, Category I, Zonta International has cooperated with United Nations organizations such as INSTRAW, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNRWA on several aspects which support executive women in 66 countries. During the last substantive session of ECOSOC (26-June-26 July 1996), Zonta presented its

programme goals for 1996-1998 which includes participation on specially-designated days of the United Nations, implementation of the recommendations that emanated from the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW), and preserving its goal to remain "an international organization addressing global concerns and issues with a single voice and a combined effort".

Zonta's priorities concur with those of the FWCW, pertinent to inequalities in education and training, violence against women, inequalities and inadequacies in access to health services, the advancement of women, women's rights, discrimination against the girl child and children's and youth's education.

Taken from oral statement submitted by Zonta International at the ECOSOC (New York, 26 June to 26 July, 1996).

WOMEN'S WORLD SUMMIT FOUNDATION FIRST GENEVA SUMMIT FOR WOMEN'S CREATIVITY IN RURAL LIFE

Women's World Summit Foundation has taken the initiative to hold an annual Geneva Summit during which the "Prize for women's creativity in rural life" is awarded to some 30 most deserving prize winners from all regions of the world. The idea behind this Prize was born in 1994 and gained spectacular momentum during the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), where H.M. Queen Fabiola wished to support this initiative by personally attending the awardgiving ceremony there. The aim of the Foundation is to empower rural women by awarding prizes (US\$500 each) to their creative capacity and innovations in their daily life. For the 1996 award, the Foundation has received over 180 nominations from the five continents from which the names of 30 prize winners will be announced in a special event entitled "Geneva Summit: Empowering Women and Children in Rural Life".

Focal Points Publications

ECUADOR

The Ecuadorian Research and Training Institute for

Women [Instituto Ecuatoriano de Investigaciones y Capacitación de la Mujer - IECAIM], INSTRAW focal point in Ecuador, has published research on Women migrants in Ecuador. This study covers the many issues of migration such as: reasons for migrating, age, education level, civil status, problems and aspirations of migrants, health and employment situation, socioeconomic conditions, housing, social security and economic contribution. In addition to analyzing internal migration, in which women constitute the majority of rural-to-urban migrants, the study also provides data on international migration and refugees in Ecuador and discusses the precarious situation of women. Through the publication of this study IECAIM hopes to sensitize public and

private institutions, governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as national and international development agencies as to the reality of women migrants with the aim that more appropriate policies will result.

For information contact: Instituto Ecuatoriano de Investigaciones y Capacitación de la Mujer (IECAIM), Fabiola Cuvi Ortiz, Director, Ave. 6 de Diciembre 2817 y República, Quito Ecuador, Tel: (593-2) 525-517, Fax: (593-2)563-232.

THE
NETHERLANDS
The INSTRAW focal

point in the Netherlands, Vrouwenberaad Ontwikkelingssamenwerking Network of women in development agencies in The Netherlands], has published "The Gendered Economy". This study begins with a brief review of feminist economics which is then followed by a discussion on the fundamental gender biases in economy which are mostly based on (masculine/feminine) dualisms. Some alternative propositions outside the neoclassical paradigm are then suggested with special attention to the relationship between liberal ethics and the ethic of care, and the consequences for an alternative economy. The acknowledgement of this relationship is regarded as a fruitful insight for working towards a gender-equitable economy.

For information, contact: Vrouwenberaad Ontwikkelingssamenwerking, Lillian van Wesemael-Smit, Programme Manager, P.O. Box 77, 2340 AB Oegstgeest, The Netherlands. Tel: +31 71 515 9392, Fax: +31 71 517 53 91, E-mail: Vbosholwide@gn.apc.org

BRAZIL

The INSTRAW publication Gender Concepts in Development Planning: Basic Approach ISBN-92-1-127050-2, Sales No.-E.96.III.C.1 (INSTRAW, Santo

Domingo, 1995), has been translated in Portuguese by the National Council of Women's Rights [Conselho Nacional dos Direitos da Mulher, INSTRAW focal point in Brazil. The book was released to the public in April 1996 in a special ceremony which included the Governor and Vice-Governor of the Federal District as well as other representatives of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government. The National Council of Women's Rights in Brazil intends to use the book as the core material in seminars for policy makers of the central government and other institutions in various Federal Districts. In this manner, the book will also be used in seminars in different states of the country.

INSTRAW acknowledges with great appreciation the work of the Brazilian focal point in translating this publication into Portuguese to promote its wide dissemination and utilizing it in important training activities with government development planners.

For information, contact: Conselho Nacional dos Direitos da Miulher (CNDM), María Ricardina Sobrinho de Almeida, President, SBS Qd. 01 Bloco "E", Ed. Brasilia 50 andar, Brasilia, D.F. Brazil, Tel: {061} 226-1634, fax: {061} 322-3067.

In The UN System COUNTDOWN TO 2000

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN THE 1990s*

hroughout the first halfcentury of its existence, the United Nations has served as a catalyst for the advancement of women, working to promote the principles of gender equality and non discrimination-enshrined in the Charter. From the 1945 founding Conference in San Francisco to the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, the UN has been instrumental in elevating the cause of women's rights to the very centre of the global agenda. Today, as the international community grapples with a vast array of problems whose magnitude and complexity are, in many ways, greater than those faced by the original signatories to the Charter, few would deny that the advancement of all women is a prerequisite for progress in development.

The 1990s saw the emergence of a series of global conferences and summit meetings on various aspects of development setting the stage for development The following is a brief description of the UN Conferences of the 1990s and the resulting documents, along with some actions taken by INSTRAW towards the implementation of the various Plans, as part of its work towards the achievement of equitable and sustainable development.

World Summit for Children New York, 1990

The Summit discussed the global status of children and emphasized the disadvantages faced by girls as compared to boys. The World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children clearly recognized that improving the status of children depends greatly upon ensuring the equal rights of women. The Plan of Action for

Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s recommends several measures to address the enhancement of women's rights. The Plan recognizes that the "enhancement of the status of women and their equal access to education, training, credit and other extension services constitute a valuable contribution to a nation's social and economic development" and adds that efforts to enhance women's status and their role in development must begin with the girl child. "Equal opportunity should be provided for the girl child to benefit from the health. nutrition, education and other basic services to enable her to grow to her full potential." Other areas of concern in the Plan include the environment with goals for better use of natural resources; and alleviation of poverty and revitalization of economic growth.

The growing understanding that the advancement of women as a process should be analyzed within a life cycle perspective starting at early age, brought forward a worldwide concern for the fate of the girl-child as a new subject to be studied by INSTRAW. This is reflected in

efforts in the next century. These conferences were designed not only to achieve concrete programmes of action, but to open the world's eyes to the reality that the issues they address—children and the girl-child, environment, human rights, population, social development, and human settlements— are interconnected. The goals they seek are all dependent upon the advancement of women.

^{*}Information on the UN Conferences in this section taken from *The United Nations and the Advancement of Women, 1945-1996*, ISBN-92-1-100603-1, Sales No. E.96.I.9 (UN Department of Public Information, New York, 1996) pp. 59-69.

Paragraph 334, Chapter V of the Beijing Platform¹ and in the Follow-up².

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

UNCED reflected a global consensus on the vital role of women in promoting sustainable development. It also marked the international community's formal recognition of the importance of strengthening women's expertise in environment and development issues while enhancing their legal and administrative capacities to be managers and decision makers.

The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development states that women's "full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development". Agenda 21, a set of guidelines for sustainable development into the twenty-first century that resulted from UNCED, declared that the effort to develop sustainably, using the resources of the

planet in a way that perpetuates them for future generations, cannot succeed unless it involves the full participation of women -and reflects women's interests, needs and. perspectives. In the Agenda 21 chapter entitled "Global action for women towards sustainable and equitable development", clear government policies and national guidelines, strategies and plans for the achievement of equality in all aspects of society are called for. This includes the promotion of women's literacy, education, training, nutrition and health, and their participation in key decision making positions and in the management of the environment.

Evolution of Programme

—RELEVANT INSTRAW MATERIALS

- 1996 INSTRAW/International Training Centre of the ILO-Turin, multi-media modular training package on "Women, Environmental Management and Sustainable Development" ISBN-92-1-1270006-5, Sales No. E.95.III.C.2 (ILO/Turin, Italy, 1995)
- 1994 INSTRAW, Women, the Environment and Sustainable Development: Towards a Theoretical Synthesis, published by Zed Books Ltd.
- 1993 INSTRAW/ILO Turin Centre/DESD, multi-media training package on "Women, Water Supply and Sanitation and Waste Management", produced in response to the Nairobi

Forward-looking Strategies (1985), UNCED (1992), UN International Conference on Water and the Environment: Development Issues for the 21st Century (1992)

- 1993 INSTRAW, "Women and the Environment", INSTRAW News No. 19, Double Issue (INSTRAW, Santo Domingo, 1993).
- 1992 INSTRAW, Booklet: "Women, Environment and Sustainable Development: Seeds for a Greener Future" (INSTRAW, Santo Domingo, 1992)
- 1992 INSTRAW, Poster:
 "Stitching Together We Mend
 the Future of the Planet"
 Women, Environment and
 Sustainable Development
 (INSTRAW, Santo Domingo,
 1992)
- 1990 INSTRAW/ILO-Turin Centre, multi-media training package on "Women, New and Renewable Sources of Energy" produced in response to the Nairobi Plan of Action (1981) and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies (1985)

Reports from the training seminars are available.

—RELEVANT INSTRAW TRAINING ACTIVITIES

- 1996 Sub-regional training seminar for Central and former Eastern Europe on "Women, Environmental Management and Sustainable Development", 23-27 September 1996 in International Training Centre of the ILO, Turin, Italy.
- 1994 National training seminar on Women, Water

^{1.} The Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action DPI/1766/WOM (UN Department of Public Information, New York, 1996).

^{2.} General Assembly resolution 50/203, "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action", adopted 22 December 1995.

Supply and Sanitation, held in Windhoek, Namibia, 20-25 November 1994. INSTRAW in cooperation with DDSMS and Ministry of Water Affairs.

• 1994 - National training seminar on Women, Water Supply and Sanitation, held in Georgetown, Guyana, 31 January - 4 February 1994. INSTRAW in cooperation with Red Thread Women's Programme.

• 1994 - National training seminar on Women, Water Supply and Sanitation, held in Quito, Ecuador, 27 June - 1 July 1994. INSTRAW in cooperation with IECAIM.

• 1992 - Interregional workshop on Women, Water Supply and Sanitation, held in Bangkok, Thailand, 21-25 September 1992. INSTRAW in cooperation with ESCAP and UN/DESD.

• 1992 - Interregional workshop on the Role of Women in Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 9-15 September 1992, Beijing, People's Republic of China. INSTRAW in cooperation with UN/DESD, The State Science and Technology Commission of the People's Republic of China and All China Women's Federation.

• 1991 - Interregional workshop on Water Supply and Sanitation, held in Banjul, The Gambia, 2-6 September 1991. INSTRAW in cooperation with UN/DESD.

• 1990 - Seminario Taller "Mujer, Desarrollo y Alternativas Energéticas: Fuentes de Energía Nuevas y Renovables", Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 11-13 December 1990. INSTRAW in cooperation with Dirección General de Promoción de la Mujer.

• 1990 - Regional training workshop on Women and New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Tripoli, Libya, 1-8 December 1990. INSTRAW in collaboration with the International Energy Foundation, African Regional Centre for Solar Energy and UNDP.

• 1990 - Mediterranean Training Seminar on Women and New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 18-21 September 1990. INSTRAW in cooperation with the Centre for Management and Labour Research and the International Centre for Public Enterprises in Developing Countries.

• 1990 - National training seminar on Women and New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Cairo, Egypt, 24-28 Juné 1990. INSTRAW in cooperation with the National Research Centre of Egypt, UNDP, Scientific Association of Arab Women and funded by the Government of Italy.

