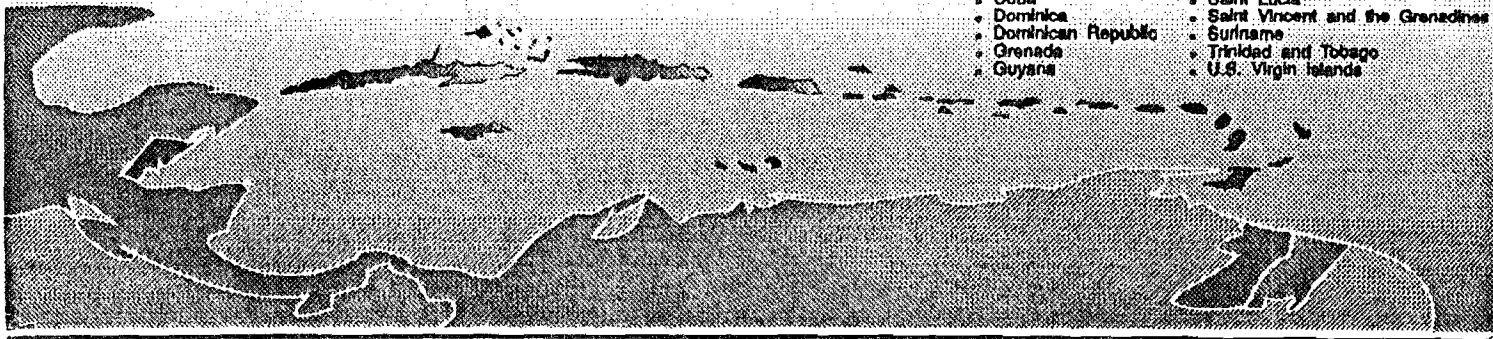
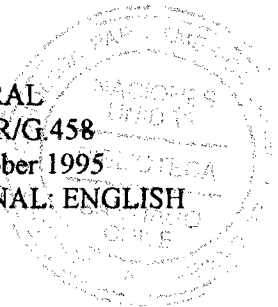


- Antigua and Barbuda
- Aruba
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Br. Virgin Islands
- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Grenade
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Montserrat
- Netherlands Antilles
- Puerto Rico
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago
- U.S. Virgin Islands



