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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

REPORT OF THE REGIONAL SEMINAR FOR LATIN AMERICA ON THE
INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT WITH SPECIAL
REFERENCE TO POPULATION FACTORS

(Caracas, 28 April-2 May 1975)

Note: This text, submitted in May 1975 at the sixteenth session of ECLA, is submitted with some additions explained in the preliminary note, for the consideration of the Conference of the International Women's Year (Mexico - June 1975).

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Preliminary Note

The Regional Seminar for Latin America on the Integration of Women in Development, with Special Reference to Population Factors, was held in Caracas, Venezuela, from 28 April to 2 May 1975, bearing in mind resolution 321 (XV) adopted by the Commission in Quito, Ecuador.^{1/} The participants approved the Declaration of the Seminar and some Recommendations to ECLA, which, together with Section I on Organization of the Seminar, were distributed as a provisional report (E/CEPAL/1006) at the closure of the meeting. The summary of discussions was prepared by the Rapporteur of the Seminar, Ms. Carlota Vargas (Mexico), who authorized the secretariat to put it into its final form. This text was incorporated, as Section II, in document E/CEPAL/1006/Rev.1 which was submitted to the sixteenth session of the Commission (Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 6-14 May 1975).

The following note was printed at the foot of the first page of this latter document: "This text, submitted by the secretariat at the sixteenth session of ECLA, is subject to the incorporation of observations by some of the participating experts, who undertook to communicate these to the secretariat by 20 May 1975".

When this subject was considered by the Commission, several delegations expressed interest in the holding of a regional conference after the World Conference of the International Women's Year and supported the conclusions of the Seminar. The Commission took note of the report submitted by the secretariat and recommended that it be transmitted to the World Conference to be held in Mexico City.^{2/}

^{1/} See Annex III for this resolution. The studies requested from the secretariat were submitted to the Seminar and served as basis for its discussions.

^{2/} See "Annual Report" (E/CEPAL/989/Rev.1), para. 602.

Consequently, Sections I, II and III and Annexes I and II of this version of the report, which was specially prepared for the World Conference of the International Women's Year, are the same - except for slight corrections of form - as the report submitted to the session in Port-of-Spain, since this was the version of which the Commission officially took note. The present version of the report also contains, however, in addition to this Preliminary Note and Annex III containing resolution 321 (XV), a Section IV, entitled "Reservations and comments received by the ECLA secretariat on the subject of the foregoing report", which reproduces the communications received up to (and even after) the agreed date of 20 May 1975.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SEMINAR

Duration of the Seminar

1. The Regional Seminar for Latin America on the Integration of Women in Development, with special reference to Population Factors, organized by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations with the collaboration of ECLA, was held in the Parque Central Conference Centre (Edificio Anauco), Caracas, Venezuela, from 28 April to 2 May 1975.

Attendance

2. The Seminar was attended by representatives of the member States of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), observers from non-member States, and representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and other inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations. Ms. María del Carmen Elú de Leñero (Mexico) and Ms. Gladys López de Vásquez (Venezuela) took part in the proceedings by special invitation (a complete list of the participants is given in Annex I).

Opening and closing meetings

3. At the opening meeting on 28 April, statements were made by Ms. Helvi Sipilä, Under-Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, who represented the Secretary-General of the United Nations - and read a message from him - and the Executive Secretary of ECLA, and by Dr. Pablo Salcedo Nadal, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Assistance of Venezuela.

4. At the closing meeting statements were made by Ms. Helvi Sipilä, Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations, Mr. Enrique V. Iglesias, Executive Secretary of ECLA, by the representative of Colombia, Mrs. Josefina Amizquito de Almeyda, who thanked the Venezuelan authorities, on behalf of all the delegations, for the hospitality extended, and by the Chairman of the Seminar and representative of Venezuela, Mrs. María Carmona de Chacón.

Election of Officers

5. At the first working meeting, held on 28 April 1975, the participants elected the following Officers:

Chairman: María Carmona de Chacón (Venezuela)

First Vice-Chairman: Federico Soneira (Uruguay)

Second Vice-Chairman: Gertrude Lilian Eastman (Barbados)

Rapporteur: Carlota Vargas (Mexico)

Working Groups

6. Two Working Groups, made up of one or more representatives from each of the delegations interested in participating in them, were set up to consider the documents submitted at the Seminar. Working Group 1 was chaired by the representative of Uruguay and Working Group 2 by the representative of Barbados.

7. The results of the proceedings of the Working Groups were transmitted to the Plenary of the Seminar for its approval and are given in Part III of this report.

II. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

8. The participants agreed that as a rule of procedure decisions and recommendations would be taken by consensus, as befitted a seminar of government experts. That was done, subject to the reservations noted below.
9. In their opening statements, participants briefly outlined the situation of women in their respective countries, drawing attention to those points which, in their opinion, were factors fundamental to analysis of and action on the problem.
10. An item which rapidly emerged as very important and dominated the spirit of the meeting, receiving the express and reiterated support of the Latin American representatives was, the broad structural character of the problem under discussion. In that connexion, it was stated that there was a close link between the social status of women and the general problems of a country's development. It was stated that discrimination against women stemmed from the problems of society as a whole and that, in the case of the Latin American countries, it could not be disassociated from the problems of underdevelopment in all its multiple social manifestations, inter alia, deficiencies with regard to nutrition, education, health and employment which had the greatest effect on the poorest social strata.
11. It was generally accepted that a comprehensive solution to the problem of sex inequality could not be achieved in a social structure where there were other types of discrimination against human beings also. One delegation said that there could be no equality between men and women as long as there was inequality among the groups which made up society and among the countries which constituted the international community.
12. It was also mentioned that the problems arising from discrimination against women affected not only women but all human beings: in other words, any progress in this field would have to be the outcome of a combined effort of men and women aimed at more complete fulfilment of the human condition, irrespective of any social or sexual distinctions.

