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Economic Commission for Latin America
Regional Conference on the Integration of Women
into Latin American Economic and Social
Development (CRM)
Group of Government Experts to Appraise the
Implementation of the Regional Plan of Action
for the Integration of Women into Latin American
Economic and Social Development
Quito, Ecuador, 8 to 10 March 1979



DRAFT REPORT

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I. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Date and place of the meeting

1. The Group of Government Experts to Appraise the Implementation Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development, convened by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL), met from 8 to 10 March 1979 in Quito, Ecuador. The meeting was convened in pursuance of paragraph 4 of the "Resolution recommending approval of the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development and measures for its implementation", adopted by the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development (Havana, Cuba, 13-17 July 1977), and also in accordance with the Regional Plan of Action and the resolution adopted at the Eleventh Extraordinary Session of the CEPAL Committee of the Whole on 21 November 1977. The meeting of the Group precedes the Second Regional Conference on the same subject, to be held in 1979 in accordance with paragraph 88 (1) of the Regional Plan of Action as a permanent and regular activity within the framework of CEPAL. In addition, this conference is a preliminary activity for the World Conference on Women to be held in 1980.

Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States of the Commission: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United Kingdom, United States and Venezuela.

Opening of the meeting

3. The Group began its work in the morning of 8 March with an informal meeting of heads of delegation, which decided to put forward the names of the officers who would preside at the meeting and consider the possible organization of work. The suggestions arising from the meeting were approved by the plenary meeting, when the proceedings of the Group officially began that afternoon.

Election of officers

4. At the first plenary meeting the following officers were confirmed:

Chairman: Dr. César Espinosa Ortíz (Ecuador)

First Vice-Chairman: Roberto Samuel Fábrega Goitía (Panama)

Second Vice-Chairman: Luis Henrique P. Da Fonseca (Brazil)

Rapporteur: Marly Silva H. (Venezuela)

Agenda

5. At the same meeting the Group adopted unchanged the following provisional agenda (E/CEPAL/CRM/R.1/1) submitted by the secretariat:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Appraisal of the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development
4. Possible action priorities
5. Consideration and approval of the final report to the Commission.

/Drafting group

Drafting group

6. It was decided to set up a drafting group, open to all delegations, to examine items 3 and 4 for subsequent consideration in the plenary meeting.

Documentation

7. In order to facilitate its work, the Group of Government Experts had before it a document prepared by the secretariat on the situation of women in Latin America as regards the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action (E/CEPAL/CRM/R.1/2), and comments on that document made by the specialized agencies of the United Nations system (E/CEPAL/CRM/R.1/3).

Adoption of the report

8. At the morning meeting of Saturday 10 March, the Group of Government Experts adopted the report of the meeting.

II. SUMMARY OF DEBATES

9. On behalf of CEPAL, the Secretary of the Commission thanked the Government of Ecuador, which hosted the meeting, for the cordial welcome given to the participants.

10. On taking the chair, Dr. César Espinosa Ortíz, head of the delegation of Ecuador, thanked the participants for electing him and commented on the constant concern of the Latin American governments to find machinery for the full participation of women in development. He pointed out that several countries are making slower progress than others in this regard because of unfair social and economic structures in some cases, and also because of still prevalent historical traditions and scales of values. He said that progress should not be restricted to legal matters, but should also take the form of specific action in different fields. He went on to list some of the initiatives taken by the Government of Ecuador to improve the situation of women, and pointed out that new advances were required, especially with regard to promoting marginated women and preparing a diagnosis of the real situation of women. Lastly, he congratulated CEPAL for its initiative in holding the meeting and expressed the hope that its results would be advantageous to all the countries of the region.

11. When the agenda of the meeting was adopted, attention was drawn to the fact that in considering item 4 - possible action priorities - the preparations for the Second Regional Conference

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on the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development, which would also be a preparatory meeting for the World Conference, would be reviewed.

12. The secretariat of CEPAL made a brief presentation of document E/CEPAL/CRM/R.1/2, "Women in Latin America: The situation as regards the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action".

