



## WHAT IS INSTRAW?

The United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) was established by the Economic and Social Council (Council resolution No. 1998 (LX) of 12 May 1976) in conformity with an earlier decision of the General Assembly (G.A. resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975), which was based on a recommendation made by the World Conference of the International Women's Year held in Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975. In 1984, INSTRAW's statute, submitted by INSTRAW's Board of Trustees, its governing body, was approved by Economic and Social Council resolution No. 1984/124 and then by General Assembly resolution No. 39/249. INSTRAW is the only autonomous research and training institution within the framework of the United Nations to serve as a research and training vehicle at the international level in order to contribute to the advancement and mobilization of women in development; to raise awareness of women's issues worldwide and better to assist women to meet new challenges and directions. INSTRAW has been based in Santo Domingo since 1983, at the invitation of the Government of the Dominican Republic.

INSTRAW and its work are governed by the Board of Trustees which is composed by eleven members nominated by Member States and appointed by the Economic and Social Council, based on their personal capacity and the principle of equitable geographical distribution. A representative of the Secretary-General, the Director of the Institute, a representative of each of the Regional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council, and a representative of the Host Country are *ex-officio* members of the Board of Trustees. The Institute and its work are funded by voluntary contributions received from States, inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and private sources.

The main responsibilities and tasks of the Board of Trustees are:

- formulate principles, policies and guidelines for the activities of the Institute;
- consider and approve the work programme and budget proposals of the Institute on the basis of recommendations submitted by the Director of the Institute;
- make necessary or desirable recommendations for the operation of the Institute;
- report periodically to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly.

INSTRAW's Board of Trustees meets regularly once a year.

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# INSTRAW'S MAJOR PROGRAMME THRUSTS

INSTRAW's research and training programmes are aimed at placing issues relevant to the advancement of women into the economic and political decision-making processes. It does this by holding national training workshops and conducting joint research and training programmes and projects in collaboration with specialized United Nations agencies, the Commission on the Status of Women, United Nations Focal Points for women, and especially, regarding data and statistics, with the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat.

INSTRAW's main programme thrusts have therefore been focused on:

- the economic and political empowerment process
- the collection of statistics and indicators on women's work in the formal and informal sectors
- the situation of the availability of statistics on elderly women
- women and time-use
- statistics and women in the informal sector in industry, trade and services
- the migration of women and the methodological issues involved in the measurement and analysis of internal and international migration
- women, water and sanitation including waste management
- new and renewable sources of energy
- women and sustainable development
- women and environmental management
- the role of women in environmentally sound and sustainable development
- the image and participation of women in alternative and mass media
- gender and development studies including training materials

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