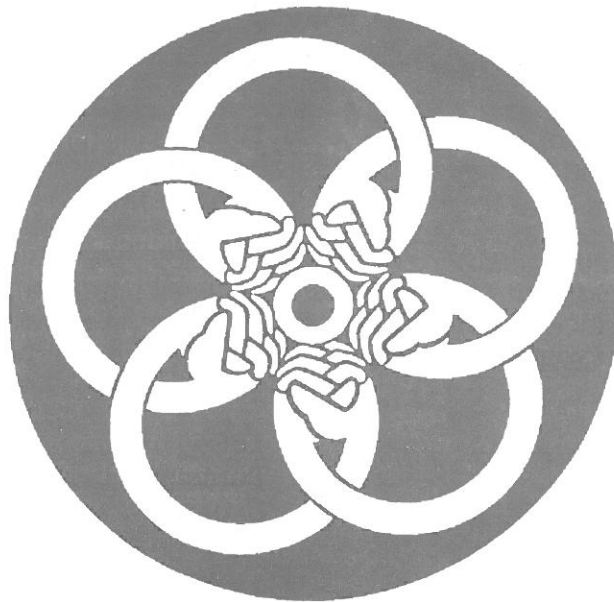


INSTRAW



UNITED NATIONS
INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING
INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN



INSTRAW FOCAL POINTS
Links for Networking

1996 I
INS-GLO
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**INSTRAW NETWORK OF FOCAL POINTS
by year of appointment**

1985

Cuba
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Egypt
France
Greece
Indonesia
Italy
Mexico
Norway
Pakistan
Spain
Sri Lanka
Yugoslavia*
Zambia

1986

Bulgaria
Costa Rica
Ecuador
Japan
Philippines

1987

Argentina
United States of America
Venezuela

1988

New Zealand
Nigeria
Panama

1989

Brazil
Portugal
Sudan**

1990

Finland

1991

Korea
Poland

1992

Bahamas
Canada
Turkey

1993

The Netherlands
Zimbabwe

1994

Tunisia
Uruguay

1995

Burkina Faso
Suriname

1996

Austria

* No longer in operation.

** A governmental Sub-Focal Point was approved in 1988.

The United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) is the only United Nations institute with the mandate for research and training on the advancement of women. As such the Institute plays a catalytic role in:

- 1) stimulating and assisting, through research, training and the collection and dissemination of information, the advancement of women and making women's contribution to development more visible; and
- 2) assisting the efforts of inter-governmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations in this regard.

INSTRAW's work is carried out in four main programme areas: Economic and Political Empowerment of Women; Women, Environmental Management and Sustainable Development; Women, Communications and Media; and Statistics and Indicators on Gender Issues.

To maximize its catalytic role, INSTRAW utilizes networking at international, regional and national levels. Many of the Institute's activities are carried out in coordination with other institutes and bodies both within and outside the United Nations system.

In addition, INSTRAW relies on the support from its Network of INSTRAW Focal Points, which as of 1996 consists of 41 members. This Network, initiated in 1985, groups together institutions from all regions of the world that can be categorized as follows: governmental, non-governmental and academic, research and training institutions.

	Government	NGO	Academic, Research & Training
Africa	6	1	
Asia	4	1	1
Europe & Other States	9	4	3
Latin America & Caribbean	9	2	1
TOTAL	28	8	5

INSTRAW FOCAL POINTS: MAIN AREAS OF FOCUS

Governmental Institutions

- Coordinate activities with organizations dealing with issues concerning women at the national level.
- Carry out research and training activities such as seminars, workshops, meetings, etc.
- Project implementation and evaluation.
- Influence institutions responsible for policy making and legislative decisions.
- Provide support and information services relevant to gender, women and development.
- Organize/establish data centres.
- Fund projects concerning gender, women and development.

Academic and Research Institutions

- Carry out research studies, training and other activities that will contribute to women's integration in society;
- Provide specialized services to women;
- Expand knowledge about gender and women's issues through teaching.

Non-governmental Institutions

- Research and training activities integrating women into sustainable development.
- Project implementation and evaluation.
- Sponsor training activities such as seminars, workshops, etc.
- Disseminate information for awareness raising.
- Establish libraries, documentation centres specializing in themes relevant to women.
- Collaborate with other NGOs, regional and international institutions.

WHAT IS AN INSTRAW FOCAL POINT?

A Focal Point for INSTRAW is an institution in a particular country or region designated to assist in maintaining contacts with the organizations and/or individuals who are active in the field of women and development. The approved focal point in a particular country or region will be the contact institution, to foster and coordinate INSTRAW's cooperation with interested institutions in the country or region in research, training, information/documentation/communication activities related to the advancement of women.

WHAT DOES A FOCAL POINT DO?

- Identify national priorities relevant to gender, women and development.
- Maintain contact with organizations and/or individuals who are active in the field of gender, women and development, including governmental and United Nations organizations.
- Coordinate the cooperation of institutions in the country or region that are interested in INSTRAW's work.
- Develop joint programmes with INSTRAW in the priority areas related to INSTRAW's work programme.
- Work with the Network of Focal Points in the region with a view to carrying out joint activities and exchanging information at the regional level.
- Assist INSTRAW in extending its outreach to more countries by publicizing INSTRAW's work at the national and regional level.
- secure support for the Institute's activities.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BECOMING AN INSTRAW FOCAL POINT?

Through an established relationship with instraw as a focal point, an institution may:

- Have direct access to INSTRAW research findings, training materials and publications.
- Receive advisory services in the design, implementation and evaluation of gender-sensitive development policies and programmes.
- Collaborate in research and/or training activities at the national or regional levels in subject areas relevant to INSTRAW's work programme.

- Identify other institutions through INSTRAW's networks of institutions both within and outside the United Nations system in order to exchange information and experiences on issues related to the advancement of women.
- Receive advice and assistance in seeking sources of funding for programmes and projects related to the advancement of women.

WHAT ARE THE STEPS FOR BECOMING AN INSTRAW FOCAL POINT?

1. The interested institution formally submits a request to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in its country.
2. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs transmits the request to the country's Permanent Mission to the United Nations.
3. The Permanent Mission officially communicates to INSTRAW the appointment of the requesting institution.
4. The appointment is then submitted for approval by the INSTRAW Board of Trustees at its next annual session.
5. Once approved by the Board, INSTRAW notifies the interested institution of its appointment as an INSTRAW Focal Point.

INSTRAW NETWORK OF FOCAL POINTS

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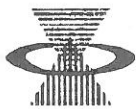
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