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REPORT ON  
 ACTIVITIES RELATING TO INTEGRATION OF  
 WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT



**UNITED NATIONS**

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA Office for the Caribbean



REPORT ON  
ACTIVITIES RELATING TO INTEGRATION OF  
WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

1. Since its beginning, the Programme for the Integration of Women in Development sought to work in collaboration with:

- a) Other CDCC and ECLA programmes, such as the Caribbean Documentation Centre, Planning, Statistical Data Bank, Industrial and Social Programmes.
- b) Agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- c) Regional institutions and organizations, such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and the University of the West Indies (UWI), specially its Women and Development Unit (WAND).

2. Taking into consideration the mandates received at different sessions of the CDCC, in particular the Fourth and the Fifth, and having as a frame of reference the Regional Plan of Action on the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, the activities of the Programme were carried out under the following priority areas:

a) Assistance to Women's Desks

3. In 1979 there were focal points in three countries: Barbados, Cuba and Jamaica. The programme supported the establishment of focal points in more of the countries of the region providing assistance in the formulation of projects to create women's desks and/or to reinforce those that were being established. Up to this date there are focal points in nine Caribbean countries, an increase of 200%. Although most are still understaffed and lack technical and financial resources, there are efforts to upgrade the skills of their personnel through

training<sup>1/</sup> and the incorporation of the desks to the Caribbean Information System whereby they would be able to acquire and share information valuable for their programmes.

b) Training

4. At the Fifth Session of the CDCC mention was made of the need to provide training for women in project-programme planning.

5. Financed by the United Nations Voluntary Fund for the Decade of Women, a "Caribbean Training Workshop in Project-Programme Planning Skills" was held June 14-26, 1981 in Barbados. Having the general objective to accelerate the process of women's full participation in development planning and implementation, the immediate objectives of the Workshop were: i) to develop materials for use at the Workshop and at country-level; ii) to prepare draft proposals relating to women and development, demonstrating skills acquired, and to discuss these proposals with representatives of donor agencies for possible funding; and iii) to develop a plan for follow-up activities within each country that would extend the Workshop learning experience.

6. The Workshop was attended by all the countries of the English-speaking Caribbean<sup>2/</sup>, bringing together representatives from national governmental machineries and planning units, and private organizations, both national and regional. Representatives from international and regional governmental agencies, private foundations, and regional financial institutions also participated in the Workshop providing counsel in the preparation of project proposals.

7. The Workshop objectives were fully implemented by participants and representatives of donor agencies. The first objective had as its outcome the development of a series of materials on women and project-programme planning prepared by an ECLA Consultant, which were compiled under the title "Women and Development: Guidelines for Programme/Project Planning" (E/CEPAL/CDCC/72/Add.1). This document is

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<sup>1/</sup> See paragraphs 4-9.

<sup>2/</sup> A similar workshop for the Spanish and French-speaking Caribbean, Mexico and Central America will be held next November.

being circulated to the other regional commissions for comments and it is expected it will be widely used by officers of women's desks, planning units and non-governmental organizations.

8. The second objective was accomplished through the twenty-eight project proposals prepared by the participants and discussed with representatives from international and regional governmental agencies, private foundations, and regional financial institutions present at the Workshop. The project proposals fall under various categories such as: agro-business, industrial development, income-generations, community services, training in marketing and management and information and research.

9. The third objective, to develop a plan for follow-up activities within each country and also at a sub-regional level, also established future guidelines for the Programme. Three main types of activities need follow-up between 1980-1982: i) final editing, reproduction and distribution of the Guidelines; ii) assistance to countries and NGOs in the completion of their project proposals; and iii) to seek funds for and assist in the organization of sub-regional training activities requested by participants. The last two types of activities (ii and iii) will be implemented in collaboration with the CARICOM, WAND, and other sub-regional institutions such as the Caribbean Women Association (CARIWA). The final report of the Workshop appears as document E/CEPAL/CDCC/72.

10. The project "Workshop on Industrial Entrepreneurship Development for Women in the Eastern Caribbean", submitted by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to the Voluntary Fund's Eighth Session, was sent to ECLA for assistance, since the Voluntary Fund considered that projects such as this needed a stronger involvement from participating countries. Late in 1980, the Co-ordinator distributed copies of the proposal to some countries in the Caribbean and to the CARICOM Secretariat for comments, and did follow-up on the request by letter and personally. Replies are still being expected. In the meantime, during a visit to Honduras to attend a FAO meeting, the Co-ordinator visited the Banco Centroamericano de Integración Económica (BCIE) to explore the possibilities of involving this

institution in the project. It was clear from the proposal and the experience of the Caribbean that one of the main problems related to industrial development in the region is the very limited market for the products. One of the ways to overcome this obstacle is enlarging the existing market so as to include, for example, the Caribbean basin. The UNIDO project and the BCIE's involvement could also afford the opportunity to establish a link and/or network of entrepreneurial women in the Caribbean and Central American countries. The dialogue with Bank officials was promisory but more work has to be done in this regard.