13. It was further stated that discrimination based on sex affected women everywhere, whether they lived in developing or in developed countries, albeit in different ways. However, some experts expressed certain reservations and emphasized the special nature of the "problem of women" living in conditions of dependent underdevelopment. A number of participants pointed out that the solution to the problem of women could not be disassociated from those affecting social structures in underdeveloped countries, but the point was also made that appropriate action should not be deferred and that it was therefore necessary to propose and put immediately into practice measures aimed at combating discrimination based on sex.

14. Consequently, the problem of Latin American women should be set more squarely within the general context of development problems without losing its specificity. In that connexion, it was felt that women must join in the efforts aimed at bringing about the social change necessary for raising their level of participation in society. It would not be equitable for women to benefit by progress in which they took no part. The participation of women in every sphere of social life was therefore not just an objective but a requirement for the transformation of society.

15. Concerning legislation regarding women, most of the participants informed the Seminar of the situation in their own countries. It thus became clear that considerable progress had been made in every case in respect of the abrogation of laws discriminating against women and that legislation in general was tending to increase and improve their participation in society. Although genuine progress had been made, it varied from country to country; some boasted almost complete equality while others still had a long way to go. At all events, there was clearly a general trend in the right direction, i.e., towards putting an end to juridical discrimination against women.

16. When the status of women with regard to employment was considered, it was found from the information supplied by the various delegations that the situation was not the same in all the countries. In some, although women spent more years in school and accounted for the greater part of the labour force, they suffered from just as much discrimination

as in others. To a greater or lesser extent, the situation in most Latin American countries was as follows: (a) most working women were employed in the services sector; (b) there were preconceived ideas about the kind of work that was suitable for men and the kind that was suitable for women, the prestige and opportunities for organizational leadership varying accordingly; (c) generally speaking, women were paid less than men for equal work; (d) rural women had to play a dual role as housewives and agricultural workers and participated in the latter work on the same basis as men; (e) in most Latin American countries there were high rates of unemployment and underemployment, but the figures were proportionally higher in the case of women, whose occupational instability was therefore much greater.

17. The conclusion was reached that various factors were responsible for the fact that women did not have equal employment opportunities or receive equal financial remuneration and social recognition in keeping with their abilities.

18. Current statistical methods did not acknowledge women's contribution to economic growth, because the way in which the gross national product was measured did not attach any economic value to their work in the home, to volunteer work, to their collaboration in family business, or to unpaid work done to help their husbands. It was therefore particularly recommended that new methods should be studied for calculating the economic value of the various ways in which women contributed to the development effort.

19. Generally speaking, women were barred, from those institutional and organizational levels where major decisions were taken, an example of this being the situation that existed in many countries where, although the primary, intermediate and higher levels of the education system were dominated by women and there were industries in which most of the workers and employees were women, nevertheless the decision-making and administrative posts were in the hands of men. The same was true for political parties, trade unions, public and private enterprises, and administrative and political bodies, where the management was usually predominantly male.

20. It was also necessary to recognize that motherhood was an event of profound social significance, and not an individual burden to which women must resign themselves without adequate assistance. Pregnant women should not be restricted in their opportunities to work, since they were in fact making an invaluable contribution to their country by ensuring the continuity of the population. Motherhood therefore deserved social recognition in every sense, and women's employment opportunities should not suffer in the process. On the contrary, the Seminar recommended that, at the same time as this social aspect of motherhood was taken into account, measures should be introduced to guarantee women's job tenure or subsequent re-incorporation into the labour force without its affecting their promotion possibilities.

21. As regards health, it was generally recognized that women's health was part of their position in society, which it affected just as much as in the case of the health of the family. To solve this problem, it was necessary to make better and more complete health and nutrition services available both to women and to their families, whether in urban or in rural areas, and special attention should be given to the underprivileged and lower-income sectors.

22. With regard to discriminatory practices, it was stated that, while rapid progress was being made in the abrogation of discriminatory legal provisions against women, social mores and customs still involved considerable discrimination, even where a measure of juridical equality had been achieved. Considerable importance was attached to the need for doing away with these social practices which sometimes subtly but effectively discriminated against women.

23. In this connexion, measures aimed at resolving such problems should contemplate not only juridical and organizational changes, but also the thorough transformation of attitudes and customs standing in the way of women's equal participation in society.

24. In the course of the debate on this point, reference was made to the fact that discrimination stemmed not only from the values and attitudes of men but also from those of the women suffering from discrimination, who frequently themselves perpetuated the discriminatory mechanisms or used them against other women. There was general

agreement on the importance of the mass media in creating and disseminating the discriminatory and preconceived social images.

