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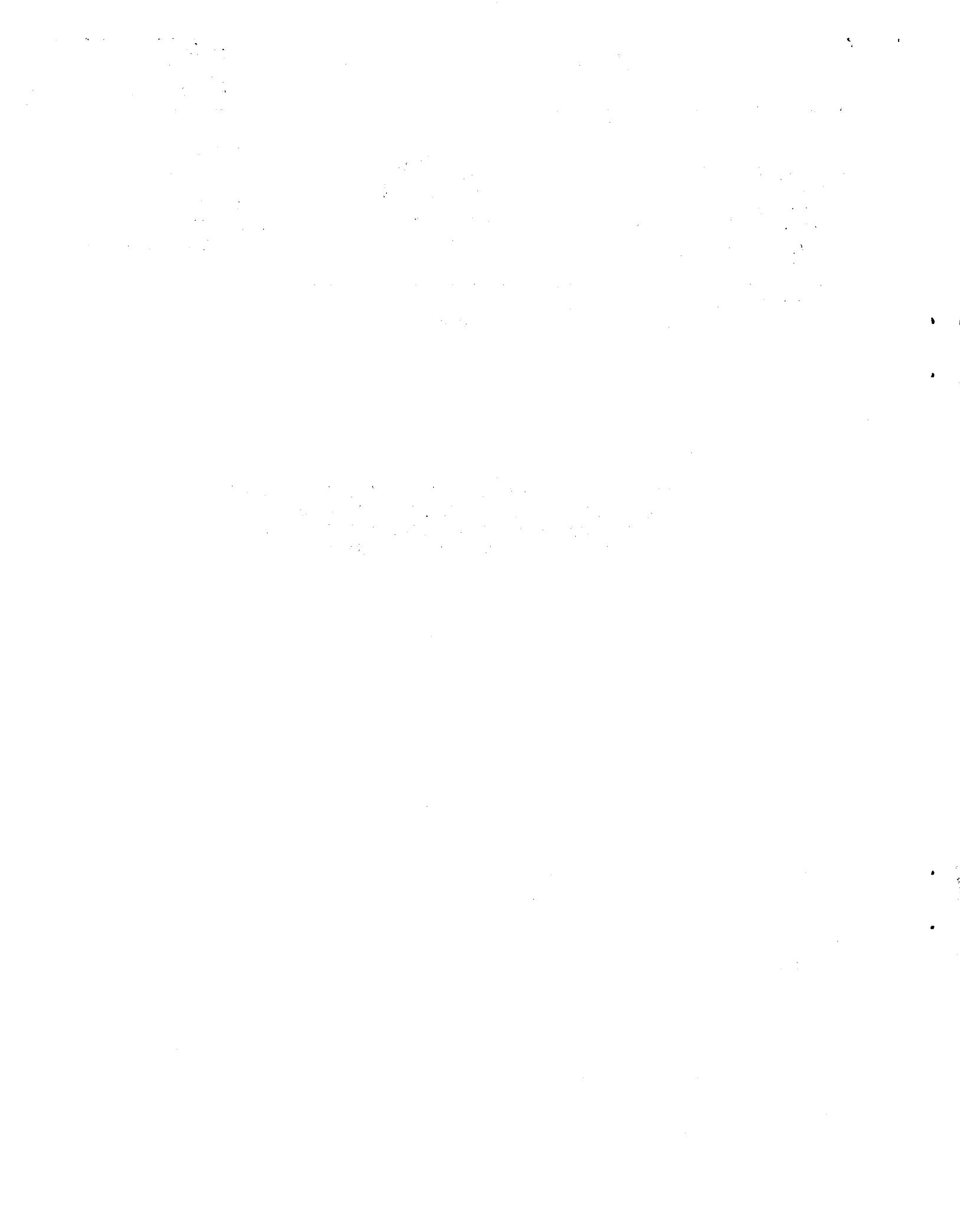
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REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE CEPAL SECRETARIAT
RELATING TO THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