• 1990 - National training seminar on Women and New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, 11-15 June 1990. INSTRAW in cooperation with the Tanzanian Bureau of Standards and funded by the Government of Italy.

• 1990 - Training of trainers seminar on Women and New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Turin, Italy, March 1990. INSTRAW in cooperation with ILO/Turin Centre and funded by the Government of Italy.



The ongoing United Nations effort to build on the principles of the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human rights continued at this Conference. The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the Conference urged Governments and the United Nations to ensure the "Full and equal enjoyment by women of all human rights"; underlined the importance of the integration and full participation of women "as both agents and beneficiaries" of development; and reiterated the importance of achieving the goals for women set forth in the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21.

The Vienna Conference recommended that measures to assure "the equal status of women and the human rights of women" be integrated into the mainstream of the United Nations system, with increased cooperation between the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights and other United Nations bodies. It was also concluded that steps be taken to ensure that human rights activities of the United Nations regularly address women's human rights.

The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action stress the importance of working towards the elimination of violence against women in public and private life, the elimination of all forms of sexual harassment, exploitation and trafficking in women, the elimination of gender bias in the administration of justice; and the eradication of "any conflicts which may arise between the rights of women and the harmful effects of certain traditional or customary practices, cultural prejudices and religious extremism".

International
Conference on
Population and Development
CAIRO, 1994

This Conference affirmed that there are four requirements for any programme of population and development: gender equality and equity; the empowerment of women; the ability of women to control their own fertility; and the elimination of all violence against women. The Programme of Action declared that the empowerment of women and the elevation of their status are both important ends in themselves and are essential if sustainable development is to succeed. To achieve those ends, the Conference made three basic recommendations: that mechanisms be

established for women's equal participation and equitable representation at all levels of the political process and public life; that efforts be made to promote women's education, employment and skills development; and that all discriminatory practices be eliminated, including those in the workplace and those affecting access to credit, control of property and social security.

The Conference also singled out for special attention the problem of discrimination against female children. Noting that in all societies discrimination on the basis of gender often starts at the earliest stages of life, the Conference called on Governments and leaders at all levels of society to speak out strongly and take effective action against gender discrimination within the family based on preference for sons. It also urged special education and public information efforts to promote equal treatment of boys and girls in matters involving nutrition, health, education and social, economic and political activity, as well as equitable systems of inheritance. In a chapter of the Programme of Action entitled "Male responsibilities and participation", the conference called upon Governments to promote the "equal

participation of women and men in all areas of family and household responsibilities, including family planning, child rearing and housework" The conference declared that men have a vital role to play in ensuring gender equality because, in most societies, they exercise preponderant power in nearly every sphere of life.

Evolution of Programme —Relevant INSTRAW MATERIALS

- •Flyer: "INSTRAW's Contribution to Improving the Socio-Economic Status of Elderly Women" (INSTRAW, Santo Domingo, 1992).
- •Flyer: "What do we know about women's migration and the plight of women migrants (INSTRAW, Santo Domingo, 1994).
- The Migration of Women: Methodological Issues in the Measurement and Analysis of Internal and International Migration ISBN-92-1-127005-7, Sales No. E.95.III.C.1 (INSTRAW, Santo Domingo, 1994).
- •The Situation of Elderly Women - Available Statistics and Indicators. Joint Publication of INSTRAW and the Statistics Division of the United Nations (Santo Domingo, 1994).
- •INSTRAW News No. 20
 "Women and the Family"
 (INSTRAW, Santo Domingo, 1994) containing a feature on the changing concept of family and the multiple roles of women within the family.

World Summit for Social Development COPENHAGEN, 1995

The central role of women in fighting poverty, creating productive jobs and strengthening the social fabric was proclaimed in the international agreement adopted at the Summit. The Copenhagen Declaration, built around 10 commitments for achieving social development, included an acknowledgement by the world leaders that more women than men live in absolute poverty and that they carry a disproportionate share of the problems of coping with poverty, social disintegration, unemployment, environmental degradation and the effects of war. Moreover, the Declaration states "equality and equity between women and men is a priority for the international community and, as such, must be the centre of economic and social development".

There was a recognition at the Copenhagen Summit that, with the end of the cold war, the concept of security had changed profoundly. As the threat of direct aggression by one State against another decreased, people's security in their daily lives —in their homes, their jobs, their communities, their

The Copenhagen Declaration -a pledge to promote "Full respect for human dignity" and to achieve "equality and equity between women and men" -includes promises to promote a series of goals at the national level. These include promotion of women's participation in social, economic and political life; broaden women's roles in decision making; promote full access to literacy, education and training; remove obstacles to women's acquisition of credit; ensure women's equal right to work; assure the status, welfare and opportunity of female children, especially in regard to health, nutrition, literacy and education; eliminate all forms of discrimination, exploitation and violence against women and female children; and to ensure women's full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Declaration also affirmed the importance of the Social Summit as a bridge to the

Beijing Women's Conference in that world leaders pledge to "give specific attention to the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women" and to the "implementation and follow-up of the conclusions".

Evolution of Programme —Relevant INSTRAW Materials

- How to Improve Banking for Rural Women (INSTRAW, Santo Domingo, 1993).
- Gender Training Portfolio (INSTRAW, Santo Domingo, 1993).
- INSTRAW News No. 22 "The Social Summit: A Gender Perspective" (INSTRAW, Santo Domingo, 1995).
- Credit for Women: Why is it so Important! ISBN-92-1-127051-0 Sales No. E.96.III.C.2 (INSTRAW/ICRW, Santo Domingo, 1995).

Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements ISTANBUL, 1996

In the Preamble of the Habitat Agenda: Goals and principles, Commitments and Global Plan of Action¹, the important role that women play in the attainment of sustainable human settlements is fully recognized. However, it is also acknowledged that because of the persistent and increasing burden of poverty, among other factors, women face certain constraints in "obtaining

environment— became a new imperative. A vital element in this campaign was the recognition and enhancement of the role of women —in development, and at all levels of political, civil, economic, social and cultural life. The Copenhagen Summit was the international community's most forthright acknowledgement that the problems faced by women lie at the heart of the global agenda.

^{1.} Habitat Agenda: Goals and Principles, Commitments and Global Plan of Action, A/CONF.165.L.1, Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

adequate shelter and in fully participating in decision making related to sustainable human settlements. The empowerment of women and their full and equal participation in political, social and economic life, the improvement of health, and the eradication of poverty are essential to achieving sustainable human settlements."

Vulnerability was defined in the Global Plan of Action as the "inability to compete on an equal basis for resources and opportunities". Continuing, the Plan states that vulnerability is often caused by marginalization in and exclusion from the socioeconomic mainstream and decision making processes." In this broad definition there are many groups which are considered vulnerable; women, youth and children constitute some of these groups. In light of this, the Plan repeatedly places emphasis on measures that will enable women to participate on an equal footing as men in human settlements issues. This Conference also recognized important links between human settlements, the environment and the effects of natural and humanmade disasters, while emphasizing women's key role in development planning in these areas.

Evolution of Programme —Relevant INSTRAW material:

• "Women and Human Settlements in Conflict Zones - A Framework for Research" paper presented by Eva Tuft, INSTRAW at the INSTRAW/ Habitat Round table on "Women and Human Settlements in Conflict Zones", Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements-Habitat II, Istanbul, Turkey, 11 June 1996.

• "Linkages between Energy and Gender Equality" paper circulated at the Habitat II Dialogue: Energy for the 21st Century.

• "The Future of Urban
Employment for Women: the
Importance of Credit in
Generating Employment for
Women Living in Urban Areas",
paper circulated at the Habitat II
Dialogue: The Future of Urban
Employment

• "Overview of Women's Roles in Water Resources", paper circulated at the Habitat II Dialogue: Water for Thirsty Cities.

• "Women, Media and Communication in Urban Environment: INSTRAW's Approach", paper circulated at the Habitat II Dialogue: Cities, Communications and the Media in the Information Society.

• "Ageing a chronological process, social and economic questions deriving from it", paper presented by INSTRAW Acting Director at "Living Longer -Living Better" Symposium, Habitat II Conference, 6 June 1996.

—RELEVANT INSTRAW ACTIVITIES

• Round table on "Women and Human Settlements in Conflict Zones", Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements-Habitat II, Istanbul, Turkey, 11 June 1996. • "Political Decision Making and Conflict Resolution: Impact of Gender Differences" DAW/ INSTRAW/PRIO Expert Group Meeting, INSTRAW Headquarters, Santo Domingo, 7-11 Oct.1996.

World Food Summit ROME, 1996

The main objective of the World Food Summit is to renew international commitment to the eradication of hunger and achievement of lasting food security. The first of seven commitments in the Plan of Action aims at ensuring a political, social and economic environment, based on the equal participation of women and men, that is most conducive to food for all, through the implementation of the relevant commitments made at Beijing to advance women's participation in agricultural and rural economies. In this regard, among the recommended actions to be undertaken by Governments include developing "effective policymaking and implementation processes that are participatory, transparent, flexible and capable of responding to changing circumstances and new information."

The phrasing of this recommendation is significant because it paves the way for the inclusion of gender perspectives in development planning. The new information and changing circumstances will be the result of data and information on the situation of women gathered through gender analysis and which chal-

lenges the traditional views of women's roles in agriculture upon which agricultural development planning has been based.

The consideration of new information is further reinforced by the recommendation to pro-

mote the full membership of rural women in community organizations, producer groups and NGOs as well as encouraging linkages between these groups and government institutions. Moreover, it is recommended

that public awareness of rural women's roles and contributions be promoted.

Source: FAO, Towards Universal Food Security, Draft of a Policy Statement and Plan of Action, WFS 96/3 (Provisional version - Rev. 1) March 1996.

WOMEN AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORTS. 1995-1996

women as well as its women as well as its men". This is one of the conclusions drawn from the gender-related development index (GDI) introduced in the 1995 Human Development Report (HDR).

The Associate Administrator of UNDP introducing the 1996 Human Development Report (1996) commented that "the income disparity between the richest 20% and the poorest 20% of the world's people had doubled from 30:1 to 61:1 over the last three decades". He said that the conventional wisdom which used to suggest a tradeoff between equity and growth has been totally rejected and stressed that "job creation served an essential bridge between economic growth and human development".

In fact, unemployment rates worldwide had reached unprecedented levels in the last decade. High unemployment hit youth hardest and women often faced more hurdles in the job market than men. Globally, women's earnings averaged 75 per cent of men's. Even though women carried out more than half of the world's economic activities, most of their work remained unpaid and unrecognized. When asked, "What was the basis for the claim that more than half the world's work was done by women," he responded, "...the assessment that more than half the world's work was done by women was based on time use statistics that took into consideration both paid and unpaid work. In terms of paid work, men worked more hours. However, when both paid and unpaid work was accounted for, women did more than half the work that needed to be done. The assessment was based on country studies."1

"Of the five top-ranking countries in the GDI, three are from the Nordic belt -Sweden (rank of 1), Norway 3 and Finland 5. The other two are Canada 2 and the United States 4. Compared with last year, Canada has moved from ninth position to second, mainly because more reliable data now available on female and male income shares indicate a higher female share than was reflected last year.

Several developing countries and areas also do quite well in the GDI ranking: Barbados 16; Bahamas 18; Hong Kong 25; Uruguay 26; Singapore 29; the Republic of Korea 31; Costa Rica 32 and Thailand 33. These countries have succeeded in building the basic human capabilities of both women and men, without substantial gender disparities.