25. A large number of delegations placed special emphasis on the need to devote proper attention to education, which was a central element in changing present mental structures and achieving true and greater equality between men and women in the long run, as it could modify the attitudes and values prevailing in the existing discriminatory social climate.

26. There was also general agreement on the need to strive for integral education to combat society's preconceived ideas regarding relations between the sexes, in the context of the development of an independent and constructive personality conferring better opportunities on men and women for a fuller life. Education should therefore not impose an automatic and usually passive role on women. On the contrary, what was needed was that they should be trained to make the most of their social and human abilities and opportunities and, where they so desired, to compete at every level. It was also necessary to correct attitudes which, in one way or another, treated women as pawns in a consumer society or sex objects.

27. Education should therefore be reformulated so that, with the general consensus of society, women were considered real people with full human dignity who commanded social respect. On this point, some participants suggested specific measures such as, for example, the review of mass education, textbooks and adult training courses so that parents could transmit to their children a new conception of the social role of women in a juster society that afforded a better opportunity for the fulfilment of the human condition.

28. At the last plenary meeting, the government experts participating in the Seminar analysed and subsequently adopted a number of recommendations and proposals based on the deliberations of the two working groups set up to draft the corresponding texts. It was suggested that the "Declaration of the Seminar" adopted in the plenary should be entitled: The Latin American Consensus of Caracas.

29. At the last meeting, some non-Latin American participants expressed reservations as to the form and substance of the Declaration adopted by the Seminar. The United States delegation stated that it did not agree with some of the ideas contained in sub-paragraphs 11 (e) and (f) or with their wording as it stood. 1/

30. The United Kingdom representative expressed reservations regarding sub-paragraph 11 (e). The Canadian and French delegations also reserved their governments' position, the former explaining that it had no instructions on the subject.

31. After appropriate discussion and consultation, the Chairman of the Seminar decided to uphold the rules of procedure concerning the taking of decisions and ruled that the reservations referred to - which did not affect the Latin American Consensus of Caracas since they only related to non-Latin American members of ECLA - should be submitted to the secretariat in writing within 15 days from the end of the Seminar. It was agreed that these reservations would be included in the summary of discussions in the final version of this report.

32. It should be noted, in conclusion, that representatives of United Nations specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies also spoke in the course of the discussions to inform participants of the activities of their organizations in this field and advised the meeting on a number of points raised by the Declaration adopted by consensus of all the Latin American countries.

/III. TEXTS

1/ See text in Part III of this report.

III. TEXTS APPROVED BY THE SEMINAR

1

DECLARATION OF THE SEMINAR

The experts participating in this Seminar:

1. Recognizing that, despite the advances made in the majority of the countries, there are still differences in the legal, political, economic and social status of women as compared with that of men,
2. Further recognizing that mere changes in the socio-economic structure of society will not by themselves ensure the elimination of discrimination against women,
3. Conscious that the problems of women are the problems of society as a whole, and that therefore changes in their present economic, political and social situation must be an integral part of efforts to transform the structures which stand in the way of the genuine satisfaction of the needs of women and other under-privileged groups,
4. Aware that in some countries a situation of inequality of women with respect to men still exists even on the juridical level, reassert that there can be no valid excuse for putting off the solution of this serious problem,
5. Recalling that one of the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter is that there should be international co-operation both in the solution of all types of international problems and in the promotion and stimulation of respect for the fundamental freedoms of all and for human rights irrespective of sex, race, language or creed,
6. Deeply convinced that the ultimate aim of every community is to achieve the full integration of all human beings into a juster and more equal social order, emphasize that this will only
/be possible

be possible when countries make efforts to raise the standards of living of the lowest socio-economic strata, so as to provide these groups, which generally constitute a large proportion of the total population of these countries, with a more just, dignified and human standard of living,

7. Bearing in mind the arbitrary and negative discrimination from which women suffer in the member countries of the international community irrespective of social group and whose problems are particularly apparant in the existence of a mistaken conception that distorts the real values of women as human beings in its ideological and practical manifestations, this anomaly must be overcome by adopting, in addition to the structural and fundamental measures contained in this declaration, other measures that can modify the concept of the human being and the image of men and women, within a broad perspective guaranteeing a common destiny of justice and solidarity,

8. Seeking to make a real contribution to the achievement of the aims of equality of rights, opportunities and responsibilities for both sexes, full integration of women into all aspects of the development effort, and the broadest participation of women in international co-operation and the strengthening of world peace,

9. Reasserting the urgent need to bring about a situation where women will have the same opportunities as men to develop their talents and aptitudes for the benefit of their personal fulfilment and for that of society, as part of a juster and more stable new international order in which the countries will be fully integrated and will participate equitably in the fruits of progress,

10. Bearing in mind that the crisis in the prevailing world international order, far from turning the attention of the world international community away from the pressing issues discussed in this Seminar, actually reveals their true significance,

/11. Declare

11. Declare that:

(a) The governments of the Latin American peoples should assume their responsibilities in respect of the problem of the integration of women into communities on an equal footing with men, by promoting a process of mass arousal of consciousness aimed at making a reality of the various educational, promotional and communications structures, with special reference to the training of women as one of the decisive means of their incorporation; in this respect, the full participation of women in the various social, political and cultural sectors is an important indicator of dynamic progress of the peoples and their development;