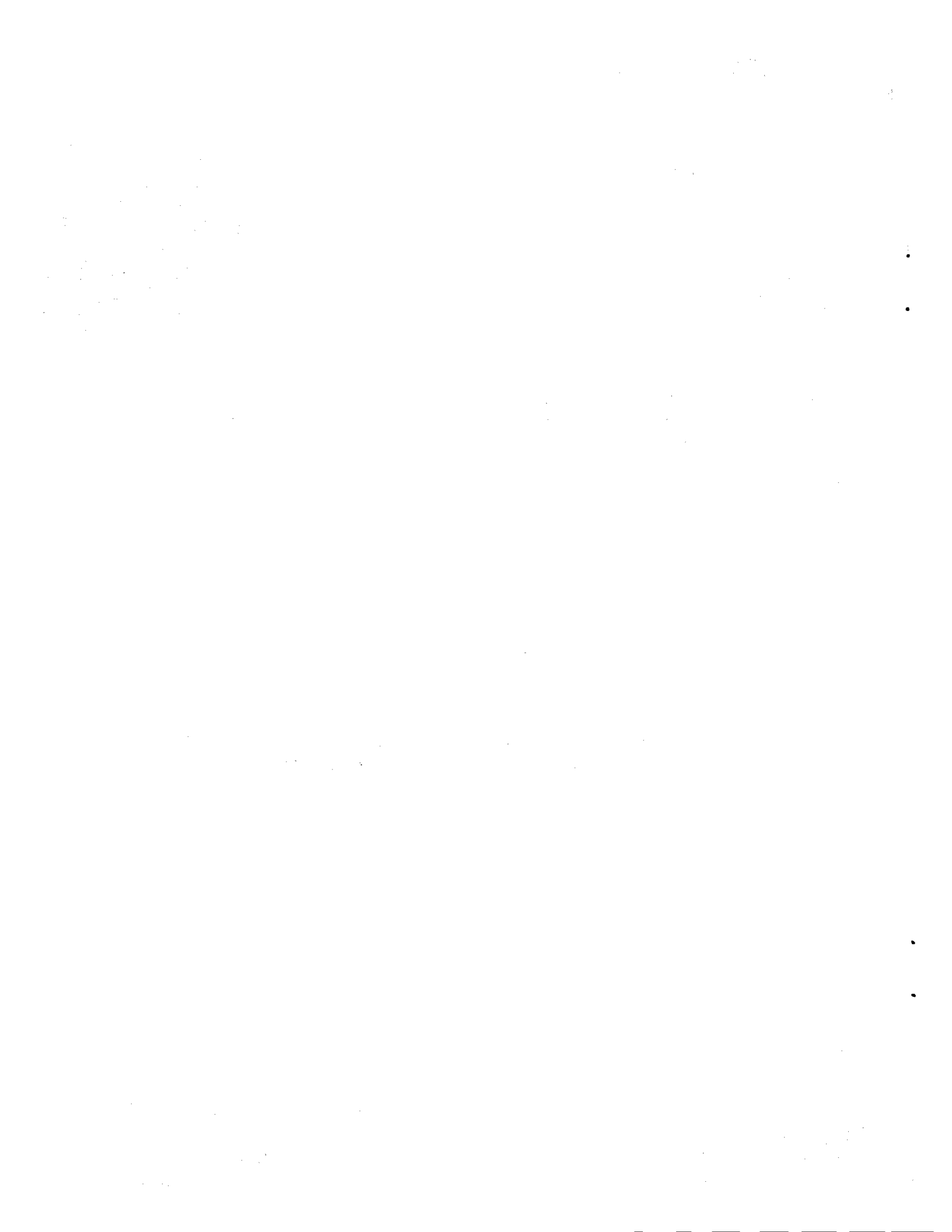
Inter-agency meeting on follow-up activities to the
 United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women:
 Action for Equality, Development and Peace
 25 October 1995
 Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

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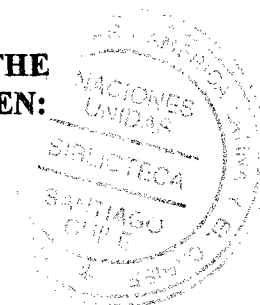


**REPORT OF
 INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES TO THE
 UNITED NATIONS FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN:
 ACTION FOR EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE**





**INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES TO THE
UNITED NATIONS FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN:
ACTION FOR EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE**



ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

An inter-agency meeting on follow-up activities to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for equality, development and peace, was held at the ECLAC Conference Room, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago on 25 October 1995.

Attendance¹

Representatives of the following agencies attended the meeting: British Development Division in the Caribbean (BDDC), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean (ECLAC), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Organization of American States/Inter-American Commission of Women (OAS/CIM), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Agenda item 1 - Welcome and opening remarks

Mr Daniel Blanchard, Director of ECLAC, Port-of-Spain, welcomed the participants to the meeting. He stated that through the efforts of all the agencies represented at this meeting and others, the Caribbean had been well prepared for participation in the World Conference on Women and this had contributed to its effective negotiations there. This contrasted with some other regions which had not been as well prepared and had been unsuccessful in having their concerns placed on the global agenda. He said that the two main challenges now were to assist governments in implementing the Platform for Action adopted at the World Conference and to ensure that the momentum generated by the conference and its preparatory activities carried over into the process for future action. He outlined some of the work to be done with the full participation of women in the decision-making process. This included activities in gender training, employment creation and expansion strategies, education, health education and services and elimination of violence against women. Although governments would determine activities to be undertaken within the next five years, the United Nations family and intergovernmental bodies would provide technical and financial assistance to realize those efforts. He expressed the hope that this meeting of agencies would explore ways through which implementation could be effected, without duplication of effort, by using collaborative efforts and respective work schedules. The meeting should also begin the process of identifying possible joint activities in the Caribbean.