78-11-7439



BIBLIOTECA NACIONES UNIDAS MEXICO

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraph</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Introduction	1 - 6	1
2. Creation of a special unit	7 - 11	3
3. Personnel	12	4
4. Printing of the Regional Plan of Action	13	6
5. Sending of questionnaires to governments to obtain data and of a document concerning the preparation and presentation of projects	14 - 15	7
6. Preparation of an inventory of projects planned or under way in the region	16	9
7. Preparation of the Directory on "Women and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean"	17	9
8. Research	18 - 20	11
9. Project on Research to Promote the Integration of Women in Latin American development: improvement and utilization of census data and exchange of information	21 - 25	13
10. Participation of Caribbean women in development: Training and income generating programme	26	15
11. Workshop on the impact of agricultural modernization on the participation of rural women	27	17
12. Experimental studies for immediate action in Bolivia, Ecuador and Paraguay	28	18
13. Co-operation with non-governmental bodies	29	19
14. Meetings, conferences and other activities	30 - 32	19

/15. Interagency

	<u>Paragraph</u>	<u>Page</u>
15. Interagency meetings	33	21
16. Regional review	34 - 37	21
17. Relations with Headquarters	38	22
18. Projects submitted to the Advisory Committee of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women	39 - 40	23
19. Plans for the future	41	24

BIBLIOTECA NACIONES UNIDAS MEXICO

1. Introduction

1. Both the World Plan of Action adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held in Mexico in 1975, and General Assembly resolutions 3520 (XXX), 31/136 and 31/175, recognize the differences which exist between the various regions and the need to implement plans of actions which are in keeping with their specific levels of development. They therefore delegated to the regional economic commissions the responsibility for promoting the activities aimed at the integration of women in development within their respective spheres, since they are the bodies best suited to carry out that function within the structure of the United Nations system.

2. At the first Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, held in Havanna in June 1977, the representatives of the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean adopted a regional plan of action which establishes CEPAL responsibilities in this field.^{1/}

3. The Regional Plan of Action was adopted in final form at the eleventh extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole of CEPAL held in New York on 21 November 1977.^{2/}

4. As of that date the CEPAL secretariat has had an official instrument as a starting point for its national, subregional and regional activities. The purpose of the Regional Plan of Action (hereafter RPA) is "to present a minimum action programme aimed at the promotion of equality of opportunity and responsibility for women in the common effort to overcome the obstacles which hinder the development of both men and women as individuals and as members of a society".^{3/}

1/ E/CEPAL/1042/Rev.1.

2/ E/CEPAL/AC.71/4.

3/ RPA, paragraph 10.

5. The RPA envisages action at the regional, subregional and country levels. The actors or active agents called upon to fulfil its mandates are the national governments, non-governmental organizations, international organizations and individuals. As the responsible regional body of the United Nations system, CEPAL must "assume an even greater role in formulating policies, developing machinery and instruments, and co-ordinating and implementing measures that permit women to participate equally with men in the political, economic and social life of the respective countries of the regions as a whole".^{4/} In accordance with the mandates of the Regional Plan of Action, the priority sectors are: legislation, employment, education, health, the family, social services and other facilities for the incorporation and permanency of women in work, housing, the mass communication media and predominant cultural patterns, political participation, other social questions, including the struggle against prostitution and the illicit traffic in persons, protection of female prisoners, rape and other sexual crimes, etc. As may be seen, all these aspects are components of development and thus consideration should be given to the participation of women in each and every one of them.

6. In addition, it is established that "the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference will continue their functions until new ones are appointed and will be the link between governments and the secretariat of CEPAL in the field of women's integration in development",^{5/} and that "the secretariat of CEPAL will act as the Permanent Secretariat of this Regional Conference and will regularly consult with its presiding officers".^{6/}

4/ RPA, paragraph 87.

5/ RPA, paragraph 88.2.

6/ RPA, paragraph 88.3.

Pursuant to these mandates of the Regional Plan of Action, the Presiding Officers held two meetings in the course of 1978. The first took place in Kingston, Jamaica, in February 1978 and carried out the first appraisal by the Presiding Officers of the achievements of the first months of work. They suggested guidelines for priority action, in accordance with the mandates of the Regional Plan of Action.^{7/} These guidelines and the action undertaken following the first meeting of the Presiding Officers were examined at the second meeting of the Presiding Officers in Mexico on 28 and 29 September 1978.^{8/}

The present report deals with the activities of the CEPAL secretariat between February and September 1978.

2. Creation of a special unit

7. The need to create a special unit for the integration of women in the economic and social development of Latin America was suggested on various occasions by the secretariat, and was particularly stressed in the report entitled "Activities of CEPAL in the Integration of Women in Development", of September 1977, which was sent to Headquarters.

8. The Regional Plan of Action establishes that "the secretariat of CEPAL will create within CEPAL (including ILPES and CELADE and in collaboration with the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) a specialized interdisciplinary unit on women's integration in development..."^{9/} and goes on to specify the unit's objectives.