The bottom five places are occupied by Niger, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Burkina Faso and Mali, in ascending

^{1.} On this point see INSTRAW: Measurement and Valuation of Unpaid Contribution: Accounting through time and output ISBN-92-1-127007-3, Sales No. E.95.III.C.3 (INSTRAW, Santo Domingo, 1995).

order. Women in these countries face a double deprivation: overall human development achievement is low in these societies, and women's achievement is lower than men's." (HDR, 1996)

According to the 1996 Report, economic growth has failed more than a quarter of the world's population in one hundred countries. The report supports this statement with empirical evidence pointing out that the "policy makers are often mesmerized by the quantity of growth" and that "development

that perpetuates inequalities is neither sustainable nor worth sustaining". The report underscores the strategies that "investing in women's capabilities and empowering them is the surest way to contribute to economic growth and overall development". The most significant message in the report is that "gender equality is not necessarily associated with high economic growth". This means that women in the richer countries are not necessarily more equal than men and that women in poor countries are not necessarily less equal than men. This also signifies that a rich country could support a large number of poorer women. The gender related development index (GDI), introduced in Human Development Report 1995, attempted to capture achievement through the same set of basic capabilities included in the human development index (HDI) -life expectancy, educational attainment and income- but adjusts the HDI for gender inequality. In that Report, the GDI has been calculated for 137 countries.

SYSTEM-WIDE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN (SWMTP)1

he 1996-2001 SWMTP has evolved in the UN system basically from the priorities identified in Beijing and contained in the Platform for Action. The plan, however, reflects the recognition of the importance of an integrated approach to the implementation of the results of all recent UN conferences and World Summits. The plan contains a listing of activities which will be carried out by the individual organizations and agencies within the system in each of the critical areas of concern of the Platform. The SWMTP is not a substitute for agency-specific planning and programming. Rather, it is intended to reflect the systemwide efforts and commitments for the advancement of women and to provide the basis for those organizations and agencies working in similar or complementary areas to coordinate their activities and strengthen

collaboration in order to support actions by individual governments. All UN entities are expected to be held accountable for the components of the plan that fall within their areas of responsibility. To this end, reporting and monitoring of specific components are expected to be done primarily within the framework of each agency's legislative setting and by the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

INSTRAW has designed its work programme for the coming biennia according to those aspects of the Platform that fall within its mandate.

^{1.} Six-year system-wide medium-term plans (SWMTP) for the advancement of women have been formulated to ensure system-wide coordination. The first such plan covered the period 1990-1995; the second proposed plan for 1996-2001, was adopted in 1993 by ECOSOC and later reviewed and revised after the Fourth World Conference on Women by ECOSOC in Economic and Social Council Document "Proposed system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001" Substantive session of 1996, 24 June-26 July 1996 (E/1996/16).

UN BODIES AND AGENCIES

NSTRAW sent requests to all Focal Points on Women in the United Nations
System, as well as Regional
Commissions, to prepare inputs for inclusion in this issue of
INSTRAW News. Due to time constraints for translation and printing, only those inputs received in time for printing have been included; others have been reproduced from reports published earlier (with sources).

"The Process of Mainstreaming Gender"

As the advancement of women is at the core of INSTRAW's mandate, gender analysis became an early part in the conceptualization process. In 1993, INSTRAW concluded the preparation of a Portfolio on Gender Training containing two bibliographical parts and five modules. The English version is now translated to Spanish thanks to a special contribution of the Instituto de la Mujer [Women's Institute] at the Ministry of Social Affairs in Spain. In 1995, INSTRAW concluded

To expand the conceptual analysis of "Mainstreaming gender" at a Symposium organized by the United Nations University in Tokyo, held on 19 June 1996, the INSTRAW Acting Director presented three papers on:

1) "Mainstreaming Women's Issues: A Research Agenda for Women"; 2) "Gender in the Economy"; and 3) "Gender in Society".

Recently, "mainstreaming" has gained currency amongst international agencies and governments as a way to bring women's concerns to the centre stage of development. In the three multilateral institutions examined by United Nations Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), mainstreaming has involved efforts to "institutionalize" gender by integrating gender issues into the entire spectrum of activities that are funded and executed by an organization and by diffusing responsibility for gender integration beyond the WID/gender units - through mechanisms such as gender training and gender guidelines - making it a routine concern of all bureaucratic units and all staff members.

A paper prepared by UNRISD¹ attempts to analyze efforts made by three institutions: UNDP, the World Bank and ILO. Some extracts from this paper follow: In line with its "coordination" mandate, UNDP appears to acknowledge the importance of strong procedures for overall institutional accountability to WID/gender. In fact, many of its initiatives in recent years have concerned precisely the strengthening of procedures —both in connection with skill level and also through the preparation of further WID/gender guidelines. The line between "procedure" and "bureaucratic outcomes" blurs in the case of UNDP. Some of the major WID/gender projects and programmes are directed towards ensuring that decision-making procedures at the country level are more responsive to WID/gender concerns. Concerning procedures targeted at UNDP gender training is seen as a key procedural tool for mainstreaming WID/

the publication: Gender Concepts in Development Planning, Basic Approach that has had a wide circulation. It has been translated into Portuguese by INSTRAW's Focal Point in Brazil. The Spanish version will be finalized and printed soon.

^{1.} UNRISD - Gender Mainstreaming: A study of efforts by the UNDP, the World Bank and the ILO to Institutionalize Gender Issues (Shahra Razavi and Carol Miller) Geneva, August 1995.

gender issues despite some recent assessments that are critical of the overall benefits of such training. UNDP's rationale for gender training is as follows: "If gender or WID practitioners cannot be everywhere at once, perhaps their influence can be felt if operatives learn to recognize the importance of probing questions and an analytical approach that recognizes gender issues". Like ILO, UNDP is planning to provide specialized training in gender advocacy for its focal points, as well as "gender-training of trainer" courses for country level staff to pass on their new skills to colleagues. Thus far, gender training has covered only a fraction of all staff members. In practice, attempts to spread the responsibility for WID/gender throughout the system have meant that there are few internal WID/gender "experts". Instead, UNDP tends to rely on consultants for such expertise.

The final section of the paper critically assesses the mainstreaming strategy and the procedural innovations it has promoted. It identifies some of the obstacles that have been encountered in the different

1. UNDP is an active member of the United Nations Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Mainstreaming, that was established by the Secretary-General following the Beijing Conference, and works in close collaboration with a range of development partners, including UNIFEM.

institutional settings and highlights the opportunities for further progress.



The UNRISD/UNDP project, Technical Cooperation and Women's Lives, aims to strengthen the capacity of national researchers to analyze the ways in which macroeconomic policies impact on gender inequalities and to feed their findings into the policy formulation process. To realize these objectives at the country level, the project seeks to initiate debate and consultation -policy dialogue— among gender researchers, NGOs and policymakers from mainline economic ministries. These debates are informed by national-level research sponsored by the project on the gender dimensions of key macro-economic policy concerns.

Research and policy dialogues are now underway in the five participating countries:
Bangladesh, Jamaica, Morocco, Uganda and Viet Nam. Thematically, the policy dialogues in the project countries fall into two groups:

1) agricultural policies including growth strategies, poverty

and employment issues (Uganda and Viet Nam) and 2) industrialization and nonagricultural employment, especially in the export-oriented sectors (Bangladesh, Jamaica, and Morocco). The main findings of the project were presented at an international workshop, Working Towards a More Gender Equitable Macro-economic Agenda, held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, 26-28 November 1996. In view of the intensified efforts in the aftermath of the Beijing Conference to integrate gender concerns into macro-policy formulation and analysis, the workshop should provide a much-needed forum for discussion on progress made thus far and for devising strategies to tackle the remaining obstacles.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME: WOMEN'S POVERTY

Following the Fourth World Conference on Women, UNDP developed a strategy on the Advancement of Women in the light of Beijing Commitments. For UNDP, 1 its priorities on the eradication of poverty emphasize sustainable livelihoods, environmental regeneration, sound governance and the advancement of women. A principal outcome of the Beijing Conference was the agreement

by Governments that the feminization of poverty should be the first of their areas of concern. The strategy document sets out the two dimensions of women's advancement upon which UNDP will focus its activities, namely: the empowerment of women economically, politically or personally, and support to the creation and maintenance of enabling legal and policy environments for their advancement. A range of activities are being supported, including the development of model legal frameworks addressing violence against women in Latin America, support for women's access to micro-credit in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and the Arab World. UNDP also supports improved disaggregated statistical collection and analysis in all regions.

The method used to move UNDP agenda towards the advancement of women is gender mainstreaming. UNDP is currently working with 20 countries to test approaches and methodologies for gender mainstreaming in a range of cultural settings. In order to build its staff capability to mainstream gender concerns, UNDP is also developing and testing innovative training materials that go beyond gender analysis. These include mainstreaming techniques and assertion skills, motivational skills, public speaking skills.

UNFPA UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND: EMPOWERING WOMEN

The activities to implement the Beijing Platform for Action complement those of implementing the Cairo Programme of Action. These initiatives focus on: women's human rights, including their reproductive and sexual rights and adolescent reproductive health to help strengthen activities at the country level. On Gender equality, equity and women's empowerment, UNFPA is mainstreaming gender in all its programmes and projects and is assessing how gender considerations can be effectively integrated into all the aspects of its reproductive health and development strategies and advocacy work.

On women's human rights, UNFPA planned various activities with other UN bodies and agencies, including:

- a technical consultation on female genital mutilation in March 1996 (with 52 participants from Africa and Arab States) to produce a framework for integrating activities relating to the eradication of female genital mutilation;
- A project with the Center for the Productive Law and Policy to strengthen national level advocacy and legislation with NGOs in 51 countries; and
- A Round table scheduled in December 1996 to advocate

reproductive and sexual health rights;

On Adolescent Reproductive Health, UNFPA has planned a workshop with the Center for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA) at which 32 young girls/women will meet to develop action plans to implement the recommendations of both the Cairo and the Beijing Conferences. UNFPA is also monitoring progress by governments in reaching goals relating to women's empowerment (with Women's Environment and Development Organizations) and studying male sexuality in and out of the family (with the Population Council).

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF): CHILDREN'S AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Three main areas of focus have been identified by UNICEF in its follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women: education of girls; the health of girls, adolescents and women and children's and women's rights. UNICEF's focus on girls' education is a recognition that education is the single most important investment for creating the condition to empower girls. Education helps girls acquire vital skills necessary to improve their quality of life and that of their future families. UNICEF places particular

emphasis on the health of adolescent girls. Among other actions, UNICEF will work with schools to provide health and nutrition education to girls and adolescents and help improve the availability and accessibility of appropriate reproductive health care. In its work to promote children's and women's rights, UNICEF will accelerate advocacy for universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), a task almost accomplished, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Priority attention will be placed on public understanding to the two Conventions and the linkages between them.

In addition to its priority areas, UNICEF will also place emphasis on partnership building and collaboration with UN agencies and other organizations at all levels. Alliances for design and implementation of measures to end negative and harmful traditional practices, including female genital mutilation, will be a major part of this thrust. Increased attention will be placed on women in emergencies and promotion of gender sensitive training of relevant staff to help ensure protection of the human rights of women and girls in emergency situations.

UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS (DHA): WOMEN IN CONFLICT SITUATIONS

The following specific activities link the DHA with the Beijing Platform for Action:

War and displacement have unequal consequences for women because changes in women's roles are greater and much more rapid than changes in men's. Yet, women are usually seen as passive victims or as vulnerable groups. To assure more effective humanitarian intervention, DHA promotes the concept that women should be considered not only as "victims" of conflict and thus recipients of services, but also as participants in the formation and delivery of assistance.

Conflict situations often place a woman in the position of being the sole individual responsible for the subsistence and welfare of her children and elderly relatives. Unequal financial growth and economic recession also make it more difficult for women to withstand the effects of natural catastrophes. DHA is committed to assuring that the humanitarian community recognizes these obligations and that programmes for victims of both natural and human-made disasters are gender sensitive.

All populations have indigenous gender-specific

coping mechanisms which are especially important during disasters, either natural or human-made. Many of these are initiated by women who often respond with innovative strategies to specific problems, such as procedures for food distribution in refugee and displaced person's camps. DHA encourages the participation of women in all aspects of disaster mitigation and response.