c) Women in Development Planning

11. The provision by ECLA of a Research Assistant to the Programme will enable it to implement some of the mandates of the Fourth Session of the CDCC in regard to women and planning as well as the recommendations of the meeting on "Women in Development Planning" held in Barbados (May 1980; see E/CEPAL/CDCC/63), and adopted by the Second Meeting of Planning Officials. The programme is actually engaged in: i) An Analysis of the national development plans of Caribbean countries in order to ascertain the presence or absence of women in them, and to make the appropriate recommendations for their inclusion; ii) Establishing contacts with women planners in order to create a network for the interchange of materials, experience, information and consultations; and iii) Assisting the ECLA Unit for the Integration of Women in Development with the regional project funded by the Voluntary Fund "Women and Social Development Planning", specifically in regard to the Caribbean region. It is expected that the Guidelines prepared for the "Caribbean Regional Training Workshop in Project-Programme Planning Skills" will be used in the above mentioned project.

d) Technical Assistance

12. Almost all the technical assistance provided to governments and non-governmental organizations in the region has been of three types: i) Assistance in project preparation; ii) Assistance in project implementation and evaluation; and iii) Assistance in clearing administrative red tape.

13. During the period, the Co-ordinator was involved with two types of projects:

i) Regional, sub-regional and inter-subregional:

- ECLA "Caribbean Regional Training Workshop in Project-Programme Planning Skills"
- ECLA "Women and Social Development Planning"
- UNIDO "Workshop on Industrial Entrepreneurship Development for Women in the Eastern Caribbean"
- (Panama) "Production, Preparation and Handling of Meals" (Submitted through UNDP, this project was designed and prepared with the assistance of both ECLA's Co-ordinators).
- ECLA "Workshop on Radiophonic Schools and Rural Women", to be held next October in the Dominican Republic"

ii) National Projects:

- Guyana "Production, Training, Marketing and Service Support for Women in a Rural Integrated Development"
- Dominican Republic, "Industrial Application Programme for Women", and "Programme Support for Women in Development", which comprises three projects.
- Belize, "Women in Development Unit"
- Grenada, "Strengthening the Women's Desk"
- Montserrat, "Small Garment Industry for Women"
- Trinidad and Tobago "Research on Rural Women and Planning"

14. The project "Production, Training, Marketing and Service Support for Women in a Rural Integrated Development" (Guyana) submitted a request in November 1980, for additional funds in order to definitively launch the project, which had suffered some delays. The additional funds were processed through ECLA and approved by the Voluntary Fund and the project is being implemented.

15. It must be noted that when the Programme started in 1979, only three projects had been submitted to the Voluntary Fund from the Caribbean region. After the Ninth Session of the Fund's Consultative Committee in March 1981, thirteen projects<sup>3/</sup> have been submitted and approved (although some "in principle") representing an increase of over 300%.

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<sup>3/</sup> Regional projects which have a Caribbean component have been included.

e) Legislation

16. The CDCC has given specific mandates to the Programme in this area, recognizing the importance of legislation as a tool for planners. In this regard, the Programme sought the co-operation and collaboration of the CARICOM and the Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER) of the UWI.

17. Early in 1980, the Co-ordinator prepared a detailed guide for a study on Caribbean legislation on Women, emphasizing those aspects more related to socio-economic development: tax and employment laws, for example. The guide was to be used by the CARICOM Secretariat action-research project on legislation which was to be followed by a series of mini-workshops whose objectives was to make the appropriate recommendations to governments.

18. It is expected that the action-research project will be completed by the end of this year and that at least one of the mini-workshops could be held in one Caribbean country at the beginning of December.

f) Research - Data collection

19. The Programme is finalizing the Basic Profile on Women for each country of the region, using the available data at the Caribbean Documentation Centre and the data provided by the ISER research project. It is expected that the Profiles will be updated by each country (through the national machineries), by providing them with a simple methodology for doing so.

20. The need for training in research and data collection was strongly emphasized at the "Caribbean Regional Training Workshop in Project-Programme Planning Skills". In this regard, the Programme is seeking ways to assist in the provision of such training. Nevertheless, it should be taken into account that there are very few available human resources in the region to tackle this problem. Efforts have been made to obtain assistance from the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), and from other international agencies but with discouraging results up to date.



g) Collaboration and Co-ordination

21. This activity has been one main concern of the Programme, since it is the only way of using effectively the available resources for women's programmes.

22. The collaboration and co-ordination with the CARICOM and ISER-UWI in specific areas (legislation, research) have already been mentioned. To those must be added the co-ordination in the field of women in development planning with CARICOM's activities. There has also been very close collaboration with WAND in the field of women in development planning, project formulation and training, and technical assistance.

23. The agencies and organizations involved with women's programmes in the Caribbean established in 1979 a mechanism which could ensure a co-ordinated and collaborative work. The mechanism works through: i) the exchange of work programmes and information; ii) the dissemination of documents and support materials; iii) personal contacts when on mission; and iv) regular meetings among the agencies. During the period being reported three meetings have been held. The participating organizations have been: ECLA, CARICOM, Caribbean Church Women (CCW) of the Caribbean Council of Churches (CCC), CARIWA, Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS), WAND, ISER, ILO, FAO, and UNICEF.

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