¹

See Annex I

Before continuing with the agenda, the ECLAC Director asked whether there were any amendments to the agenda. In response, the ILO representative requested that "Public Information" be incorporated into an agenda item. The meeting acceded to this request.

**Agenda item 2 - Report on the outcomes of the FWCW and
its implications for follow-up action in the Caribbean**

The representative of ECLAC, Ms Asha Kambon, presented a document entitled "Report on Outcomes of FWCW and Possibilities for Follow-up in the Caribbean". She had attended the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women and said that the Caribbean had been represented at the FWCW and the NGO forum by approximately 500 persons from 21 countries who been well prepared to ensure that their concerns were addressed at the meeting. The Caribbean had been successful in ensuring that those areas which the subregion had identified prior to the conference received special attention during negotiations. These areas were:

- (a) The persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women/inequality in women's access to and participation in the definition of economic structures and policies and the productive process itself;
- (b) Inequality in health care and related services;
- (c) All forms of violence against women/effects of persecution and other kinds of conflict on women;
- (d) Inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels/insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women;
- (e) The girl child.

In addition, the section on environment assumed importance for the Caribbean because of the devastation to the subregion caused by hurricanes. Accordingly, the subregion was successful in having references to its concerns in this section included in the final document.

During the course of the World Conference, caucus sessions, hosted by CARICOM, were enlarged to include CDCC member and associate member governments and ensured a strong and diverse Caribbean negotiating group. There was good collaboration between CARICOM and ECLAC. In addition, since Caribbean governments had NGO partnership in their delegations, this enabled widest possible representation to the Conference.

Caribbean NGOs had mounted 200 workshops at the Forum on a variety of themes including disaster preparedness for small island States; alternative energy sources; women in political decision-making; elimination of violence against women; and making women's work count.

Governments also had meetings with multilateral and bilateral donors present at the Conference.

Despite the presence at the meeting of journalists from the Caribbean in print and electronic media, it was felt that their numbers were not reflected in the quantity or quality of reporting seen on Caribbean issues. A media research project to examine the Caribbean media response to the FWCW would be useful and should inform a strategic media plan to be undertaken in the future.

The ECLAC representative also spoke on the new thinking regarding women in development. She stated that this was seen clearly in the Platform for Action which addressed the need to mainstream a gender perspective and ensure gender analysis in the area of policy and programme design, development and implementation in almost every section. Under the new paradigm being referred to as "gender and development" a more holistic approach to development planning had been suggested which considered the interdependent nature of women's and men's position in society and which embraced the differences among women: class, ethnicity and other aspects which had to be included in an analysis. It called for the active involvement of women as well as men in the planning process and for bringing women into the mainstream of economic power so that gender could play its own important role in the process.

The ECLAC representative went on to say that the primary responsibility for implementing the strategic objectives of the Platform for Action rested with governments. Governments had the task of converting their national reports into plans of action in keeping with the global Platform for Action and prioritizing those actions for implementation over the next five years. Governments would also need to focus on integrating gender analysis and perspectives into National Development Plans.

The ECLAC representative also stated that although NGOs should contribute to the design and implementation of the strategies or national plans of actions which governments had agreed to undertake, they should also be encouraged to develop their own programmes to complement government efforts.

In concluding, the ECLAC representative noted that, as stated in the Platform for Action, the United Nations and its agencies at the national, subregional and regional levels were expected to provide financial and advisory assistance to national machinery and to strengthen international mechanisms to promote the advancement of women. As such, regional offices of the specialized agencies of the United Nations should develop and publicize a plan of action for implementing the Platform for Action, including the identification of time-frames and resources.

Agenda item 3 - Statements from agencies present

Statements were made by the representatives of the IDB, UNDP, ILO, FAO, UNIFEM, OAS/CIM, UNFPA, UNICEF and BDDC.

The representative of the IDB, Mr Frank Maresca, noted that he had recently assumed office in Trinidad and Tobago as Resident Representative. He stated that the IDB envisioned women sharing full participation with men in the development challenge in Latin America and the Caribbean through partnership, prosperity and power. Partnership meant putting men back in the family. In this regard, the Bank was working with member governments to develop and support programmes and policies in education, health, training, social insurance, child care and employment which specifically supported an expanded role for men in the family.