Women suffer disproportionately from both physical and mental trauma, thus their special health needs during conflict situations need to be addressed. DHA offers more effective coordination through consultation with relevant agencies to harmonize operational strategies to overcome these problems. Conflict situations are often resolved without gender considerations. DHA recognizes that women are instrumental in conflict resolution and promotes their involvement in it.

UNIDO UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION: WOMEN AND THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

UNIDO has developed a threepoint Follow-up Plan of Action, elements of which are:

The promotion of gendersensitive policies and strategies to facilitate the integration of women in industrial development and to increase the proportion of women managers in industry;

The development of women entrepreneurship and of human resource development for industry, to facilitate the access by women to new and nontraditional types of industry and to new skills requirements, and

The promotion of networks of investment and information centres for women to provide them with relevant information on all matters related to industry.

The first step in the implementation of the above Action Plan has been the initiation of a comprehensive and integrated programme for the promotion of women entrepreneurship. Such programme has been designed mainly for the African and Least Developed Countries. It started in 1996 in three countries in West Africa and one country in Southern Africa.

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO): POLICY PRIORITIES FOR WOMEN

There are three policy objectives which are the guiding principles of the organization with respect to women (Fourth Medium-Term Strategy). These are: mainstreaming a gender

perspective in all policyplanning programming, implementation and evaluation activities; promoting the active and broad participation of women at all levels and fields of activity; developing specific programmes, projects and activities for the benefit of girls and women, geared towards promoting equality, endogenous capacity-building and women's full citizenship.

During the 1996-97 biennium, UNESCO will establish special projects to cater to the particular needs of the priority groups and thus better respond to policy objectives. Among ten special projects, UNESCO has earmarked the following including Promotion of girls' and women's education in Africa; Women and water resource supply and use; Women speaking to women: Women's rural community radio in least-developed countries; and Women in the service of civil peace.

UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT
FUND FOR WOMEN
UNIFEM: WOMEN'S ACCESS
TO RESOURCES¹

The feminization of poverty is at its peak, with women forming 70 per cent of the world's 1.3 billion poor. To counter this global trend, UNIFEM's Economic Empowerment Programme works to make economic policy more gender

sensitive and to encourage women's participation in economic decision-making.

Trade deregulation, rapid technological changes, the transition to a market economy, and structural adjustment programmes have created new patterns of wealth and poverty. Due to gender hierarchy, trade decisions have far-reaching consequences for women. Restrictions imposed on women's ownership of assets, education, employment opportunities, and physical and social mobility mean that men tend to benefit more than women from these changes.

UNIFEM looks for strategic points at which to intervene so that trade policies do not negatively affect women's livelihoods. It strengthens the capacity of women's organizations to advocate for women's interests and develops action-oriented programmes that help women cope with negative impacts and seize new positive opportunities.

NATIONS INTERREGIONAL CRIME AND JUSTICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND JUSTICE

Elimination of Violence against women was one of the priority themes of the Agenda of the 5th Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

^{1.} Extracted from UNIFEM Annual Report, 1995.

in Vienna 21-31 May 1996. A draft resolution on Elimination of Violence Against Women was discussed and recommended the adoption by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The Commission also had before it a revised document entitled "Practical Measures, Strategies and Activities in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for the Elimination of Violence against Women". This document provides practical suggestions on how to address this issue by legislative action, research and evaluation. technical cooperation, training and exchange of information. The resolution and the document on "Practical Measures, Strategies and Activities" complement the process started in Beijing and enable the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Commission to implement those activities which are within its own field of competence. The activities proposed in the resolution would be undertaken with the resources available to the respective Member States. UN institutes and organizations. A report containing the revised text of the draft Practical Measures, Strategies and Activities, as well as a report on the views received by the Member States, the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network, will be prepared for the Commission in its 6th Session.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE (ITC): GENDER IN TRADE DEVELOPMENT

As focal point in the United Nations system for technical cooperation with developing countries and transitional economies in trade promotion, the integration of women in trade development is the International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/WTO). Taking stock one year after Beijing reveals a positive picture. The overall objectives of the Gender in Trade Development (GITD) programme are to promote the development of entrepreneurship among women and creation of employment opportunities for women in the foreign trade sector. A synopsis of selected activities towards these objectives is mentioned below.

The Beijing Platform for Action makes specific reference to the need for promoting women's economic self-reliance and access to economic opportunities and in this context singles out the need for technical cooperation with women entrepreneurs in trade promotion. In line with this and under the GITD programme, a project is currently being undertaken to assess the implications of the new international trade environment on women entrepreneurs in Africa and to design a programme of assistance. Similar activities could be undertaken for other regions. Both womenspecific projects and mainstream

technical cooperation projects with women-specific modules are underway or being designed for selected countries in Asia and Africa. In addition, work is ongoing for a publication entitled Women, Entrepreneurship and Trade (1997).

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS:
MAINSTREAMING GENDER CONCERNS

As the United Nations agency responsible for agriculture, forestry and fisheries worldwide, and with the mandate to promote sustainable agriculture and rural development as well as food security for all people, FAO will ensure that women, in addition to men, have the support and access to resources they need to pursue sustainable livelihoods and an improved quality of life.

FAO is committed to mainstreaming gender concerns into its operations on which significant steps have already been taken. The FAO Plan of Action for Women in Development (1996/2001) outlines a framework for ensuring that gender becomes an integral part of the Organization's work, both at the normative and operational levels. As gender is a crosscurrent issue and requires organization-wide

responsibility, the Plan was prepared using a highly inclusive and participatory approach. The purpose of this approach is to secure a much firmer involvement in the Plan's implementation, and an adequate allocation of resources toward this end.

For each of the technical areas for which FAO is responsible, WID Programmes of Action have been developed by the staff members who work in those areas. These Programmes serve to ensure that our commitments toward the advancement of women are translated into concrete achievements. The Programmes seek to strengthen the technical, professional and resource capacities of FAO and its partners at the national level to address gender, and to diffuse responsibility for integrating gender to all those working in the development arena. These Programmes form the core of the FAO Plan of Action.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION: MAINSTREAMING GENDER ISSUES

The Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation, at its 264th Session (November 1995) and 265th Session (March 1996), expressed strong interest and support for a dynamic ILO follow-up to the Fourth World

Conference on Women, and approved at its 265th Session a proposal for an international programme on women. The Director-General in his Programme Guidance Letter concerning the preparation of the programme and budget proposals for the biennium 1998-99, also identified the advancement of women as one of the three priority areas for ILO technical cooperation. The international programme on "More and Better Jobs for Women" (1997-2000) represents a major ILO response to the call of the Beijing Declaration for the United Nations agencies to fully commit themselves and contribute to the successful implementation of the Platform for Action. The international programme is designed to address issues of global concern in a comprehensive and integrated manner with strong and distinct national and regional characteristics and with the objective of improving women's status in employment both in quantitative and qualitative terms. While continuing to implement a mainstreaming strategy on gender issues to ensure integration of gender concerns into all ILO programmes and projects, the ILO's follow-up action will focus on four key areas: productive employment and poverty eradication, working conditions and social

protection, international labour standards and strengthening of organization/institutions.

ILO has taken measures to reinforce the Office of the Special Adviser on Women Workers' Questions, its focal point on women and gender issues, by allocating additional resources for 1996/97. It has also allocated resources for the development of the international programme in the follow-up to the Beijing Conference.

Gender training workshops have been organized, both at ILO headquarters and at its field structure as well as for ILO constituents. A briefing kit and training package on "gender issues in the world of work" have been produced and are widely used in these activities.

ILO has also produced a modular training package and an information kit on women worker's rights to promote action in the area of international labour standards. An inter-regional programme on training and information dissemination has been developed in China, Egypt, El Salvador, Hungary, India, Mali, Suriname, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe to adapt the information and training kit on women workers' rights to the national and local context.

The ILO publication More & Better Jobs for Women: An Action Guide, issued as a fol-

low up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development, highlights the need for action to improve the terms and conditions for women in the labour market and outlines various steps for how to enhance the quality of employment for women. An ILO training programme on employment promotion and poverty eradication for poor women will also be implemented, based on the Guide for Action and training package on Gender, Poverty and Employment to be prepared in 1997.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO): CONNECTING WOMEN'S HEALTH WITH DEVELOPMENT

The Women's Health and Development Programme (WHD) is working on three priority areas: integrating a gender perspective into health research, policies and programmes; violence against women, and female genital mutilation (FGM).

On integrating a gender perspective, WHO is in the process of building up an information base to look at gender differences in specific health issues (exposure, morbidity/mortality, access to health care and quality of care), and identifying appropriate interventions; developing practical tools to help policy

makers, health workers and researchers understand and apply a "gender lens". WHO is also developing a training course on gender and reproductive health with the Women's Health Project in South Africa and the Harvard School of Public Health.

The long term aim of WHO activities on violence against women (VAW) is to identify effective strategies to prevent violence and to address health consequences among women suffering from violence. The focus of work is on violence against women by partners and ex-partners (domestic violence and violence against women in conflict situations). Its activities include a multicountry research initiative on the prevalence and health consequences of VAW in 7 countries which would support documentation of existing efforts to prevent and manage the consequences of violence and pilot interventions in health care settings; a global data base to improve the accessibility of data; support to the development and testing of a manual for researchers; and ongoing advocacy within WHO and with health professional organizations to ensure that other relevant initiatives and training programmes acknowledge and incorporate violence against women.

On female genital mutilation (FGM), WHO has commis-

sioned a review of interventions looking at approaches used, effectiveness and replicability. A meeting of researchers to stimulate epidemiological and social research to improve and augment interventions is planned for early 1997, in collaboration with the UNDP/ UNFPA/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction. Other activities include the development and testing of training for the prevention of FGM and management of its complications. Its ongoing advocacy on FGM includes the publication of a joint WHO/UNFPA/UNICEF statement.



WFP formulated an Action Plan in 1995 to implement its commitments to the Platform for Action with gender specific goals to reduce disproportionate effects of hunger and poverty on women in comparison to men. The commitments address areas where the Programme can make a difference; namely, unequal access to food resources and unequal access to longer term assets and value-added income earning opportunities.

WFP is holding its managers accountable for their contribu-

tions in meeting these Commitments. In order to integrate action into programme management, country offices and head-quarters divisions were asked to develop national gender action plans. A task force composed of senior managers in headquarters and five field offices guided the

process. Focal points in units and bureaus ensured that responsibilities were met. On the basis of the gender action plans submitted, WFP is earmarking human and financial resources to strengthen the institutional capacity of staff to work for gender equality in benefits and beneficiaries of WFP supported activities. It involves development of analytical tools, training in gender sensitive design, planning, implementation and monitoring and reporting, exchange of experience, information and advice, improved guidance and procedures.



REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES

"UN Special Initiatives for Africa: Impact on Women"

In March 1996 the United Nations launched an action plan Special Initiative for Africa¹ containing a series of concrete and coordinated measures conceived to maximize efforts to accelerate the development process in the continent. This historical initiative of support to a particular region in the world started with a political mobilization campaign to give priority to Africa in the agenda of the international community. To this end, a Directing Committee was created which is presided by the Administrator of the UNDP. Other participating United Nations organizations are the FAO, UNESCO, UNICEF, the

World Bank, ILO, UNEP, UNFPA and the DPCSD.

At present, many African countries offer appropriate conditions for investment and production for local and foreign entrepreneurs. The Special Initiative will reinforce the African people's capacity to assume responsibility for the development process, to be watchful that peaceful civil rights are observed and that its leaders properly manage public affairs. Fourteen elements make up the Special Initiative including basic education, basic health care, management of public affairs, food security, water and sanitation, peace and information. Twenty-five million dollars over a period of ten years are needed to finance the Special Initiative. It is required that existing resources be reoriented at the national and international levels and mobilization of new resources is undertaken through: identification by multilateral and bilateral donors of regional authorities in charge of specific objectives and key programmes; the African Governments will prepare programmes for sectorial investments oriented towards specific objectives; and participation in the meetings of the Consultative Group and Round table to ensure a wider commitment by non-traditional partners.