13. The delegation of Mexico expressed the continuing interest of the Mexican Government in matters concerning women, and made some comments on the document, considering it unnecessary to re-establish a conceptual framework for discussion, since, as in the case of section V, these were matters which had already been resolved. An amendment was proposed to paragraph 10 so as to make the document an expression of the Group of Experts and not of the secretariat of CEPAL; in paragraph 8, it was pointed out that Mexico should figure among the countries which answered the questionnaire; in paragraphs 89 and 108, it was observed that it was not only one country which was implementing a policy aimed at improving the situation of women, children and the family within a global concept of social development, since at least Cuba and Mexico were doing this; lastly, it was suggested that matters concerning the appraisal should be kept separate from those involving action priorities.

14. With regard to paragraph 89 of document E/CEPAL/CRM/R.1/2, the delegation of Chile observed that in its country the National Secretariat for Women was carrying out a broad range of activities in connexion with the social development of women.

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15. The delegation of Costa Rica drew attention to its Government's full support of activities aimed at integrating women in development, and mentioned various aspects of the participation of women in the political, social and working life of Costa Rica.

16. Several delegations observed that, despite repeated requests for information by CEPAL, some countries were encountering difficulties and problems in furnishing it, and adequate co-ordination would therefore appear to be required in order for this information to be collected and sent out in time.

17. In this connexion, the secretariat explained the procedures used to send questionnaires and requests for information to the countries. It suggested that there should be more flexibility in the distribution of the documentation sent to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs so that it would reach the bodies furnishing the information more rapidly; the secretariat for its part could send this documentation not only to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs but also to other government bodies indicated by the governments themselves. Following each specialized meeting, the secretariat took note of the addresses of the experts present, in order to send them the report of the meeting and other documentation which might interest them. Lastly, the secretariat recommended that for the Second Regional Conference at least, the planning bodies of each government should be responsible for convening a meeting of governmental and non-governmental units dealing with this subject, so as to obtain the necessary information in an ordered and timely manner.

18. The representative of Brazil thanked the host country for its hospitality and said that his government considered that the short time since the adoption of the Regional Plan of Action did not allow for an in-depth appraisal. He congratulated the secretariat on the document presented, to which he could offer no objections, and he mentioned in particular his support of paragraphs 121 and 122 which contained specific recommendations.

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As part of its concern to raise levels of living in general, the Government of Brazil had taken measures specially aimed at women, with particular emphasis on the food and nutrition programme. He said that women's participation in labour had increased to a significant extent, and that legislation had been brought out to protect the work of women.

19. The representative of Bolivia expressed agreement with the terms of the secretariat document, and observed that it was essential to establish a conceptual framework in order to prepare better diagnoses. In Bolivia the number of social, economic, ethnic and cultural differences made it impossible to use a single approach in tackling the problem of women and these differences should be taken into account in preparing policies. In connexion with information, it was important for the countries themselves to have access to basic disaggregated and differentiated data, which could not only be furnished to the international organizations, but also used in their own planning. He requested further clarification of the parameters for action appraisal implicit in document E/CEPAL/CRM/R.1/2, and mentioned the need to identify and specify aspects of the strategies. Lastly, he asked the secretariat about the co-ordination between its activities and those of the Inter-American Commission of Women.

20. In reply to that question, a member of the secretariat drew attention to the co-ordination which existed among international bodies to avoid duplication of effort, and which took various forms. Referring to meetings between such bodies, he pointed out that document E/CEPAL/CRM/R.1/3 contained the comments of United Nations agencies on the secretariat document. Other organizations outside the United Nations system, such as the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Commission of Women, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Permanent Secretariat of the General

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Treaty on Central American Economic Integration and the Caribbean Community, were all invited to CEPAL meetings, and would also be invited to the Second Regional Meeting on women. He also mentioned that at least two meetings a year were held between the Executive Secretary of CEPAL and the Secretary General of OAS in order to ensure co-ordination of the activities of the two bodies. Finally, he pointed out that it was difficult to avoid a degree of duplication of effort when two bodies were given practically identical mandates.

21. In order to permit more specific consideration of agenda items 3 and 4, a drafting group was established made up of representatives of Bolivia, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama and the United States; it was chaired by the representative of Bolivia, and open to all the other delegations. The Group was set up to receive country reports on the application of the Plan of Action, and then to make comments and suggestions designed to improve its application.