(b) The issue of inequality, as it affects the vast majority of the female population of Latin America, is closely linked with the problem of underdevelopment, which exists as a result not only of unsuitable internal structures, but also of a profoundly unjust world economic system;

(c) The prime responsibility for the integrated development of the countries of Latin America lies with the countries themselves, and they must therefore be prepared to make the necessary effort to resolve their problems, to mobilize their basic resources fully, to introduce the necessary changes in their economic and social structures so that they are able to integrate their human resources, with special attention to the particular importance of women in this process, so as to ensure collective participation in integrated development and the benefits accruing from it;

(d) The international community must therefore take urgent measures in keeping with the requirements of the Latin American countries, so as to co-operate with them in accelerating their rate of economic development and significantly improving the standards of living of their peoples, with special attention to the situation of women, who like other people in other

/underdeveloped parts

underdeveloped parts of the world experience and are confronted daily with an endless series of grave and pressing political, social and economic problems;

(e) In the face of this situation, it is essential to establish a new international economic order of which the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States constitutes a basic element, founded on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest, co-operation between all States whatever their economic and social systems, on shared responsibility for development, and wherever possible on the advance of the societies making up the international community and of women within those societies;

(f) For the objectives of the present declaration there can be no postponement of the raising of the standard of living of millions of persons in Latin America, half of whom are women, to a level compatible with human dignity, the elimination of all forms of colonialism, neo-colonialism, foreign domination, foreign occupation and racial discrimination, and the achievement of general and complete disarmament;

(g) The full integration of women in the life of the countries in all fields and at all levels, providing them with training which will enable them better to carry out their functions, constitute a real challenge to the international community as a whole, and at the same time are indispensable conditions for the stability and well-being of all mankind and for world peace;

(h) Motherhood, as a social fact, deserves special attention from governments, which should devise a set of simultaneous and harmonious policies on health, education, nutrition, social security and labour matters, as these affect the mother and child, in order to foster suitable conditions for their full and proper development;

(i) The Latin American governments should devote due attention to the question of maternity and the upbringing of children insofar as they represent a responsibility of society, by creating appropriate conditions for their full realization;

/(j) Within

(j) Within the family community the couple should share rights, duties and obligations at an equal level of responsibility;

(k) The women of Latin America should realize the need for their incorporation in political activities at the national, regional and international levels, their participation in decision-making, planning and execution being an essential requirement in today's world;

(l) The health and well-being of women and the family have not attained acceptable levels, but the governments of the region have undertaken to carry out the Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas, which gives high priority to the reduction of morbidity and mortality in those groups of the population. They must therefore promote action to extend the coverage of health services to the largest possible number of persons, and especially to those living in rural areas, while it is also necessary to foster community participation in the identification and solution of problems, to which it is necessary to seek new forms of integral health services with a novel approach permitting the incorporation of members of the community, especially women and suitably trained auxiliary personnel.

12. Reassert that the objectives considered in the present Declaration can only be achieved in a world in which the relations between States are governed inter alia by the following principles: the sovereign equality of States, the free self-determination of peoples, the unacceptability of acquiring territory by force, territorial integrity, and non-interference in the domestic affairs of other States, just as the relations between human beings must be governed by the supreme principle of absolute equality of rights for men and women.

RECOMMENDATIONS ADDRESSED TO ECLA

The ECLA secretariat is recommended to:

1. Hold a regional conference after the World Conference of the International Women's Year in order to evaluate the results of the latter and consider its applications to the Latin American region;
2. Continue or initiate studies on the social, economic and cultural factors and the attitudes which condition the integration of women in development, with particular attention to:
 - (a) Integral education: training, arousing of consciousness, incorporation, qualitative aspects of education, systems and texts;
 - (b) The family: its structure and dynamics;
 - (c) Juridical considerations: legislation, jurisprudence, doctrine, customs and usage;
 - (d) The economic value of women's work in the home, in domestic production, in agriculture, in voluntary activities, and in other activities traditionally not remunerated;
 - (e) Equality of conditions, opportunities and treatment for women working in remunerated activities, and the problems connected with the incorporation of women in work;
 - (f) Political participation;
3. Establish the necessary machinery, in co-ordination with the organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to assist Latin American governments in the formulation and execution of practical concrete measures in the areas indicated in the preceding paragraph and other areas considered to be relevant such as:
 - (a) Education with a view to arousing consciousness of the new roles of men and women:
 - (i) eradication of illiteracy;
 - (ii) preparation of educational material, for use in and out of schools, which would help to eliminate sex stereotypes;

/(iii) inclusion

(iii) inclusion at all levels of education of programmes of training for family life which stress the rights and obligations of family members;

(iv) non-discrimination as to sex in education: entry, programmes and vocational guidance with special stress on the elimination of attitudes which lead in practice to the existence of different occupations for women and men;

(v) continuing education: facilities for catching up regardless of age and for helping both those who failed to finish their education and those who have left the labour force but wish to return to it;

(vi) training of women in their traditional and non-traditional activities to permit their incorporation in the productive system;

(b) Employment

The following measures should be taken:

(i) to increase women's opportunities for entering productive activities at levels commensurate with their skills, with particular emphasis on self-employment such as co-operatives, cottage industries, crafts, etc.;