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (ECA) -ADVANCEMENT OF AFRICAN WOMEN

The Economic Commission for Africa sponsored a Meeting of the Bureau of the Fifth African Regional Conference on Women (Dakar, 3-5 March 1996). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss implementation of the Platform for Action. A Framework for its Implementation was adopted as part of the final report. The

^{1.} Taken from UN/DPI Information Kit on the Special Initiative (New York, February, 1996).

general consensus at the Meeting was that sensitization is crucial to the successful implementation of the Platform for Action. Sectoral ministries, religious and traditional leaders and the media have an important role to play and therefore must understand and support the contents and spirit of the Platforms.

The Seventeenth meeting of the African Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC)1 met in Addis Ababa, 24-26 April 1996. Items on its agenda included: Reports on the activities of the ECA Women in Development Programme during the period from April 1995 to April 1996; Report on the meetings of the Twenty-first Ad-hoc Interagency Meeting on Women and the Fortieth Session of the Commission on the Status of Women; and Report of the meeting of the Bureau of the Fifth African Regional Conference on Women on follow-up to the Conference; were also presented.

The First Global Women Entrepreneurs Trade Fair and Investment Forum was held (Accra, Ghana, 26 June - 3 July 1996). The main objective of this event was to provide an enabling environment for women entrepreneurs in Africa. Europe and North America to come together to promote various goods and services, search for new business and investment opportunities, enhance African women's competitiveness in international markets and share experiences and views. The theme for the Fair was "Foreign Private Direct Investment in Women's Businesses for Economic Recovery and Development in Africa". The organizers were the Ghana Women's Entrepreneurs Association (GAWE), in conjunction with the African Federation of Women Entrepreneurs (AFWE) together with ECA/ African Centre for Women (ACW). Financial resources were provided by USAID, CIDA, UNDP, UNIDO, the Commonwealth Foundation and other international organizations.

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (ECE): MAINSTREAMING GENDER PERSPECTIVE²

The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) is taking an active part in monitoring the activities recommended by the Regional and Global Platforms for Action with the objective of exchanging, information and various forms of cooperation

amongst agencies dealing with analogous issues. In keeping with the recommendations of the Platform for Action. United Nations organizations will place special emphasis on mainstreaming women's issues and the gender perspective. The ECE has already initiated relevant activities in the area of women and statistics within the framework of the Conference of European Statisticians, and by supporting the advancement of women at the regional level, particularly in countries in transition.

A Conference of Senior Governmental Experts was coorganized by ECE and the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), (Romania, 12-14 September 1996) in keeping with national plans of action, and included the participation of national machineries and the cooperation of NGOs and other actors of civil society.

During the 51st session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in April 1996, the ECE adopted a resolution which calls upon the Principal Subsidiary Bodies "to take into account the mainstreaming of a gender perspective, where appropriate, while defining and implementing their work programmes". This is the first time that the ECE has adopted a resolution which mentions the mainstreaming of the gender perspective.

^{1.} Five country reports were presented and discussions were held on progress being made in the implementation of the Platform for Action, national plans and policy on gender.

^{2.} Taken from Report submitted by ECE to the Advisory Coordinating Committee in April 1996.

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (ECLAC): ACTIVITIES AFTER THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN (FWCW)

The main thrust of the activities carried out by the ECLAC secretariat after the FWCW was the formulation of an up-dated programme of action for the 1990s that would be consistent with the climate of reform and financial constraints under which the United Nations is now operating. Among the actions taken are: adopting the topics the Commission on the Status of Women has selected as high priorities for the next few years, in order to help ECLAC member and associate member States to be better prepared to participate in international debates; and maintaining informal contacts with networks of government agencies on women, primarily through the heads of the regional and subregional networks.

The ECLAC Women and Development Unit, in collaboration with the Latin American Demographic Center (CELADE), gave a course on "The gender variable in development programming", as part of the Post graduate Programme on Population and Development, financed by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The ECLAC Statistics and Economic Projections Division and Social Development Division collaborated with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to include a chapter on gender, poverty and participation in the 1995 edition of the Social Panorama of Latin America. The chapter, written by UNFPA staff, presents an analysis of the situation of Latin American women and its reflection in some important economic and social areas.

With regard to follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women at the national level, the secretariat provided technical assistance to the Bureau of Women's Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas (26 November - 2 December 1995). The Government of the Bahamas took as its area of priority the economic empowerment of women through entrepreneurship. At the request of the Government, the secretariat conducted a study on the informal and formal small- and micro-enterprise sector in the Bahamas and took care that the study should include a gender analysis of the situation and recommendations for strengthening the sector and women's position within the sector and improving the sector's productivity and role in expanding employment, particularly for women.

In other activities in followup to the Fourth World Conference on Women, the secretariat provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Women's Affairs of the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis (26-28 February 1996) by reviewing the work of the Ministry and making recommendations for improving its efficiency and effectiveness for implementing the Platform for Action.

The secretariat presented an overview of the Platform for Action to a national convention of women's non-governmental organization held in Grenada on 10 March 1996.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP): ACTIVITIES AFTER THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

In the Asia and Pacific region, many countries have started to develop national plans of action or adapt existing plans to implement the Platform for Action.

ESCAP has been involved with countries in the development of these national plans and will be closely monitoring the implementation of both the global platform for action and the regional plan of action.

The Platform for Action calls for the Regional

Commissions to mainstream women's issues and gender perspectives. At the organizational level, an interdivisional mechanism has been initiated to ensure integration of the priorities of the global and regional mandates into the work programme of ESCAP. At the regional level, ESCAP convened the first meeting of the Regional Interagency Subcommittee on the Advancement of Women on 19 October 1995. This interagency mechanism serves to facilitate the exchange of information to avoid overlap and also provides the institutional framework for ioint and collaborative activities.

Implementation of activities which address the critical areas of concern identified in both the global platform for action and the regional plan of action is underway. These are: Expert Group Meeting on Promoting Women's Participation in Decision Making (covering politics and government) was held in Thailand from 18 to 19 December 1995; Expert Group Meeting on women's rights as human rights (including violence against women) was held in Japan, from 7 to 9 August 1996; Regional seminar on strengthening national machineries for the advancement of women held in the Republic of Korea from 16 to 19 September 1996; Expert

group meeting on the feminization of poverty, tentatively in late 1996; A regional survey on the status of women in poverty, focussing on female-headed and femalemaintained households in Bangladesh, India, Malaysia and the Philippines is in progress; A subregional activity on promoting the participation of women in the economic development of Indochina (covering Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam) is ongoing. A subregional meeting was held in Hanoi in January 1996 and national workshops were held in Hanoi (May 1996) and Vientiane (June 1996); A videotape on the critical areas of concern of the regional plan of action in coordination with the global platform for action has been produced. Catalytic funds have been provided for pilot projects in Nepal and Vanuatu to prepare information kits on the Platform of Action to reach women at the grassroots level. Similar kits are being produced in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka; and plans for national information centres and information exchange networks in the Central Asian Republics were initiated in a subregional meeting in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in November 1995.

At the 52nd Session of ESCAP in April 1996,

resolution 52/3 on "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women" was adopted.

To commemorate "One Year after Beijing", ESCAP coorganized with local organizations, a 2-day celebration (with panel discussions on women in poverty, shared responsibilities, elimination of discrimination against women, women in the media, women and the environment, women labour and violence against women) from 5 to 6 September 1996 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand.

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA (ESCWA): MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH

The Economic Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in an effort to integrate the gender dimension into the Commission's work programme and within the framework of the restructuring exercise, has adopted a thematic multi-disciplinary approach to the implementation of activities. Based on this, gendersensitive issues have been mainstreamed within the Commission on areas such as poverty, industry, rural and community development as well as statistics.

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD): WOMEN AND STRUCTURAL CHANGE

An OECD report¹ to the Secretary-General on "Women and Structural Change: New Perspectives (1994)", emphasizes the important role of women in relation to their supporting economies in the 1990s and beyond. Adjustment is urgently needed to enable women to perform this role. In the preface, the Secretary-General states that "the directions for action that are indicated would bring progress that, in most cases, would accrue not only to women but more widely to the functioning of the whole socio-economic system". Among the issues examined in the report are: family responsibilities, occupational segregation, employment flexibility, diversity in lifestyles and life-patterns, participation in decisionmaking. The report has been unanimously well received in

OECD countries and was extensively used in the preparations for the Beijing Conference (1995). The Development Assistance Committee (DAC), through its Expert Group on Women in Development, was closely and actively involved in preparations for this conference on women.

This conference, as all the other UN Conferences of the 1990s, reconfirmed widespread agreement that effective development must give due consideration to women, as well as to men, in order to be sustainable. In order to follow up the Beijing Platform for Action, the DAC Expert Group on Women in Development held a seminar on the Implications of Beijing for Development Cooperation, as well as two regional seminars in 1996. The regional seminars focus on identifying priorities and organizing and coordinating regional followup to Beijing: the first in Madras, (South Asia), and the second in Capetown (Southern Africa). Seminars in other regions are scheduled in 1997.

GOVERNMENTAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: NATIONAL MACHINERIES

The Dirección General de Promoción de la Mujer - DGPM (General Directorate for the Advancement of Women) in the Dominican Republic, with the financial support of UNICEF, UNDP and CIM, hosted the III Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Women's Governmental Organizations and National Machineries (Santo Domingo, 15 - 17 April 1996). Twenty one heads of women's governmental organizations and national machineries in the region met to approve the statutes of the network and to share national experiences in the implementation of the Platform for Action. The meeting also sought to strengthen collaboration between women's governmental organizations and national machineries in the region and international technical cooperation organizations. International organizations in the Dominican Republic including INSTRAW briefed the participants of their mandates and programmes in the region.

^{1.} Taken from OECD: 1996 Progress Report on Implementing Agenda, Paris, 21 May 1996.

The network was established in 1990 in Mexico City with technical and financial support from UNICEF. The main objective of this initiative is to promote collaboration among the women's governmental organizations and national machineries in the region and to enhance their efforts at the national and international level by strengthening their relations with international technical cooperation organizations. The main result of the meeting was the approval of the statutes of the network.

Members of the network, several of which are INSTRAW focal points, visited the Institute where they were further briefed on INSTRAW's programmes on the functions of INSTRAW's focal points and on requirements for becoming one. The occasion also allowed for a useful exchange of views and experiences related to the advancement of women in the region.

NORDIC COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES¹: GENDER EQUALITY MODEL

Equality between women and men is an altogether crucial part of the Nordic welfare state model. The objective of equality is that human beings, women and men, should have

In all Nordic countries the political view prevails that society can progress in a more democratic direction only when the competence, knowledge, experience and values of both women and men are acknowledged and allowed to influence and enrich the development in all spheres of society. In an international perspective the Nordic countries enjoy a very high standard of living. Moreover, they are regarded as pioneers in the promotion of equal opportunity. Economic independence is the foundation of equality between women and men.

An important aspect of the Nordic equal opportunity policy has been to facilitate the possibility of both women and men to reconcile economic activities with parenthood. This is reflected in the labour force participation rate, which for both women and men is one

of the highest in the world. Women's representation in politics is also among the highest.

In the Nordic countries it is recognized that the active involvement of women is necessary in order to achieve equality between women and men. Furthermore, for gender equality to become a reality, the distribution of the workload between women and men in the family and in society must be changed.

equal rights, obligations and opportunities in all fields of life. Equality between the sexes does not mean that men and women have to be similar. It means that the dissimilarity between women and men must not lead to inequality in terms of status or treatment in society. This is why the Nordic philosophy of equality stresses that equal opportunity is not enough. Active efforts are required to promote the status of women.

^{1.} Nordic Council of Ministries: Gender Equality - The Nordic Model, Copenhagen, Denmark, 1995.