22. After an exchange of views, it was decided that in addition to contributions from delegations, the summaries prepared by the secretariat, and especially their descriptive sections, would be considered. It was announced that document E/CEPAL/CRM/R.1/2 was to be submitted to the Second Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development, together with any written observations on the document submitted by delegations during the present meeting. The secretariat also pointed out that it could distribute the national reports on the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action, although it was not in a position to have them reproduced or translated. Those reports would serve two purposes: to provide the information originally sought in the questionnaire, and to indicate the government's action for the benefit of the other member countries of CEPAL.

23. In response to the concern expressed by one delegation regarding difficulties in replying to the questionnaires circulated by international organizations, a member of the secretariat suggested that the governments themselves could encourage the agencies to hold meetings with one another to standardize their questionnaires.

24. A member of the Cuban delegation thanked the secretariat for submitting document E/CEPAL/CRM/R.1/2, which was a valuable contribution to the discussion of the problem. She said that both the countries and the CEPAL secretariat found it difficult to carry out appraisals because of the small amount of information available and the fact that not all the countries had replied to the questionnaire. She recommended that the structure of document E/CEPAL/CRM/R.1/2, should closely follow that of the Regional Plan of Action, and said that it was desirable to simplify its language so as to make it more accessible. The document was also somewhat pessimistic: she pointed out that, despite the difficult economic and social conditions facing the region, there were always prospects for the integration of women in development. In conclusion, she said that the Group of Experts should emphasize to the governments its concern at the meagre interest many of them showed in the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action, with the aim of encouraging them to play a bigger role and provide more information on their achievements.

25. The representative of Ecuador outlined the progress made to date in her country in implementing the Regional Plan of Action. She described some legal initiatives and structural changes introduced in order to improve the living conditions of the population in general and women in particular. She referred to legal provisions which guaranteed women equality before the law, a share in the property of the family, participation in community organizations and protection at work. She also referred to rural development policies to combat unemployment, training policies, education and greater participation by women in higher education, and the shortcomings which still existed in the spread of basic education. She also reported on the progress made in the fields of health and social security, as well as the work done by voluntary workers and their share in measures designed to improve the situation of women.

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26. The representative of the United States delegation said that her Government was considering the possibility of not participating in meetings for which the documentation was not received in due time. Concerning document E/CEPAL/CRM/R.1/2, she said that it did not reflect the views of her Government, which objected in particular to paragraphs 32, 41, 57, 58, 59 and 60: the first two were not applicable to conditions in education in her country, and the last four did not reflect the attitudes of United States employers. She also sought clarification of the concepts used in paragraph 89, especially regarding the reference to only one country which is implementing a policy aimed at improving the situation of women, children and the family within a global concept of social development. With regard to strategies, she expressed support for the measures recommended in paragraphs 9 to 13 of the summarized notes presented by the secretariat, and suggested that the first of these paragraphs appeared particularly valid for the majority of the countries. Concern was once again expressed for the lack of response to the questionnaires, and it was suggested that this problem might be exacerbated when the Second Regional Conference took place. Since information constitutes a decisive element in any assessment, the delegation submitted a complete full report of progress in the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action, both by answering the questionnaire and by submitting the report of the National Women's Conference in Houston and its twenty-six recommendations and the reply by President Carter to the Plan, summaries of new programmes and legislation on women and the full report to Congress on extensive bilateral assistance by the United States designed to integrate women in development on a global basis.

27. The representative of Chile expressed a wish for his comment on paragraph 8 to appear textually in the report of the meeting. He said that he would abstain from taking part in matters involving strategies, but supported the proposals contained in the Regional Plan of Action with regard to the competence of the States to apply the Plan.

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28. The delegation of Grenada thanked the host country for its hospitality and congratulated CEPAL on the work done. Grenada had always respected the function of women in the community, and had now given greater impetus to work in this area, taking as a whole the complementary aspects of the family unit and the improvement of the condition of women and children. Reference was made to various educational, health and training and rural development activities, stressing the importance of giving flexibility to the international financial machinery for programmes of this type.

29. A member of the delegation of Costa Rica asked the secretariat for a new opportunity to send information and an assessment of the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action in that country, and a new deadline in order to permit countries which had not done so to reply to the questionnaire sent out by the secretariat. She recommended that each country should set up a commission on matters relating to women, with full political support from the Government and links with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other State institutions responsible for implementing plans, and also suggested that programmes on the integration of women in development should be included in national development plans.