(ii) recognition of the economic value of women's work, including their household and agricultural work;

(iii) elimination of sex-based discrimination at all levels in government and private employment;

(iv) since motherhood is a social fact, services and facilities to support the dual role of women as mothers and workers should be established;

(v) the access of women to executive, management and planning levels in the public and private sectors should be promoted;

(c) Legislation

The following measures should be taken:

(i) law reform and the enactment of new laws to obviate discrimination by sex;

(ii) legislation on the family should reflect the realities of the different types of families and should be in keeping with the new concept of women within the family group;

(d) Health

(i) Measures should be taken: to implement the necessary action to facilitate the access of women and families from the underprivileged rural or urban areas to integrated health and nutrition services;

(ii) to broaden the range of services to deal in depth with the health problems of women and children, these being the population groups which are most exposed to the risks of contracting possibly fatal illnesses;

(iii) to provide the community with the necessary information and services to enable couples to decide jointly the number and spacing of their children;

(e) Social communication media

The various information, educational, amusement and publicity areas of these media should be used to create greater awareness of the situation of women and to promote the changes to attitude by both men and women so as to further the integration of women in development, by taking the necessary measures to prevent the utilization of women as instruments of commercial attraction;

4. ECLA should recommend the Governments of Latin America to create national bodies, consisting of men and women, at high policy-making levels, for planning and implementing policies and programmes designed to integrate women in development at all levels and to keep their situation under constant review.

/IV. RESERVATIONS

IV. RESERVATIONS AND COMMENTS RECEIVED BY THE ECLA SECRETARIAT
ON THE SUBJECT OF THE FOREGOING REPORT

As explained in the Preliminary Note, the reservations and observations on the report of the Seminar submitted by the respective Governments are listed below in alphabetical order by country. Some observations received by the secretariat from the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in connexion with the recommendations addressed to ECLA by the Seminar are inserted at the end.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(a) Reservations submitted by the Delegation

The United States regrets the circumstances which prevented its Delegation from recording its views by a vote on the Declaration of the Seminar, as the United States Delegation would have abstained. The following are the reasons, which are set forth herein as formal reservations:

The United States Delegation was not in accord with the concept of issuing a formal Declaration, as it was felt this was out of keeping with the general practice of seminars and detracted from the main purpose, namely, to exchange views. Nevertheless, out of deference to the wishes of the majority, the U.S. Delegation would have joined in a consensus on the Declaration if the content had been acceptable.

The United States Delegation was unable to accept the formulation in paragraph 11 (e) that the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States constituted a "basic element" in establishing a new international economic order and that it was "founded on equity, ...common interest..." etc., since the United States voted against the Charter in the General Assembly last December. As is known, and as was shown in the separate votes on the various provisions of the Charter, there is much in it that the United States Government can support, but there are also a number of key provisions that the United States cannot accept. The United States Delegation regrets that, despite its efforts, it was not possible to recast this reference to the Charter in a form all present could have agreed to.

The United States Delegation felt that the reference to "general and complete disarmament" in paragraph 11 (g) was not germane to the subject under discussion, although it could have accepted this reference with the addition of the words "under strict and effective control." Regrettably this change was not accepted.

/The United

The United States Delegation would have preferred the deletion from paragraph 11 (f) of the word "neo-colonialism" as a term which lacks definition and which has been used loosely and irresponsibly by some countries to attack others.

The United States further regrets that the discussions on the Declaration centered primarily on economic development as the prerequisite for equality of women. It believes that solutions to the problems of women's unequal status cannot wait until economic and social development are achieved.

Women in the industrially developed countries know all too well that development does not bring equality to women. In spite of some 200 years of struggle for women's rights in industrialized countries, women are still largely absent from the centers of power in the economic and political structures of those societies.

We see the International Women's Year task of achieving equal rights and responsibilities for women as essential to the full integration of women in the economic, social political system, within a world society which moves toward a more just, equitable and productive world order and one that is based on a world commitment to human rights and human worth and to the development of societies in a manner to make possible the fulfillment of all human potentials. The centuries old practices of discrimination against women are so deeply ingrained in the fiber of society that serious efforts to eradicate discrimination must become a part of every social and economic activity at every level of national, regional and international life.

The ILO has stated that nowhere in the world has discrimination based on sex been completely eliminated; unequal opportunities still exist in the areas of education, and vocational training for young women. Opportunities for promotion and advancement of careers for women are especially lacking. Application of the principle of equal pay for equal work is seldom enforced even though many countries have long endorsed its principles in international conventions.

Discrimination before the law and in practice in matters related to the family has not been overcome; it is found in all developed and developing societies, either openly or covertly manifested in diverse forms.

/When the

When the General Assembly, in 1970, accepted Resolution 2716 (XXV) that set forth a program of concerted international action for the advancement of women during the Second Development Decade it recommended minimum targets in education, training and employment, health and maternity protection and in administration and public life. Progress in each of these areas was considered essential to the total progress of development.

Examples can be found in all areas of community life in violation of UN principles and to the detriment of social and economic development goals. In the political area women constitute half of the population of the world yet in the vast majority of countries they constitute only a small percentage of those in positions of leadership, in policy making at upper levels of government. Because women are not involved in decision-making their views and needs are often overlooked by development planners.