7/ E/CEPAL/MDM/1.

8/ E/CEPAL/MDM/2.

9/ RPA, paragraph 88.5.

9. Pursuant to this mandate, the secretariat established a Programme on the Integration of Women in Development, which was brought to the attention of the entire staff of CEPAL, ILPES and CELADE by means of a circular dated 26 June 1978, which gave details on its institutional position and its co-ordination and was accompanied by relevant extracts from the Regional Plan of Action.

10. In the restructuring of the secretariat, it is envisaged to set up the unit under the name of Unit on the Integration of Women in Development, which will be related to the Social Development Division.

11. It should be stressed that the Programme has received considerable co-operation from the Division of Social Development, whose Director supervises its activities, and from other CEPAL units, as well as from ILPES, CELADE and CLADES, i.e., from the entire CEPAL System. It is also carrying out co-ordination and co-operation functions with the main programmes and agencies of the United Nations: UNICEF, UNDP, FAO, UNESCO, WHO/PAHO, PREALC, ILO and others with representatives and liaison offices in Santiago.

3. Personnel

12. With regard to the staff of the unit, a permanent post has been allocated from the CEPAL budget starting in January 1978. During this period, the resources from the post have been used for two short periods of consultant services: one in Santiago, for the Regional Appraisal; the other in Mexico, for the Director of the Workshop on "The Impact of Agricultural Modernization on the Participation of Rural Women". 10/ In accordance with United Nations rules for staff recruitment, the vacant post has been advertised in order to fill it permanently.

The Programme has the following staff: (a) a Co-ordinator, financed by a contribution from the Swedish Government to CEPAL

10/ See section 11 of this report.

/for this

for this specific purpose, for a period of 4 years (1 January 1977 - 31 December 1980); (b) a Programme Officer, financed by the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, for two years (1 July 1978 - 30 June 1979). For one year, until June 1978, the Programme also had an expert financed by the Government of the Netherlands, basically for research purposes.

It is clear from the above that the brunt of the activities carried on to date has been borne by a very small group which, in collaboration with other CEPAL units and divisions, has made great efforts to achieve the results described in this report. Nevertheless, it is quite clear that the human infrastructure of the Programme must be strengthened in order to increase its radius of action, extend its activities to the subregional level, and implement more projects in keeping with its mandates and recommendations.

The secretariat has attempted to strengthen the capacity of the Programme, both with internal resources and with external support, as stated above. Firstly, in connexion with statistics and documentation, a Project was prepared on Research to Promote the Integration of Women in Latin American Development.^{11/} Secondly, with a view to providing better service for the government planning offices, the creation is envisaged, within the unit, of a nucleus to co-ordinate research and training. Finally, with a view to effective decentralization in order to respond to regional characteristics and needs, discussions are under way to secure resources in order to establish focal points in Port of Spain and Mexico, and thus to develop comprehensive, integrated programmes serving the Caribbean and Mexican and Central American subregions respectively.

11/ See section 9 of the present report.

4. Printing of the Regional Plan of Action

13. Pursuant to the mandate of the Regional Plan of Action to "undertake activities aimed at disseminating the action stemming from the Regional Plan of Action on the basis of the studies undertaken"^{12/} and the agreement of the Presiding Officers requesting the CEPAL secretariat "to send governments a sufficient number of copies of the Regional Plan of Action for distribution to all the government and non-governmental institutions concerned",^{13/} resources were obtained from the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, in order to print the Regional Plan of Action in the predominant languages of the region. 10,000 copies in Spanish of the complete official text have been printed and are being distributed, as well as 4,500 copies in English and 1,000 copies in French. The text was also translated into Portuguese and 2,000 copies are being printed. In addition, the text of the RPA was included in issue № 249, July 1977, of the "Notas sobre la Economía y el Desarrollo de América Latina", distributed by the CEPAL information services, with a printing of 14,600 copies in Spanish. Thus, the RPA has been very broadly distributed not only to governments and their bodies and to agencies and institutions and private individuals in the region but also to other regions.

Furthermore, the Asociación Latinoamericana de Comunicadores para el Desarrollo (ALACODE), of Colombia, has offered to print the Regional Plan of Action in a widely distributed publication, with the result that this basic action document will be brought to the attention of much broader sectors of the population.

^{12/} RPA, paragraph 88.5 (ii).