30. A member of the delegation of Brazil said that the document of the government experts to be prepared by the meeting should mention the short time which had elapsed since the Regional Plan of Action was adopted, which did not allow any major results to be appreciated at the national level; he said that support for this plan and the need to make progress in implementing it should be reiterated. He once again expressed his support of document E/CEPAL/CRM/R.1/2, and suggested that paragraph 122 should be included in the document prepared by the meeting. In his opinion, this should be simple and easy to use. Several delegations agreed with this suggestion.

31. The representative of Bolivia recognized the difficulty of arriving at acceptable strategies for all the countries, and suggested that they should concentrate on the criteria which the strategies would be required to take into account. In the case of Bolivia, these strategies should be medium-term, with the aim of avoiding considerations which were too overall or measures which were excessively partial. The importance was stressed of familiarity

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with the different situations in which women lived and the need to focus strategies so as to take these differences into account - a point which the CEPAL document had not stressed sufficiently. He reiterated the importance of strengthening national machinery for obtaining information, as well as CEPAL action in this respect. Lastly, he pointed out that the document prepared by the meeting should stress co-ordination at the national level of activities relating to the integration of women in development, and the need to have access to theoretical methodological bases for the intermediate range strategies and the educational strategy.

/III. CONCLUSIONS

III. CONCLUSIONS

32. The Group of Experts arrived at the following conclusions concerning items 3 and 4 of the agenda.

A. APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
(item 3 of the agenda)

33. This Meeting is the beginning of a process of appraisal of the situation of women in the region and of the progress made in implementing the Regional Plan of Action. Its results will be submitted for consideration at the Second Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, to be held in the second half of 1979. This process, in its turn, forms part of the process of global appraisal which will culminate in the 1980 World Conference. This first appraisal, which is being carried out a relatively short time after the adoption of the Regional Plan of Action, and in conditions where all the information required for a full appraisal is not available, is intended to indicate trends and seek solutions to the most serious present and future problems. Use will be made for this purpose of the methodology and experience obtained in the regional appraisals already effected within the context of the International Development Strategy (Quito, 1973; Chaguaramas, Trinidad and Tobago, 1975; and Guatemala, 1977). The short time which has elapsed since the Regional Plan of Action was adopted, and the difficulties of distributing the documentation have made it impossible to gather the information required to make all the relevant analysis or to separate off adequately the changes recorded.

34. This first process of appraisal will take place mid-way through the "United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace", and on the eve of the formulation of the international strategy which will be in force throughout the Third United Nations Development Decade, in the preparation of which the results of the appraisal of the situation of women should be incorporated. Both these circumstances

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enhance the need to focus on the problems that women will have to face in the next decade, given the national and regional development prospects. Therefore, the aim is to go beyond the repetition of diagnoses that have already been made and the statement of desirable objectives which are sufficiently explicit in the Regional Plan of Action and whose validity only requires to be reaffirmed, so as to forge ahead in the formulation of action strategies capable of being put into effect. The practical expression of such action strategies will, in its turn, facilitate future appraisals.

35. Because of the rate at which social changes normally take place it is advisable that the appraisal exercises should be fairly far apart, without prejudice to keeping a watch on existing and future trends. It should be borne in mind that in addition to the usual difficulties in obtaining the information required for evaluating social processes, in the case of women other difficulties arise for want of a breakdown of the statistics by sex and because the information does not adequately reflect the situation of women, particularly as regards domestic activities and employment. The countries must make special efforts to obtain the necessary basic information for formulating diagnoses and implementing action appropriately broken down by sex and other differences, and take advantage of the forthcoming 1980 censuses for this purpose.

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36. The situations in which the women of the region are living are a problem which affects not only women but the whole of society. Accordingly, such situations should be considered within the context of the global processes of economic and social development and change in the countries of the region, which in their turn are considered within a specific international context. In this respect, men and women share the living conditions determined by the fact that they belong to a particular society and a socio-economic stratum of that society, but women also face the more specific discrimination resulting from the social and sexual division of labour.

37. Although, generally speaking, it may be affirmed that the situation of women in the region has steadily improved, this cannot be said of all women in every aspect of social life. The situations in which women are living vary widely according to the socio-economic stratum to which they belong, and their modes of participation in economic, political, social and cultural life and the sources and forms of discrimination against them vary accordingly.