In education where access to education and training are recognized by international instruments and where education is a key factor in reducing socio-economic gaps, women are at a marked disadvantage. Illiteracy and lack of education and training in basic skills are some of the causes of low productivity and poor conditions of health and welfare. In many countries illiteracy is much higher and more widespread among women than men. Girls tend to drop out of school earlier than boys and boys are given precedence over girls when parents have to make a choice if education is not free.

In employment, where women constitute more than one-third of the world's economically active population and a growing segment of the labour force, women make a substantial contribution to the national economy. Yet the vast majority are concentrated in occupations with low levels of skills, responsibility and remuneration. They experience discrimination in pay, promotion, working conditions and hiring practices. Cultural constraints and family responsibilities often further restrict their employment opportunities. National and international instruments concerning equal pay are frequently disregarded. A woman's marital status further restricts her employment opportunities.

/In the

In the area of health and nutrition, especially in rural areas, women do not share equally with men in the right to good health care. The situation becomes more accentuated in societies with shortages of health personnel and facilities and constitutes a high cost to the family. Women need special care during pregnancy, delivery and lactation. Adequate nutrition is of fundamental importance. When food is scarce women often experience more malnutrition than men either because they deprive themselves for the sake of their families or because society places a lesser value on women.

In the area of family law discriminatory treatment against women with regard to divorce, child custody, inheritance, taxation and other matter continues to be one of the greater obstacles in equal treatment as a human person.

In population matters the United Nations has reported that social, economic and demographic factors are closely interrelated and that change in one invariably involves changes in others. The status of women is both a determinant and a consequence of these factors. It is inextricably linked with both the development process and the various components of demographic change, fertility, mortality, and migration. The status of women, particularly their educational level, whether or not they are gainfully employed, the nature of their employment and their position within the family are all factors which have been found to influence family size. Conversely, the right of women to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to have access to the information and means to enable them to exercise that right has a decisive impact on their ability to take advantage of educational and employment opportunities and to participate fully in community life as responsible citizens.

/(b) Recommendation

(b) Recommendation to ECLA submitted by the United States delegation on population

To take note of the following:

I. ISSUES THAT REQUIRE ACTION BY OR ARE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

1. The Population Commission recommends the following draft resolutions and decisions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council:

Draft resolution I

Population, the status of women and the integration of women in development 1/

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that 1975 has been designated International Women's Year and that the World Conference of the International Women's Year is scheduled to be held from 19 June to 2 July 1975 at Mexico City,

Recalling that the World Population Conference emphasized the interrelationships of population, development, resources and the environment and adopted resolutions IV and XII on the status of women see E/5585 and Corr.1 2/, and that the World Population Plan of Action (ibid., chapter I), adopted by the Conference and endorsed by the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session, 3/ correlates population factors with the status of women and the role of women in development,

Further recalling that the World Food Conference in its resolution VIII called on all Governments to involve women in the decision-making machinery for food production and nutrition policies as part of total development strategy 4/ and adopted resolution IX on the achievement of a desirable balance between population and food supply, 5/ and that thus the influence of socio-economic factors on the demographic process as well as the important role of women were emphasized,

1/ See Chapter VI, paras. 170-175.

2/ The report in its final form will be published under the symbol E/CONF.60/19.

3/ General Assembly resolution 3344 (XXIX).

4/ See E/5587, chapter V. The report in its final form will be published as E/CONF.65/20.

5/ Ibid.

/Noting the

Noting the importance accorded to the integration of women in development by the United Nations Development Programme at its nineteenth session, the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-fourth session, the International Forum on the Role of Women in Population and Development,^{6/} the regional consultation for Asia and the Far East and the regional seminar for Africa on the integration of women in development with special reference to population factors, held respectively in May and June 1974, and the regional seminar for Latin America on the same subject, held in April and May 1975,

Further noting that the General Assembly, in its resolution 3342 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974 entitled "Women and development", considered that further progress towards the full integration of women in development should be assisted by positive action from the United Nations system of organizations,

Recognizing the findings of the study of the Special Rapporteur on the interrelationship of the status of women and family planning ^{7/} submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-fifth session and to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-sixth session, and the implications of this interrelationship not only for the health and well-being of individual women but also for the social and economic progress of nations,

Further recognizing that equal status of men and women in the family and in society improves the over-all quality of life and that this principle of equality should be fully realized in family planning where each spouse should consider the welfare of the other members of the family, and recognizing that improvement of the status of women in the family and in society can contribute, where desired, to smaller family size, and that the opportunity for women to plan births also improves their individual status,

Convinced that the time has now come for action to carry out the numerous important recommendations already agreed upon,

1. Urges United Nations bodies, Member States and relevant non-governmental organizations, in observing the International Women's Year and participating in the World Conference of the International Women's Year, to take all appropriate action to ensure that the recommendations relating to the status of women stated in the World Population Plan of Action and in resolutions IV, XII and XVII of the World Population Conference are implemented, and, in particular:

^{6/} Held at United Nations Headquarters and at Airlie Foundation Conference Center, Airlie, Virginia, from 25 February to 1 March 1974 (see ST/ESA/SER.B/4).

^{7/} E/CN.6/575 and Add.1-3.