Recognizing that poverty reduction required attention to women since most of the poor in the region were women and children, the IDB sought to advance prosperity by reducing barriers to women's economic equality by supporting programmes in micro-enterprise development, vocational training and child development.

In order to support women's access to leadership and power, the Bank intended to finance programmes of leadership training and capacity-building for non-governmental organizations through its Fund for Women's Leadership and Representation, being launched in collaboration with other donors. In conjunction with PAHO, a regional programme was also planned which would treat and prevent violence against women through legal reform to punish offenders, train medical personnel, and promote public education campaigns and programmes to assist victims rebuild their lives.

The representative of the UNDP, Mr. Jan Van Eyndhoven, stated that he had not yet received either instructions from his headquarters on its plans for following up on the FWCW or a report on the Conference. UNDP, nevertheless, would be developing a Human Development Index (HDI) for Trinidad and Tobago, to be desegregated by gender and for which funds had been allocated.

General discussions had been held with regard to Suriname and the Netherlands Antilles on gender sensitivity in government programmes.

In introducing the ILO's activities, Ms Hong-Trang Perret-Nyugen, Director of the ILO Caribbean office, noted that all plans for her office were preliminary and were subject to budget availability. The governing body of the ILO would shortly discuss follow-up to the FWCW, although its decisions should not affect field programmes. Some resources, however, were always available for technical cooperation.

Three substantive areas would be highlighted in the proposed ILO Caribbean Programme 1996-1997. These were human and labour rights, employment creation/poverty eradication and empowerment and decision-making.

In the area of human and labour rights, the Office would be promoting the ratification and application of specific international labour standards for women workers; combating sexual harassment at the work place; and supporting domestic workers in establishing organizations and improving terms and conditions of work.

In employment creation/poverty eradication, the ILO would be advocating the development of gender sensitive national employment policies and the establishment of labour market information systems and would be providing technical advice on calculation of unpaid work. Work would continue in promoting the establishment of support services and equal opportunities for workers with family responsibilities. It would support women in establishing and improving small and micro-enterprise activities and encourage women in non-traditional occupations with employment growth potential. Also to be addressed would be issues of women working in export processing zones.

Activities in gender sensitization training, promoting and supporting women in trade unions and women in management training would be undertaken in the area of empowerment and decision-making.

In presenting his report, the representative of the FAO, Mr Bisessar Chakalal, pointed out that the FAO headquarters was also in the process of preparing its budget. He stated that the FAO would not be developing specific activities for women, but following from the FWCW had revised its Plan of Action for Women in Development (1996-2001) in order to mainstream gender concerns throughout the Organization. Major activities identified included: the incorporation of gender issues into existing or new working guidelines, manuals and training programmes; preparing gender-sensitive terms of reference for project identification, formulation and evaluation; conducting applied research on gender issues for programme and project identification, formulation and implementation purposes and for monitoring and evaluation; updating and disseminating information on the salient WID/gender issues and concerns within the FAO's fields of expertise; and integrating gender issues into policy advice activities wherever possible.

The representative of UNIFEM, Ms Joycelin Massiah, stated that her organization had prepared a Women's Development Agenda for economic and political empowerment of women. This was aimed at global economic restructuring; ensuring sustainable livelihood for women; healthy and stable communities; peace and conflict resolution; and ethical governments and respect for civil society. It proposed the use of advocacy and tried to fund catalytic projects. UNIFEM also worked towards strengthening women's organizations and networks. It had established a 12 member Regional Advisory Commission on Women and Gender Issues which had two priorities: preparing for the Beijing Conference and the preparation of a proposal for a regional gender training programme, which was implemented by the Centre for Gender and Development Studies. Work was also being done in capacity training in gender. Although UNIFEM had been asked to become involved in disaster preparedness and management, it recognized that it had no experience in this and would wish to collaborate with regional colleagues in this.