INSTRAW

Board of Trustees

• SIXTEENTH SESSION OF INSTRAW BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The INSTRAW Board of Trustees met at INSTRAW Headquarters in Santo Domingo for its Sixteenth Session from 19 to 23 February 1996. At this session, the Board expressed its satisfaction with the work undertaken by the Institute in the implementation of the 1994-1995 biennium work programme. In addition, the Board commended INSTRAW's active participation in the preparatory process as well as at the Fourth World Conference on Women which included the NGO Forum on Women. Special appreciation was expressed by the Board on the new reporting procedures proposed by the Acting Director.

The Board recommended that INSTRAW's report should be presented to the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly on agenda items related to the Institute's research and training activities.¹

Concerning the work programme for the 1996-1997 biennium, the Board recommended that the Institute's work should continue focusing in areas where INSTRAW has already acquired expertise. Along these lines, it was recommended that INSTRAW, in compliance with its research and training mandate, should undertake steps to implement activities aimed at

those issues within the Platform for Action's twelve critical areas of concern which are linked to its research and training programme. The Board endorsed the establishment of priorities in subject areas such as the process of economic and political empowerment of women; statistics and indicators in gender issues; natural resources and sustainable development; water and waste management; renewable sources of energy; access to credit; women and media; and issues related to different population groups especially elderly, displaced, refugee and migrant women and the girl-child.

The Board stressed the importance of strengthening communications and networking mechanisms between INSTRAW and its focal points and approved the allocation of seed money in the programme budget to be used for the promotion of joint activities.

• ELECTION AND REELECTION OF MEMBERS

During the Substantive session of 1996 of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), three members were elected to the **INSTRAW** Board of Trustees to serve their terms commencing 1 July 1996. They are: Ms Maria Jonas, former General Secretary of Socialist International Women (Austria), Mme Noëlie Kangoye, General Secretary, Ministry of Social Action and the Family (Burkina Faso), and Prof. Mona Chemali Khalaf, Assistant Professor of Economics at the Lebanese American University (Lebanon).

As a rule, members of the Board serve in their individual capacities for a term of three years from the date of appointment. They are eligible for reappointment by the Council for one further term. When selecting candidates for appointment to the Board of Trustees, the principle of equitable distribution and geographic balance is adhered to. Thus, the newly appointed members represent the regions of Africa, Asia, and Europe and Other Western States.²

Meetings

• COMPUTER NETWORKING TECHNOLOGY

INSTRAW, DAW and UNIFEM jointly sponsored a Workshop on "Global Information through Computer Networking Technology" as a Follow-Up to the Fourth World Conference on Women" in New York (26-28) June 1996). The objective of the Expert Workshop was to contribute to the development of "Women Watch", a project aimed at facilitating global information exchange for monitoring the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action through the use of computer networking technology. Participants included Internet users and potential users, and producers from developed and developing countries, including non-governmental organizations concerned with women's advocacy. United Nations partners in the use of computer networking also partici-

The discussions of the meeting centered around the following themes:

^{1.} INSTRAW began this new procedure in compliance with General Assembly resolution 50/163 of 1 February 1996.

^{2.} For a complete list of the current Members of the INSTRAW Board of Trustees, see the inside back cover.

 "Experience and best practices with electronic computer networking technology", and its use as a tool;

 "Improving access, training and links with other communication tools and networks"; and

• "Principles for cooperation between NGOs and the United Nations in the conceptualization and implementation of the Women Watch project".

The conclusions and recommendations of the meeting were on research and training. Research was defined as essential for identifying existing resources on-line and for identifying resources which could be on-line and to define women's needs for various forms of communications and information. The need for training was also emphasized. It was noted that there were varying problems with women's access to electronic communications worldwide, among them the main concerned lack of adequate training.

• WOMEN IN DECISION-MAKING AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) and the International Peace Research Institute in Oslo (PRIO) in cooperation with United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and the United Nations Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as co-sponsors, convened an Expert Group Meeting on "The role of women in decision-making and conflict resolution", at INSTRAW Headquarters in Santo Domingo (7-11 October 1996).

Ms Eva Tuft prepared and presented a paper "Integrating a Gender Perspective in Conflict Resolution - the Colombian Case" on behalf of INSTRAW and prepared the following brief summary of the Meeting.

Drawing from previous expert group meetings and reports, the meeting is based on the hypothesis that women have different approaches to peace and security matters and that if they reach a critical mass, the content of decisions and negation as well as priorities on public agendas would be different. The meeting addressed the issue of how and why women make a difference in peace/security matters and conflict resolution in terms of content of decisions. political agendas and managerial style. It also considered the policy implications of those differences and elaborated a set of recommendations aimed at:

• increasing the participation of women in decision-making in those areas, at least to achieve a 'critical mass'; and

 bringing the results of the meeting into mainstream discussions within the UN system, research community and for practical application by policy makers, academic institutions and NGOs.

Documentation distributed at the meeting provided an overview of the existing literature and the state of the art in research, as well as current theoretical knowledge in this and other related fields. Papers presented identified and analyzed the cases in which women have made a difference in peace and security matters and conflict negotiation and resolution. They included case studies and/or comparative studies on conflicts, their

negotiation and the post-conflict reconciliation in which the presence and perspective of women can be noted; movements, actions in which women played a distinct role; negotiations and other high level political activities and decisions involving women; and samples of opinion polls documenting women's different priorities and attitudes to some global issues.

• WOMEN, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and the International Training Centre of the ILO/Turin carried out a Subregional Training Seminar on "Women, Environmental Management and Sustainable Development" for Central and East European countries from 23 to 27 September 1996 in Turin, Italy. Participants from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia attended the seminar which was the first based on the most recent training package prepared by INSTRAW and the International Training Centre of the ILO/Turin entitled "Women, Environmental Management and Sustainable Development" (see page 65).

At the beginning of the seminar, the participants presented national reports which included information on topics such as: national environmental policy and the legal framework; primary environmental factors affecting the health of women; the role of women in the main development sectors; the involvement of women in the design and implementation of policies, programmes and projects related to environmental management; and environmental pollution. This was followed by a presentation of the modules contained in the training package. The Acting Director made two presentations; "Women as agents of change in the development sector" and "Women, environmental indicators and capacity building programmes". Prof. I. Ehn, University of Lund, Sweden made a presentation on "Women as managers of the environment". Other presentations were made by Dr. Elaine Wolfson, President of Global Alliance for Women's Health" and Dr. Corrado Politi of the European Training Foundation, Borjana Bulajic of INSTRAW and Adelina Guastavi of the International Training Centre of the ILO/Turin.

The report of this seminar is available.

• WOMEN, POPULATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: FROM RIO TO CAIRO AND BEIJING

The Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) and UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) organized an Expert Group Meeting on "Women, Population and Sustainable Development: From Rio to Cairo and Beijing" from 18 to 22 November 1996 at INSTRAW headquarters in Santo Domingo.

The Meeting examined the linkages between population and

sustainable development from a gender perspective. The outcome of the Meeting was to establish a basis for the elaboration of an integrated focus for the implementation of the recommendations emanating from the following United Nations Conferences: UN Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro 1992); International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994); and the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995). Ways and means to advance towards sustainable and equitable development through the formulation and implementation of gender sensitive policies were also discussed.

Participating in the Meeting were experts who presented success stories of how to approach issues related to women, population and sustainable development in specific areas where people live and work such as agricultural areas, poor urban neighbourhoods, forests and arid areas.

• SOUTH AFRICA CELEBRATES NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On 9 August 1956, 20,000 women marched to the office of the Ex-Prime Minister Strydom in South Africa with petitions to end the apartheid regime and to achieve freedom and peace in South Africa. Forty years later on the same date in August 1996, another March commemorates that event and celebrated the achievements of those women who took part. As an homage to the women, the Government of South Africa has declared that day as a public holiday to be known as National Women's Day. It is one of the first countries in the world

to have declared such a public holiday in recognition of women.

On 9 August, 1996, in solidarity with the women of South Africa, INSTRAW held a Forum on "The Contribution of Women's Organizations to the Process of Peaceful Conflict Resolution" at its headquarters in Santo Domingo. During the Forum, discussions centered on women's role in politics and conflict resolution. It was generally agreed that women tend to resolve conflicts in a much more peaceful manner than men. However, because of their limited participation at high levels of politics and decision making where conflict resolution occurs, women have little influence for more peaceful solutions. Participants to the Forum gave special praise and admiration to the women of South Africa for their contribution to the long struggle to end the apartheid regime through peaceful means.

A wide spectrum of participants attended the Forum. They represented women's non-governmental and international organizations, technical cooperation agencies and political parties.

• TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND MIGRATION: PROSTITUTION, DOMESTIC WORK AND MARRIAGE

The United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women (GAATW), the Foundation Against Trafficking on Women (STV) and the Centro de Orientación Integral, Inc. (COIN)

organized a "Regional Encounter for Latin America and the Caribbean on Trafficking in Women and Migration: Domestic Work and Marriage" held from 11 to 12 December 1996 at INSTRAW headquarters in Santo Domingo.

This Encounter was held in response to a request from the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, Ms Radhika Coomaraswamy, to the Foundation Against Trafficking in Women (STV) based in the Netherlands and the Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women (GAATW) based in Thailand, for assistance in compiling a substantive report on violence against women. The outcome of this Encounter will be included in the final report of the Special Rapporteur which will be submitted to the Commission on Human Rights in 1997 and which will contain information on forced prostitution and trafficking in women.

Participation

• INTERNATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ON THE ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT OF RURAL WOMEN

INSTRAW participated at the third meeting of the International Steering Committee (ISC) on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women held in Amman, Jordan (14-16 May 1996). The main purpose of the meeting was to identify areas on which the ISC could focus advocacy efforts on behalf of rural women worldwide. During its last two meetings in 1992 and 1994, the ISC had devoted itself to mobilizing public opinion on the deteriorating conditions of life in rural areas. The source of the mandate is the

Geneva Declaration on Rural Women adopted in 1992.

The discussions at this Meeting indicated that a new type of effort is necessary to place rural women on the global agenda. Successive studies of international organizations have concluded that among the hierarchy of the poor of the world, women are at the bottom of the pyramid. There were various questions posed at this Meeting including the distribution of wealth between rural and urban areas: how does any country accumulate wealth and still leave a large number of its people jobless, homeless and landless! In all such categories, women are always the majority; and among refugees and displaced persons, women and children are always in the frontline of suffering, although they are not themselves in the battlefield in a conflict situation. Another question that emerged from the discussions was how rural women become urban women in the process of industrialization and escaped from the oppressive power structures of the family and the community.

One of the main themes that was discussed at this meeting concerned Microcredit for Rural Women, a priority subject of INSTRAW's work programme as evidenced by the numerous publications of its research undertaken in this field. This Meeting did, however, bring to the attention of the policy makers and those in charge of advocacy such as the ISC, that rural poverty and the condition of women are closely linked. The economic advancement of women at this level is also related to macro-economic

factors which create wealth in a country not necessarily linked to policies of equitable distribution of assets, resources and incomes.

Participants at the meeting included three Queens (H.M. Queen Fabiola of Belgium, the initiator of these Conferences; H.M. Queen Noor of Jordan, the host of meeting; and H.M. Queen Sofia of Spain, special invited guest); first ladies of 24 countries; Gertrude Mongela, ex-Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women and former Member of the INSTRAW Board of Trustees; and representatives of United Nations and international organizations; and selected NGOs including Women's World Summit Foundation.

• UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

The United Nations University in Tokyo sponsored a Symposium on "Women and Mainstreaming" on 19 June 1996. During this Symposium, the theme of mainstreaming was discussed in relation to several topics among them research, politics, economy, society and human rights. INSTRAW's Acting Director was invited to speak on several of these topics namely, "Mainstreaming Women's Issues"; "Gender in the Economy"; and "Gender in Society". Other invited speakers included representatives from CSW, DAW and UNICEF and several wellknown women leaders from Japan.