(a) To achieve the full participation of women where it does not exist in the educational, social, economic and political life of their countries on an equal basis with men;

(b) To achieve equal rights, opportunities and responsibilities of men and women in the family and in society;

(c) To recommend that couples and individuals have access to the information, education, and means to enable them to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children;

2. Requests United Nations bodies, within their fields of competence including the regional commissions, in collaboration with Member States, in the implementation of both short-term and long-term population policies and programmes designed to carry out the recommendations of the World Population Plan of Action:

(a) To pay particular attention, in the monitoring of the progress being made in the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action, to the evolving status of women, keeping in mind the mutual interaction among population factors, social and economic development and the status of women;

(b) To supply information to the Economic and Social Council on the measures taken pursuant to the present resolution.

1948th plenary meeting
6 May 1975

/FRANCE

FRANCE

On 16 May 1975 the French Embassy in Chile submitted the following reservations to the Executive Secretary.

- 1) The French Government cannot approve the words "a profoundly unjust world economic system" which appear in paragraph 11 (b).
- 2) Paragraph 11(g), concerning disarmament, should specifically state that this should be subject to strict and effective control.
- 3) The references to colonialism, racism, and foreign domination contained in paragraph 11(f) raise the risk of introducing political considerations which could well stand in the way of the concrete and efficient action the French Government wishes to see taken to improve the status of women.

JAMAICA

In a cable which arrived on 21 May 1975 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs transmitted the following text from the Ministry of Youth and Community Development: "Jamaica's delegate to recent regional Seminar on Integration of Women notes certain omissions from text of provisional report. Amendments have been forwarded". By 12 June 1975 the ECLA secretariat had still not received any text, but if it should arrive at a later date it will be included in an addendum to the report.

MEXICO

At the beginning of June 1975 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent in a modified version of the Summary of Discussions differing in some respects from the text handed in to the ECLA secretariat by Mrs. Carlota Vargas, Rapporteur of the Seminar. The following are the main points with which the Government of Mexico would like to complete the official account: first, the Mexican version mentions references made during the discussions to the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and places particular stress on the reference in the closing speech by Mrs. Maria Carmona de Chacón, Chairman of the Seminar and Representative of Venezuela. It also mentions the various occasions on which it was urged that there should be a Latin American consensus on basic points. Lastly, it gives more details

/on the

on the procedure adopted as regards the structure of the document and the adoption of the Declaration and the Recommendations to ECLA, which were followed by the closing statements of the Seminar.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

On 19 May a letter arrived from the British Embassy addressed to the Executive Secretary, confirming the oral reservation on paragraph 11(e) of document ST/ESA/SER.B/7 (E/CEPAL/1006) made by the United Kingdom delegation at the Seminar and requesting the following:

"I should be grateful if this reservation about the new international economic order and the charter of economic rights and duties of states could be included in the report when it is finally issued. Our position, which has been made clear in the United Nations General Assembly, has not changed."

UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

On 5 June 1975 the Executive Secretary of ECLA received a cable from Mrs. Helvi Sipila, Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, stating that a Report by the Secretary-General, including the Declaration and the recommendations of the Caracas Seminar, had been prepared for circulation at the World Conference of the International Women's Year to be held in Mexico City. The cable goes on to say that this Report will contain a note that the text is subject to the incorporation of observations and reservations made by participants and states that Venezuela submitted revisions to the Declaration which are mostly editorial except for the proposed deletion of paragraph 3 for which it was not possible to find agreement in the notes. 8/

8/ By 12 June 1975 the ECLA secretariat had still not received a copy of any such proposal by the Venezuelan Delegation and it is therefore not included in this new Section IV of the report reproducing the reservations, comments and observations made by participants. If received after the publication of this version of the report, the text in question will be published as an addendum to the report.

/In conclusion,

In conclusion, the cable suggests some additions to the "Recommendations addressed to ECLA":

Para two GGG "The relationship between fertility levels and the status of women". Para 3 AAA new subpara "Coeducational technical and vocational education programmes as a means of changing the current vocational orientation of boys and girls". Para 3 BBB new subpara "To create income earning opportunities and appropriate training for women in rural areas as a means of discouraging urban migration". Para 3 CCC new subpara "To review labour legislation to ensure that protective legislation does not de-facto discriminate against women by excluding them from certain occupations".

Annex I

ATTENDANCE

1. Member States of the Commission

ARGENTINA

Representatives: Lilibana Haydée Moiso
Delia Beatriz Olivé

Observer: Carlos Alberto Gorkin Baldassano

BARBADOS

Representative: Gertrude Lilian Eastmond

BOLIVIA

Representative: Silvia Portal Arduz

BRAZIL

Observer: Ivone Brandao Vieira Faria

CANADA

Representative: Freda L. Paltiel

COLOMBIA

Representatives: Josefina Amizquito de Almeyda
Anasixta Cuadros

COSTA RICA

Representative: Mérida Morales Hernández

CUBA

Representatives: Esther Velis Díaz de Villalvilla
Celestino Alvarez Lajouchere

CHILE

Representative: Frida Puebla Leeson de Molina

ECUADOR

Representative: Magdalena Torres Q.