38. The most alarming situation affects women belonging to poor groups, and particularly poor rural women, many of whom are heads of households and live in consensual unions.

39. In the social organization of the region each family unit is responsible for the biological and social reproduction of its members and, therefore, of the population. Virtually all adult women are responsible for the relevant domestic work, which they perform with the means available to the family units according to the socio-economic stratum to which they belong. However, this important contribution of women in fulfilling their reproductive roles enjoys no social recognition, and has led to the persistence of the existing sexual stereotypes and cultural patterns that discriminate against women. What is more important, since the situation of women is usually taken as part of the social welfare sector no recognition tends to be given to women's non-reproductive roles.

This is detrimental both to women and to society since their contribution to economic development is ignored.

40. When strategies are formulated and the appropriate action is planned, this link between the majority of women and domestic work should be taken into account, while at the same time bearing in mind that the objective of integrated development is hampered by a whole group of interrelated social problems which affect the men and women of large population sectors alike, such as: critical poverty; inequitable income distribution; unemployment; illiteracy or semi-illiteracy; the marginality of large urban, rural and indigenous sectors; little or no participation in the most important aspects of national life; and so on.

41. The widely varying situations at the national level and within each country suggest the advisability of placing more emphasis on general strategies than on the detailed consideration of specific action programmes. The choice of the appropriate strategy will depend on the particular conditions prevailing in each country, according to the nature of the problems identified, the resources available and the existing political will.

42. In view of the general situation that is commonly found in the region, a satisfactory strategy should: assign priority to the situation of women in the poor rural and urban sectors; be incorporated in global national or regional development programmes and strategies; have an integrated and multisectoral approach, since the deficiencies existing in the various sectors aggravate one another; and take into account the role of family units in the reproduction of individuals as well as the contribution made by women to the economy, according to the various socio-economic strata. Within these general principles, several options may be discerned which, far from mutually excluding, tend to complement one another.

43. A strategy may consist of a review of the policies currently in force so as to determine how far and in what way women are considered as social or domestic consumers or producers, in order to recommend the adjustments necessary to achieve the proposed objectives. In this respect, (a) it would have to be determined how far the policies intended to have a direct influence on the operational levels of the economy, apparently unrelated to the social side, affect the living conditions of women; (b) in integrated policies such as those applicable to critical poverty or rural development, account must be taken of the existence of family units with female heads of household, which are often excluded from such policies, and of the fact that in changing the characteristics of economic activity they ultimately lead to increased discrimination against and subordination of women; (c) in sectoral policies it should be borne in mind that women are considered in various roles. First, as consumers of services. In many cases they do not have access to goods and services (wages and salaries, education, etc.) on an equal footing with men, so that it becomes necessary to determine the reasons for this differential access and to adopt complementary corrective measures. Secondly, as producers of services. In critical sectors such as education, health, production and marketing of domestic food supplies, women make a major contribution to the economy. Thirdly, as those benefiting from and executing social development policies, on the basis of their domestic tasks. In this respect, their training has a certain priority. Lastly, as deserving of special consideration (maternal and child care services) or recipients of particular benefits (basic services infrastructure, housing, technology to lighten their domestic duties, etc.).

44. Another possible strategy would be to define as accurately as possible the focal groups and a central high-priority objective (for example, the provision of piped water, the elimination of illiteracy among the whole rural population within a specified period, etc.). Action could be centred on this objective and the resources channelled and other objectives and programmes devised as the needs are identified. If several countries of the region were to agree on the definition of the same central

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objective, this would open up a broad field for horizontal technical co-operation and provide a basic framework for the co-ordination of international assistance.

45. Another possible strategy for improving the situation of poor families could consist of a minimum set of measures that would include: (a) providing the heads of households, including women in non-legal unions, with stable employment or self-help activities with an adequate minimum family income, near the family unit's place of residence; (b) health, housing, education and basic services infrastructure programmes designed to lighten the burden of domestic work and enable women to initiate other activities; (c) mass family education programmes, especially for adolescents and young couples; (d) programmes for the organization of families in neighbourhood and community associations; (e) legislative measures designed to support the preceding action and objectives. This is considered to be a minimum set of measures because of its interrelated nature, since the lack of any one measure leaves intact the other limiting factors of the organization of poor family units, with their sequel of implications for the situation of their members, in particular the women and children. It is also regarded as minimum because the governments of the region are to a greater or lesser extent implementing policies in virtually all the areas indicated, earmarking for the purpose human and financial resources whose co-ordination is calculated to increase their effectiveness. The creation or strengthening of co-ordinated machinery would permit the provision of national activities and the adequate channelling of international assistance on a more rational basis.