The representative of the OAS Inter-American Commission on Women, Ms Caroline Murfitt-Eller, identified her organization's main focus in the last two years as preparing a Plan of Action for OAS member countries which had identified 10 areas of focus, one of which was the inclusion of women in decision-making. The Commission would convene an Executive Committee meeting in November at which violence against women would be a key issue.

The representative of UNFPA, Ms Annette Ebanks, indicated that she could not yet present any specific follow-up activities until an examination had been made of the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the FWCW Platform for Action to identify how best UNFPA could participate in light of the post-ICPD areas of focus in respect of women. UNFPA saw women as being central to development and affirmed that emancipation and empowerment of women to an equal level as that of men was important to achieving population goals, sustainable development and improved quality of life for all.

Ms Eveline Pressoir informed the meeting that she was representing both UNICEF of Haiti and the Interagency Committee on Women of Haiti. She said that a Ministry of Women's Affairs had been established in Haiti a year ago as had the Interagency Committee on Women. One of its goals was to define a national policy on women. It was engaged in an advocacy process with the Ministry of Women's Affairs. Three surveys were being undertaken, a national survey on violence against women, a survey on legislation discriminating against women and a third on women's contribution to the economy.

The UNICEF representative from Barbados, Ms Denise Shepherd-Johnson, stated that her organization was moving away from project driven activities. Under its multi-island programme it would undertake gender training for media practitioners. A major mid-term review would be conducted in January.

The representative of the BDDC, Ms Ellen Wratten, informed the meeting that BDDC had provided funding for Caribbean preparatory activities for the FWCW. It had developed a proposal for gender training through UWI and was examining a mechanism for continued support for the Caribbean's post-Beijing activities.

Agenda item 4 - Discussion on organizational work and resources

There was much discussion on the need for information sharing, both among agencies and between agencies and the public. It was felt that there was much overlap between activities, particularly meetings, seminars and conferences, planned by agencies on identical topics. It would appear that most of the organizations present had strategies and programme directions which were fully compatible. Organizations needed to determine how to support the work of governments and NGOs to achieve common goals. The importance of informal coordination at the country level by regional organizations was also recognized.

The representative of the ILO advocated the development of a coordinated communication strategy and suggested that the services of UNIC be utilized by agencies.

The problems experienced by agencies which had to participate in several meetings on the same subject within a short time period was discussed. It was felt that if advance information on proposed meetings was circulated during the planning phase, more joint activities could be held. This would realize the best use of both financial and personnel resources. Reference was made to a

publication by the Library of the University of the West Indies which had published a list of international meetings to be held in the upcoming year with a suggestion that this mechanism would be useful to the region.

A suggestion was also made that UNIC examine other areas in which it could assist, over and above information sharing.

The representative of ILO suggested that UNIC should write to all agencies, summarizing the meeting's discussions on this topic and enlisting their support in sharing information on their proposed activities. This was supported by the other participants.

The meeting also agreed that representatives of agencies should meet again in late January 1996 to determine areas to promote joint actions and the mechanism to be adopted for this.

Agenda item 5 - Closing

The Director of ECLAC thanked representatives of the organizations present for their participation and agreed to undertake consultations with UNIFEM and other agencies with a view to convening another meeting in January 1996, to more closely examine the collaborative work programmes of all agencies relative to the implementation of the FWCW Platform for Action.

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities related to the business.

2. It is essential to ensure that all financial statements are prepared and reviewed regularly to identify any discrepancies or errors.

3. The document also highlights the need for proper documentation and record-keeping to support the business's financial position.

4. Finally, it emphasizes the importance of staying up-to-date with the latest regulations and tax laws to ensure compliance and optimize the business's financial performance.

Annex

**Inter-Agency Meeting on Follow-up Activities to the
United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women :
Action for Equality, Development and Peace
ECLAC, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
25 October 1995**

10:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)	Joycelin Massiah Regional Programme Adviser Caribbean Office P.O. Box 625C Bridgetown BARBADOS
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ECLAC secretariat

Daniel Blanchard, Director
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Christine David, Research Assistant

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