EL SALVADOR

Representatives: Gladys Farres Paz
Aída Ruth Rodríguez Macall
Rosa Rafaela de León Peñate

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Representatives: Patricia Hutar
Mary M. Haselton

FRANCE

Representative: Jeanne H. Chaton

GUATEMALA

Representative: Mariateresa Fernández de Grótemold

GUYANA

Representative: Rosaline Chase

HAITI

Representative: Denyse Masséne

HONDURAS

Representative: Haydée de Martínez

JAMAICA

Representative: Peggy Antrobus

MEXICO

Representatives: Zadalinda González y Reynero
Carlota Vargas de Montemayor
Carmen Moreno de Del Cueto
Carlos M. Rico Ferrat

NICARAGUA

Representative: Gloria Campos de Chaves Escoto

NETHERLANDS

Representative: R. P. Romer

PANAMA

Representative: Vilma N. Médica Fernández

PARAGUAY

Representative: Lina Amparo Yegros de Velásquez

PERU

Representative: Narda Henríquez Ayín

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Representative: Mary Teresa Spens

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Representative: Luis González Fabra

URUGUAY

Representatives: Federico Soneira and
Hortensia Urioste de Soneira
Adrienne Marcotte de Duran

VENEZUELA

Representatives: Luis Alejandro Angulo Arvelo
Elia Borge de Tapia
Elizabeth Y. de Caldera
María Carmona de Chacón
María Elena Cordero de Gordo
Ana Lucina García Maldonado
Evangelina García
Santiago Gaslonde
Verónica Peñalver de Lepage
Pablo Salcedo Nadal

Observers: José Balbino León
María Jesús Castro

2. Specially invited guests

María del Carmen Elu de Leñero (Mexico)
Gladys López de Vásquez (Venezuela)

3. Observers of States members of the United Nations
which are not members of the Commission,
participating in a consultative capacity

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Representative: Brigitte Freyh

4. Observer of a State which is not a member of the
United Nations, participating
in a consultative capacity

SWITZERLAND

Lili Nabholz-Haidegger

5. Representatives of United Nations
specialized agencies

International Labour Organisation (ILO): Ramiro Molina Cartes

Food and Agriculture Organization of the
United Nations (FAO): Virginia Lattes
Gerd Behrendt
Hellmut Fischer

World Health Organization (WHO): Sylvia Plaza de Echeverría
Carlos Alfaro (PAHO)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF): Marta Mauras de Valenzuela
Maritza Izaguirre P.

6. Representatives of other United Nations bodies

United Nations Development
Programme (UNDP): Miguel Albornoz
Gonzalo Romero
Wilma Saavedra Cortez

Latin American Demographic
Centre (CELADE): Armando Luis Di Filippo

United Nations Fund for Population
Activities: Mehri Hekmati

/7. Intergovernmental

7. Intergovernmental organizations

Organization of American States (OAS): Elba Gómez del Rey de Kybal

8. Non-governmental organizations

Young Women's Christian Association (YMCA): Matilde Freydehl de Roldán

International Bahai Community: Carole G. Woodward

9. Representatives and observers from
other organizations

Population Crisis Commission: Rolin C. Duke

CIM - CNM - MRP (Colombia): Cecilia Fernández de Pallini

American Association for Advancement and
International Alliance of Women: Irene Tinker

International Social Service (Venezuela): Ilse Jaffe de Goldschmidt

Venezuelan Women's Association: Cristina E. de Machado

Inter-American Federation of Lawyers: María Isabel Rojas Rojo

Annex II

STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ, PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, IN CONNEXION WITH THE
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR IN HIS FIRST MESSAGE
TO THE NATIONAL CONGRESS (12 MARCH 1975) 1/

This year was declared International Women's Year by the United Nations and the Year of Venezuelan Women by my Government. What better tribute to the women of Venezuela than to propose not only a reform of national legislation that discriminates against them but also a genuine equality of opportunity with men, so that they can take part in all the activities and positions of national life? I propose that the legislative and executive powers should plan together the measures that are needed to put into effect what is not only a legitimate and undeferable right of women but also an urgent national requirement for development. Half of the population of the country is made up of women.

The other fundamental aspect to which we should give our attention during the year of Venezuelan Women is their status as mothers. The responsibility of motherhood and will to be a mother must be supported by the State. Children must be desired. The Government will therefore take firm action to apply a policy of family planning in order to guide, educate and assist women in the satisfaction of their will.

1/ This text was handed to Mrs. Helvi Sipila, Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations, by the President of the Republic. The participants in the Seminar, to whom the text was read at the reception held in the Palacio de Miraflores on 2 May 1975 and at the final plenary session, agreed to include it as an Annex to the Report of the Meeting.

Annex III

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT

Resolution 321 (XV) adopted at the fifteenth session
of the Commission

(Quito, Ecuador, March 1973)

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Recognizing that some 150 million women live in the Latin American region and that only recently have opportunities been opening up for their direct participation in economic and social development efforts,

Noting with concern that in many places in the region women are suffering the effects of discriminatory legislation and practices and are frequently exploited by the prevailing social systems,

Considering that efforts to provide better opportunities for the people of Latin America and to raise the standard of living of the poorer strata of the population imply priority attention to the women of Latin America,

Considering further that there have been no economic and social studies on the role of women in the development of the region,

Recommends that the ECLA secretariat should prepare a study on the participation of women in the development of the region and the measures to be taken to eliminate discrimination and the lack of educational employment and economic opportunities for women.

178th meeting
30 March 1973