^{13/} E/CEPAL/MDM/1, paragraph 9.6(e).

5. Sending of questionnaires to governments to obtain data and of a document concerning the preparation and presentation of projects
14. In accordance with the mandate to "periodically evaluate the legal, economic, political, social and cultural status of women both of rural and urban areas in the different countries of the area, in accordance with the objectives and priorities fixed in the Regional Plan of Action".^{14/} and with the request of the Presiding Officers at their first meeting to "send a questionnaire to governments in order to obtain information on the progress made in implementing the Regional Plan of Action to the integration of women in the economic and social development of Latin America. The questionnaire should be despatched by the secretariat as soon as possible, with the request to the governments that they reply not later than the end of July 1978",^{15/} all member governments of CEPAL were sent a "Questionnaire on the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean". The questionnaire has sections on legislation, administrative machinery, employment, education, health, the family and political participation and is thus in keeping with the action proposals set forth in the RPA. To facilitate and ensure response, copies of the questionnaire and of the notes sent to the governments were forwarded to the resident representatives of all the UNDP national offices in the region, for delivery to the national planning offices. Replies have been received to date from Colombia, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Peru and the United States, i.e., 10 out of a total of 32 full members of CEPAL.

^{14/} RPA, paragraph 88.5 (i).

^{15/} E/CEPAL/MDM/1, paragraph 9.6(d).

15. Pursuant to the mandate to "advise those governments that request it on the measures to be taken to fulfil the decisions adopted by the United Nations in relation to the integration of women in development"^{16/} and the agreements of the First Meeting of Presiding Officers which requested the CEPAL secretariat to "prepare an information document on the criteria laid down by the General Assembly, by the Advisory Committee of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for the Decade of Women, and by other resolutions on the preparation and formulation of projects"^{17/} and "to draft some standardized guidelines to facilitate the formulation and presentation of projects",^{18/} on the grounds that the lack of projects submitted by governments was due to the shortage of information on the above questions, a document was drafted in Spanish and English entitled "Presentation and preparation of Projects for the Advisory Committee of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for the Decade of Women".^{19/} This document and the above-mentioned questionnaires were distributed simultaneously, together with the report of the First Meeting of the Presiding Officers^{20/} and of copies of the Regional Plan of Action, as described above, i.e., to the governments and UNDP resident representatives.

16/ RPA, paragraph 88.5 (iii).

17/ E/CEPAL/MDM/1, paragraph 9.6(a).

18/ E/CEPAL/MDM/1, paragraph 9.6(b).

19/ E/CEPAL/L.177.

20/ E/CEPAL/MDM/1.

6. Preparation of an inventory of projects planned or under way in the region

16. Pursuant to the mandate of the Regional Plan of Action to the effect that "in executing the Regional Plan of Action, within its field of competence, the CEPAL secretariat will establish forms of co-ordination and co-operation with United Nations bodies" 21/ and with the request of the Presiding Officers at their first meeting that CEPAL should "prepare an inventory of relevant projects planned or being carried out in the region with support from the United Nations system, and an inventory of existing projects in other regions which have obtained financing from the Voluntary Fund", 22/ a request was submitted to all the agencies of the United Nations system to furnish details on the programmes being implemented or planned, with details of a series of points concerning the programmes which should be covered. This request was very well received by the agencies and the information supplied has already been processed and systematized, and is currently being printed for subsequent distribution. It is hoped that the information obtained will lead to a better planning of regional projects, provide a clear, broad picture of what is being done and of the prevailing orientation, and will avert the duplication of effort in the same areas.

7. Preparation of the Directory on "Women and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean"

17. In accordance with the mandates of the Regional Plan of Action both "to create and strengthen national mechanisms so that countries' research activities are carried out in an interdisciplinary and multisectoral manner and in co-ordination with other national and international agencies and institutions" 23/ and "to provide

21/ RPA, paragraph 88.6.

22/ E/CEPAL/MDM/1, paragraph 9.6(c).