• JOINT UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION COMMITTEE

The Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC) held its twenty-second session from 3 to 5 July 1996 at the UN Office in Geneva. At regular intervals representatives from the various UN bodies and agencies meet to coordinate public information activities and exchange views. This year's session focused on special events such as the International Year and Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, the World Food Summit and the cycle of international conferences on development issues. INSTRAW regularly participates in JUNIC meetings to ensure that public information activities of the UN system contribute to international awareness of women and gender issues. For example, INSTRAW is contributing to an information kit on "Women and Water" being coordinated by the World Meteorological Organization to commemorate World Water Day.

• INTER-AGENCY STEERING COMMITTEE ON WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION

INSTRAW participated at the sixth session of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee for Water Supply and Sanitation which took place from 7 to 8 October 1996 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France. Members of the Steering Committee include: INSTRAW, UNESCO, UNDP, WHO, UNICEF, HABITAT, ECA, FAO, World Bank, DPCSD, and the Collaborative Council for Water Supply and Sanitation. During the meeting, INSTRAW highlighted the need that data in water supply be disaggregated by sex. The meeting agreed that this was indeed a crucial issue.

• ACC SUB-COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES

INSTRAW participated in the seventeenth session of the ACC Sub-Committee on Water Resources held from 9 to 11 October 1996 at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France. Representatives from INSTRAW, UNDP, WHO, WMO, World Bank, UNICEF, UNEP, DDSMS, HABITAT, FAO, IAEA, UNHCR, UNU, UNESCO, and DPCSD attended the meeting. In a review of Chapter 18 of Agenda 21, it was seen that based on INSTRAW inputs, women's roles and activities in the water sector are well reflected in the areas of: integrated water resources development and management; drinking water supply and sanitation; water and sustainable urban development; and water for sustainable food production and rural development. It was agreed that INSTRAW would continue to review gender issues, collect data from other organizations and report back to the Committee on a yearly basis.

• ROLE OF WOMEN IN SUSTAIN-ABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Acting Director of INSTRAW participated at the workshop on the Role of Women in Sustainable Development held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire from 11 to 13 November 1996 and jointly organized by the United Nations Department for Development Support and Management Services (DDSMS) and the African Energy Programme of the African Development Bank. INSTRAW's participation was funded by the African Development Bank.

The purpose of the workshop was to promote a change in

attitudes and perceptions, contributing to a new approach in the development, management and utilization of energy, whereby women's needs and interests are taken into account by policy makers. Forty senior officials from national ministries of energy, water, mining and women's affairs in the African region participated in the Meeting.

Martha Dueñas Loza,
INSTRAW Acting Director, gave a keynote presentation on the topic "Policies and Strategies for Women's Participation in Sustainable Energy Development" and chaired a working group on the same topic.

• AD-HOC INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON ENERGY

The Acting Director of INSTRAW attended the Ad-hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Energy from 18 to 19 December 1996 held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris and organized by the United Nations Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (DPCSD). This Meeting discussed, inter alia, an inventory of energy-related programmes and activities within the United Nations system; an assessment of the linkages between current energy activities and sustainable development; and an assessment of cooperation and coordination of energy activities at the global, regional and national levels with special focus on the country level.

Immediately following this meeting, the INSTRAW Acting Director also participated at the Inter-Agency Consultation on the Preparation of the World Solar

Programme, organized by UNESCO at its headquarters in Paris on 20 December 1996.

Training Packages and Publications

• MODULAR TRAINING
PACKAGE ON WOMEN,
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
INSTRAW with International
Training Centre
of the ILO ISBN-92-1-1270006-5,
Sales No. E.95.III.C.2
(Turin, Italy, 1995)

This training package was prepared in response and as a follow-up to the decisions and recommendations from the United Nations Conference on **Environment and Development** (UNCED), particularly Agenda 21 (Rio de Janeiro, 1992); Plan of Action from the World Summit on Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995); and the Platform for Action from the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995). It aims to contribute to an integrated approach in the organization and management of environmental policies and programmes through the integration of women's needs as well as their participation in planning, management. implementation and evaluation of environmental programmes and projects.

The multisectoral aspect of linking women to environmental management and sustainable development is evidenced in the five modular units, namely,

• Implementation of Agenda 21: INSTRAW and the United Nations System Activities;

- Women and Environmental Health;
- Women as Agents of Change in the Development Sector;
- Women as Managers of the Environment;
- Women, Environmental Indicators and Capacity Building Programmes.

The training package contains 400 pages of training text, 170 transparencies, trainer's guide, bibliography and audio-visual support material. Each module is supplemented with a pedagogical scheme, lesson plan, audiovisual support material, additional reading, bibliographies, key issue checklists for group work, evaluation forms for participants and trainers, and a trainer's guide.

The following groups make up the target audiences of the training package:

• senior officials of ministries of environment, natural resources, planning, women's affairs, education and health;

• development planners and provincial or local authorities in charge of environmental programmes and projects;

• university professors, trainers and managers of national training institutes and educational institutions who train staff on various aspects of environmental management and sustainable development;

• representatives of nongovernmental and women's organizations involved in environmental projects.

For more information concerning the training package, contact: **INSTRAW Headquarters,** P.O. Box 21747, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic Tel: (809) 685-2111, Fax: (809) 685-2117, E-mail: instraw.hq.sd@codetel.net.do. **INSTRAW Liaison Office,** One

UN Plaza, Room DC1-1106, New York, NY 10017. Tel: (212) 963-5684, Fax: (212) 963-2978, Email:bulajicb@un.org.
Or International Training Centre of the ILO, Corso Unita D'Italia 125, 10127 Torino, Italy Tel: (39-11) 693-6513, Fax: (39-11) 663-4266.

• THE USE OF STATISTICS AND INDICATORS ON GENDER ISSUES IN POLICY

This training package is in the process of being prepared at INSTRAW and will provide "hands-on" exercises on how to derive gender-specific indicators, illustrating their use in setting policy targets. It is primarily designed for development planners, government statisticians, officials from relevant ministries involved in development planning, researchers and experts from academic and research institutions, and managers of relevant NGO programmes. Included in the package are guidelines for using the package in training workshops aimed at enhancing the capacity of national development officials to design policy and programmes that adequately and effectively take into account gender related issues and problems; and improving the use of existing information and statistical data in developing gender-specific indicators that define interaction between or amongst different socio-economic variables and specific policy

The "hands-on" exercises included in the package consist of a computerized statistical model, Population Growth Simulation Model, which allow the

participants to see how gender-specific variables can affect policy indicators, such as total population and growth rate. In this model, several indicators are used to calculate the population growth: male and female age of marriage, gross first and second enrolment ratio, economic activity rate, female contraceptive rate and infant mortality rate. The software requires a PC with at least 4MB RAM and QUATTRO PRO for Windows.

• VALUATION OF HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTION AND SATELLITE ACCOUNTS, ISBN-92-1-127053-7, Sales No. E.96.III.C.4 (INSTRAW, Santo Domingo, 1996)

This publication in preparation is a sequel to INSTRAW's time-use monograph Measurement and Valuation of Unpaid Contribution: Accounting through Time and Output (1995). This second publication explores approaches to the development of output measures of satellite accounts on household production and presents some original output-based valuations in Canada, Finland and Nepal. The primary objective of this exercise was to assess the viability of achieving a common understanding and agreement on the framework and methods for measurement and valuation of unpaid work and its reflection in economic indicators through "satellite accounts". The results and conclusions contained in this report, identify measurement and valuation problems and make recommendations to achieve this goal.

Earlier INSTRAW publications on this subject have emphasized that in order to implement the output-based valuation approach, a combination of data from different sources are required. New auxiliary data will need to be collected to define certain norms such as prices, units of measurement used in specific activities and the volume and value of inputs applied to produce certain outputs. The case study in Nepal represented a scenario where such norms had to be determined through collection of new data. For Canada and Finland however, the valuation was conducted using existing secondary data. Both case studies proved that the methodology can

be used in both developing and industrialized countries. In the case of Nepal, the results of the study have concluded that it is possible to construct satellite accounts for household production using a combination of statistical data from large-scale time-use surveys and small-scale surveys to generate normative values for hours of work allocated to various activities. The studies of Canada and Finland demonstrated that the approach is clearly feasible for developing estimates for some of the components of unpaid work.

INSTRAW Publications Now Available in UN Bookstores

INSTRAW has entered into an agreement with United Nations Publications (UNP) by which the Institute's publications will also be sold and distributed by UNP in UN bookstores. More specifically, INSTRAW publications will be available in the UN Headquarters Bookshop, the UN Office in Geneva Bookshop and through the UN Publications Offices in New York and Geneva. Also as part of the agreement, INSTRAW publications will be distributed at many international conferences and fairs as part of the UN publications offered at such events.

E-mail:

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Documentary materials

INSTRAW MANDATE

STATUTE OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (INSTRAW) 1984

Article II

OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS

1. The objectives of the Institute are to stimulate and assist, through research, training and the collection and dissemination of information, the advancement of women and their integration in the developmental process both as participants and as beneficiaries. The Institute is to assist the efforts of intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations in this regard. Accordingly, the principal function of the Institute shall be:

a) To conduct research and studies which would enhance the effective integration and mobilization of women in development; the research and studies programmes of the Institute, including, in particular, action-oriented ones, shall give particular attention to the problems facing women in developing countries and to the integration of women in the formulation, design and implementation of development activities at all levels:

b) To establish training programmes, including a fellowship programme and advisory services, through which the Institute shall endeavour to raise awareness on issues concerning women and development and shall strive to achieve equal participation of women in all aspects of economic and social development and to increase the opportunities for women to acquire new skills in order to meet the challenges of rapid change in today's society;

c) To establish and maintain a system of information, documentation and communication so as to enable the Institute to respond to the need for disseminating information worldwide on women's issues.

2. In view of its catalytic role, the Institute shall make every effort to develop and utilize networking, as appropriate, in carrying out its functions. This should be done at the international, regional and national levels.

3. In the pursuit of its objectives the Institute shall carry out its activities in close collaboration and coordination with institutes and other bodies within and outside the United Nations system.

INSTRAW MANDATE

FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Chapter Five of the report of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing 4-15 September 1995) incorporated the following guidelines for INSTRAW's work:

334. "INSTRAW has a mandate to promote research and training on women's situation and development. In the light of the Platform for Action, INSTRAW should review its work programme and develop a programme for implementing those aspects of the Platform for Action that fall within its mandate. It should identify those types of research and research methodologies to be given priority, strengthen national capacities to carry out women's studies and gender research, including that on the status of the girl child, and develop networks of research institutions that can be mobilized for that purpose. It should also identify those types of education and training that can be effectively supported and promoted by the Institute".

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 50/162, ADOPTED 22 DECEMBER 1995

PROPOSED MERGER OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Recalling its resolution 48/111 of 20 December 1993 regarding the proposal to merge the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women,

Recalling also its resolution 49/160 of 23 December 1994 regarding the proposed merger,

Bearing in mind the report of the Secretary-General dated 7 July 1994¹, submitted pursuant to resolution 48/111,

Also bearing in mind the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions dated 7 September 1994², prepared inn compliance with resolution 48/111,

Taking into consideration its request, in resolution 49/160, to the Secretary-General that he submit, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, an updated report, which would contain, inter alia, the information requested by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1993/235 of 27 July 1993 and by the General Assembly in paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 48/111, as well as the additional information requested by the Advisory Committee,

Also taking into consideration paragraph 5 of the resolution 49/160, in which it requested the Economic and Social Council to re-examine the issue at a resumed session to take place after the Fourth World Conference on Women and

The text of the satute was submitted to General Assembly in Doc. A/39/511 on 26 September 1984 and was approved by the General Assembly at its 39th session (39/249).

^{1.} A/49/217-E/1994/103.