46. Special attention should be given to the situation of female heads of households. Although these are found in the various social strata, they are more numerous and the results more serious in the rural and poor urban sectors. The policies designed for these units should take into account both the domestic tasks performed by the heads of household

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and the fact that they are responsible for obtaining the family income, with the resulting difficulties in combining these two activities. Experience shows that an assistance oriented approach does not solve the problems of this focal group but quite the opposite, because it is only a short-time palliative, since it does not attack the root of the problem. A long-term solution could therefore be the development of a strategy which would link training to self-employment, that is the promotion of income generating activities.

47. Attention is once again drawn to the need for a review of the existing legislation, in particular that relating to the family institution (conjugal union, parental authority, duties and rights of spouses with respect to each other and the children), accompanied by campaigns for the dissemination and extension of legal services.

48. It will also be necessary, as Chapter III of the Regional Plan of Action indicates, to insist on campaigns against sexual stereotypes and the respective cultural patterns which are maintained, strengthened and transmitted through textbooks, publicity and social communication media, incorporating educational programmes and placing particular emphasis on revaluing domestic work, modifying the concept of it as exclusively female work and changing such cultural patterns as undermine the value of women. It should be borne in mind, however, that this involves redefining the roles of both sexes, not only of women, in view of their mutual social relationship.

49. The political will required to prepare strategies, formulate policies and implement measures should not be understood to be confined to the governments' technical and administrative teams. Such political will can be as effective as may be necessary only if the awareness, consensus, organization and active participation of the women in the focal groups defined are sought and obtained.

/B. POSSIBLE

B. POSSIBLE ACTION PRIORITIES

(item 4 of the agenda)

50. The Group of Government Experts was of the view that it would be the task of the Second Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development to finalize the appraisal of progress achieved in the application of the Regional Plan of Action, and to draw up priorities for action to be taken in the region in the coming years. It took into account the fact that both the appraisal and the priorities should be drawn up at the present particularly important stage of international action, since the United Nations was engaged in defining guidelines and priorities for the international strategy which will be in force throughout the Third United Nations Development Decade, and in preparing for the forthcoming World Conference on Women; that the World Plan of Action established global priorities which would have to be respected within a given period of time, and that the Regional Plan of Action did likewise with respect to specific sectors. Nevertheless, it was considered appropriate to recommend the adoption of the following measures:

- (a) Reiterate the urgent need for governments, according to their own working administrative systems, to set up or strengthen administrative machinery in accordance with paragraph 21 of the Regional Plan of Action, placing special stress on the functions of information, co-ordination and communication;
- (b) Urge governments which had not already done so to incorporate in their global and sectoral plans activities designed to ensure the full integration of women in development;
- (c) Recommend to governments that they should endeavour to define the priorities -national, regional and international- which they wished to see adopted specifically at the Second Regional Conferences, including those relating to the activities of international bodies;
- (d) Invite the international bodies to co-ordinate their requests for information from governments, and invite the governments to reply to such requests, particularly the questionnaires which such bodies send them, in a timely and appropriate manner;

/(e) Request

- (e) Request the secretariat, when convening the Second Regional Conference, to furnish the relevant documentation, which should include the report of the present meeting of the Group of Experts, the reports of the meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference, secretariat document E/CEPAL/CRM/R.1/2, a document containing all the comments and observations on the subject which the member governments considered necessary and appropriate, and another document containing the observations of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system. All this should be done without prejudice to the documentation which governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations might wish to contribute towards the subject matter of the Conference, in conformity with the appropriate provisions;
- (f) Emphasize, finally, that since the Regional Conference was a permanent and regular body functioning within the framework of CEPAL, the results of its second session should serve two purposes: to facilitate the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action and define action to be taken by the CEPAL system in that field in coming years, and to contribute to the preparatory activities for Latin America's participation in the 1980 World Conference on Women.