^{2.} A/49/365-E/1994/119.

before the Third Committee of the General Assembly considered the question of the advancement of women, taking into account the deliberations of the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-ninth session, the Fourth World Conference and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions concerning institutional arrangements in the UN system for the advancement of women,

Keeping in mind that the Commission on the Status of Women did not give an opinion on this matter, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 49/160, owing to the lack of the documents requested therein,

Also keeping in mind that the Fourth World Conference on Women did not discuss the proposed merger of the Institute and the Fund, but outlined their mandates separately and distinctly,

Taking note of the opinion expressed by the Inspector in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "The advancement of women through and in the programmes of the United Nations system: what happens after the Fourth World Conference on Women?"1, to the effect that the vast majority of women, and the most pressing problems for women, are in the developing world and that therefore at least one of the specific United Nations women's units should also be based there,

- 1. Takes note of the note by the Secretariat prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/160;2
- 2. Also takes note of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;3
- 3. Reaffirms the views expressed in paragraph 360 of the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,4 in which it is stated that, recognizing the roles of United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, in particular the special roles of the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, in the promotion of the empowerment of women, and therefore in the implementation of the Platform for Action within their respective mandates, inter alia, in research, training and information activities for the advancement of women as well as technical and financial assistance to incorporate a gender perspective in development efforts, the resources provided by the international community need to be sufficient and should be maintained at an adequate level;
- 4. Concurs with the views expressed in paragraphs 334 and 335 of the Platform for Action concerning the mandates of the Institute and the Fund:

- 5. Regrets that, owing to the absence of sufficient information on the legal, technical and administrative implications of the proposed merger, it is currently unable to decide on the proposed merger;
- 6. Urges the Secretary-General to implement the mandates set out in its resolution 49/163 of 20 December 1994:
- 7. Recommends that the interaction between the Commission on the Status of Women, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat and the United Nations Development Fund for Women should be reviewed and rationalized within the context of ongoing efforts to revitalize the Economic and Social Council in pursuance of a stronger, more unified programme for the advancement of women as requested in paragraph 2 of resolution 48/111;
- 8. Also recommends that any proposal dealing with the institutional structure and the mandates of the different United Nations bodies dealing with the advancement of women must be considered part of the general restructuring exercise of the United Nations.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 50/163, ADOPTED 22 DECEMBER 1995

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE AD-VANCEMENT OF WOMEN

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

Recalling its resolution 48/105 of 20 December 1993,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/45 of 27 July 1995.

Also taking note of the report of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,5

Further taking note of the analysis done by the Board of Trustees and its recommendation that the Institute should also report to the Second Committee of the General Assembly under relevant agenda items, in order to improve the coordination and synergy of its programmes with other economic and social issues,

Reaffirming the original mandate and distinct capacity of the Institute to carry out research and training for the advancement of women, as stipulated in General Assembly resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975.

Stressing the need for independent research to ensure that policy-making and project implementation address issues and emerging areas of concern to women, and the role of the activities of the Institute therein,

Noting the recommendation of the Board of Trustees that the Institute should implement the recommendations emanat-

^{1.} A/50/509, para. 225. 2. A/50/747-E/1995/126.

^{3.} A/50/785-E/1995/128. 4. Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (S/CONF.177/20), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II. E/1995/80.

ing from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women, especially those related to research and training needs for the advancement of women, and coordinate effectively with United Nations bodies and organizations to avoid duplication,¹

Convinced that sustainable development cannot be achieved without the full participation of women,

Taking into account paragraph 334 of the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,²

- 1. Expresses its satisfaction with the report of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and commends the Institute for its efforts to focus on problems that constitute barriers to improving the status of women and their full participation in sustainable development process;
- 2. Emphasizes the unique function of the Institute as the only entity within the United Nations system devoted exclusively to research and training for the integration of women in development, and stresses the importance of making its research findings available for policy purposes and for operational activities;
- 3. Commends the efforts of the Institute to address all levels of poverty that hamper so dramatically the advancement of women, through the coordination of research and training activities in the areas of empowerment of women; statistics and indicators in gender issues; communications; women, natural resources and sustainable development; water, sanitation and waste management; renewable sources of energy; and women in rural areas;
- 4. Encourages the Institute to further develop active and close cooperation with the specialized agencies and related organizations of the United Nations system, and with other institutions, such as universities and research institutions, so as to promote programmes that contribute to the advancement of women;
- 5. Reiterates the importance of maintaining the level of resources devoted to independent research and related training activities, which are crucial for the situation of women;
- 6. Expresses its appreciation to those Governments and organizations which have contributed to and supported the activities of the Institute;
- 7. Invites Member States and intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations to contribute through voluntary contributions and pledges to the United Nations Trust Fund

for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, thus enabling the Institute to continue to respond effectively to its mandate;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the activities of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, especially on those activities related to research and training needs for the advancement of women as contained in the follow-up process of the plans and platforms emanating from the major United Nations conferences, under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

ECOSOC RESOLUTION 1996/39 ADOPTED 26 JULY 1996 (DOC A/51/3, PART II, P.49):

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL,

Recalling its resolution 1995/45 of 27 July 1995, in which it took note of the report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its fifteenth session,³

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 50/163 of 22 December 1995, in which the Assembly took note of the same report,

Taking note of the analysis done by the Board of Trustees and its recommendation that the Institute should not only report to the Third Committee but also to the Second Committee of the General Assembly under relevant agenda items in order to improve the coordination and synergy of its programmes with other economic and social issues,

Recognizing the important role played by the Institute at the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the role of the Institute in the follow up to that Conference,

Also recognizing the equally important contributions that the Institute is making in its area of expertise to activities related to the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the International Year of Older Persons,

Reaffirming the original mandate and distinct capacity of the Institute to carry out research and training for the advancement of women, as stipulated in General Assembly resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its sixteenth session and the decisions contained therein;⁴

^{1.} E/1995/80, para. 50.

^{2.} Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20), chap. l, resolution 1, annex II.

^{3.} E/1995/80. 4. E/1996/56.

2. Commends the work of the Institute on the issues addressing the process of the economic and political empowerment of women; statistics and indicators in gender issues; women, natural resources and sustainable development; water, waste management and renewable sources of energy; and issues related to different groups, such as the elderly, displaced, refugees and migrant women;

3. Also commends the Institute for its efforts to further develop active and close cooperation with the specialized and related agencies of the United Nations system, and with other organs, programmes and institutions, so as to promote programmes that contribute to the advancement of women;

4. Reiterates the importance of maintaining the level of resources devoted to independent research and related training activities that are crucial for the empowerment of women;

5. Calls upon States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute through voluntary contributions and pledges to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, thus enabling the Institute to continue to respond effectively to its mandate.

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW) RESOLUTION ON INSTRAW, MARCH 1996.

The Commission on the Status of Women, at its fortieth session held in New York (11-22 March 1996), *decided* that "The Platform for Action should be implemented through the work of all bodies and organizations of the United Nations system during the period 1995-2000...." (Doc E/1996/26). The Commission on the Status of Women adopted the following resolution which was brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council and approved in its substantive session held in New York 24 June-26 July 1996 (E/CN.6/1996/66):

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/163 of 22 December 1995, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the original mandate and distinct capacity of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women to carry out research and training for the advancement of women, as

1. Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

stipulated in General Assembly resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975.

Stressing the need for independent research to ensure that policy-making and project implementation address issues and emerging areas of concern to women and the role of the activities of the Institute therein,

1. Emphasizes the unique function of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women as the only entity within the UN system devoted exclusively to research and training for the advancement of women and their integration in the development process, and stresses the importance of making its research findings available for policy purposes, as background for operational activities and for the implementation of the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women;

2. Reaffirms paragraph 360 of the Platform for Action, in which it is stated that, recognizing the roles of the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, in particular the roles of the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, in the promotion of the empowerment of women, and therefore in the implementation of the Platform for Action within their respective mandates, inter alia, in research, training and information activities for the advancement of women, as well as technical and financial assistance to incorporate a gender perspective in development efforts, the resources provided by the international community need to be sufficient and should be maintained at an adequate level;

3. Stresses the need for the Institute to further develop active and close cooperation with the specialized agencies and related organizations of the United Nations system and with other institutions;

4. Recognizes the special role that the Institute must play in the implementation of the Platform for Action;

5. Commends the efforts of the Institute to address all levels of poverty that hamper so dramatically the advancement of women, through the coordination of research and training activities in the areas of economic and political empowerment of women; statistics and indicators in gender issues; communications; women, natural resources and sustainable development; water, sanitation and waste management; renewable sources of energy; and issues related to different population groups, such as the girl child, older women, displaced women, refugee and migrant women and women in rural areas;

6. *Urges* the Secretary-General to implement the mandates set out in General Assembly resolution 49/163 of 20 December 1994.

Abbreviations and Acronyms **USED IN THIS ISSUE**

ACW	African Centre	DPCSD	Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable
AFWE	African Federation of Women		Development
AI WE	Entrepreneurs	ECA	Economic Commission
AlDoS	The Italian Association for Women in		for Africa
7	Development	ECE	Economic Commission
ARCC	African Regional Coordinating		for Europe
	Committee	ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin
AWHRC	Asian Women's Human		America and the Caribbean
	Rights Council	ECOSOC	Economic and Social
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination		Council
	of Discrimination Against	ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission
	Women		for Asia and the Pacific
CEDPA	Center for Development	ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission
	and Population Activities		for Western Asia
CELADE	Latin American Demographic	FAO	Food and Agricultural
	Center		Organization
CIDA	Canadian International Development		of the United Nations
	Agency	FGM	Female Genital
CIM	Inter-American Commission		Mutilation
	on Women	FWCW	Fourth World Conference
CMC	Computer Mediated Communication		on Women
	Technologies	GAWE	Ghana Women's Entrepreneurs
CRC	Convention on the Rights		Association
	of the Child	GDI	Gender-sensitive Development
CSW	Commission on the Status		Index
	of Women	GITD	Gender in Trade
DAC	Development Assistance		Development
	Committee	GROOTS	Grassroots Organizations
DAW	Division for the Advancement		Operating Together
	of Women		for Sisterhood
DDSMS	Department for Development	HDR	Human Development
	Support and Management		Report
	Services	HIC	Habitat International
DESD	Department for Economic and Social		Coalition
	Development	IAEA	International Atomic Energy
DGPM	General Directorate for the	10011	Agency
	Advancement of Women (Dominican	ICRW	International Center for Research
	Republic)	IOU	on Women
DHA	Department of Humanitarian	ICW	International Council
	Affairs	1	of Women

IDWSSD	International Drinking Water	UNEP	United Nations Environment
	Supply and Sanitation		Programme
	Decade	UNFPA	United Nations
IECAIM	Ecuadorian Research and Training		Population Fund
	Institute for Women	UNICEF	United Nations Children's
ILO	International Labour		Fund
	Organisation	UNICRI	United Nations Interregional
INSTRAW	United Nations International		Crime and Justice
	Research and Training Institute for the		Research Institute
	Advancement of Women	UNIDO	United Nations
ITC	International		Industrial Development
	Trade Centre		Organization
JUNIC	Joint United Nations Information	UNIFEM	United Nations Development
	Committee		Fund for Women
NFLS	Nairobi Forward-looking	UNRISD	United Nations Research Institute
	Strategies		for Social Development
NGLS	Non-Governmental Liaison	UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works
	Service		Agency for Palestine Refugees
NGO	Non-governmental		in the Near East
	Organization	USAID	United States Agency
OECD	Organization for Economic		for International
	Cooperation		Development
	and Development	UNU	United Nations
PRIO	International Peace		University
	Research Institute	VAW	Violence Against
SNA	System of National		Women
	Accounts	WCC	Women's Constructive Collective
SWMTP	System-wide Medium-term		(Jamaica)
	Plan	WFP	World Food
UNCED	United Nations Conference		Programme
	on Environment and Development	WHO	World Health
UNCHS	United Nations Conference on Human		Organization
	Settlements	WID	Women in
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference		Development
	on Trade and Development	WWSF	Women's World Summit
WTO CO	World Trade Organization		Foundation
UNDP	United Nations Development		
	Programme		
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific		

and Cultural Organization

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United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

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