23/ RPA, paragraph 71.1.

aid to those governments that request it, in co-ordination with governmental and intergovernmental organizations, with a view to identifying the measures necessary for drawing up policies, strategies and programmes for strengthening women's contribution to economic and social development, and to assist in formulating requests for technical and financial aid for such programmes"^{24/} and bearing in mind the recommendation of the Presiding Officers to "prepare a directory of institutions, persons and experts in the region engaged in activities designed to achieve the full participation of women in development"^{25/} action has been taken to prepare such a directory in collaboration with the Latin American Centre for Economic and Social Documentation (CLADES) and the Documentation System on Population in Latin America (DOCPAL) of CELADE. This directory is not an isolated step in this field, but rather part of a broader effort being made by CLADES in different fields, the most recent example of which is the "Directory of the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean".^{26/} Within the information and documentation system, the purpose of the directory is to constitute one of the foundations of the future 'information clearing house', and will thus be an efficient means of co-ordinating effectively the work carried out in the region. In itself the directory is an excellent tool with which all

24/ RPA, paragraph 88.5 (viii).

25/ E/CEPAL/MDM/1, paragraph 9.6(f)

26/ CLADES and CELADE are bodies which have established excellent working systems for the compilation, systematization and processing of data for data banks, directories or information centres, a task they have carried out most efficiently over a long period. They both belong to the CEPAL system and are based in Santiago.

those carrying out activities in connexion with women and development may obtain information on other bodies and persons engaged in similar work.

In the preparation of this Directory a questionnaire was prepared and sent to public and private bodies and to specialists in the region. It is expected that the Directory will be printed during the first quarter of 1979, and it will then be broadly distributed.

8. Research

18. In the section on research, the Regional Plan of Action recognizes that "the shortcomings of most of the studies carried out in the region, resulting sometimes from an inadequate conceptual framework and in other cases from an inadequate interpretation of statistical data or limitations due to the lack of such data, make it an urgent task to co-ordinate and promote research on the status of women".^{27/}

In view of this overall guideline and despite de Programme's lack of staff, research work has been undertaken and has led to the following reports:

(a) Las Naciones Unidas y la situación de la Mujer. The document outlines the record in the field of the integration of women from the creation of the Commission on the Legal and Social Status of Women up to the adoption of the Regional Plan of Action as an official instrument of action. It also contains a summary of the activities carried out and the resolutions adopted by the various bodies of the United Nations system on the occasion of the International Women's Year and following it.

(b) Situación de la Mujer y Desarrollo: acotaciones. This study discusses theoretical aspects of the question, and examines central points such as productive and reproductive work, symbols and roles,

^{27/} RPA, paragraph 67.

the sociological entity constituted by women, as contributions to the creation of a theoretical framework for the problem to support the preparation of policies and action programmes.

(c) Tres mujeres chilenas de clase media. This consists of an analysis of the status of women starting from case studies, and relates the cycle of family life to the living conditions of the family groups, considering their impact on the predominant development styles in the region.

(d) Las mujeres pobres latinoamericanas, un esbozo de tipología. This study discusses the different situations of Latin American women in relation to education and employment and in this context analyses the position of the urban housewife, the woman worker, the maid and the indigenous hawker.

(e) La mayor integración de la mujer en el desarrollo en el área rural de América Latina: proposiciones. This deals with the sexual division of labour, domestic and social work and the family unit in relation to the significance of different social development models for the situation of women.

(f) Primer simposio mexicano-centroamericano de investigaciones sobre la Mujer - Análisis de las principales proposiciones y bibliografía comentada. This document summarizes and analyses the papers given at the symposium, particularly those on the peasant economy, the sexual division of labour and household work, migration, the role of the family, fertility and political and civic participation of women.

The first three studies are included in the book Chile, Mujer y Sociedad published in 1978 by UNICEF and edited by Paz Covarrubias (Catholic University of Chile) and Rolando Franco (ILPES/CEPAL).

The Programme will also present a paper "women in the labour force of Latin America" at the seminar organized by the Instituto Universitario de Pesquisas (IUPERJ) to be held in Rio de Janeiro in November 1978.

19. In addition, orientation and supervision is being provided for university students preparing monographs and these dealing with the problem of women.
20. With regard to research, the Programme has taken into account the fact that the region possesses excellent academic research and training centres at the national and regional level, as well as information centres and centres for the processing of documentation, so that there is no need to establish training and research centres in connexion with women similar to those which exist in other regions, such as Africa and Asia. On the contrary, the Programme believes that it should aim at covering those regional aspects neglected by national centres, and encourage, co-ordinate and furnish technical assistance to research in those countries of the region which need to carry out diagnoses and identify needs with a view to the formulation of action programmes.
9. Project on Research to Promote the Integration of Women in Latin American development: improvement and utilization of census data and exchange of information
21. This Project falls within the section of the Regional Plan of Action devoted to research and has the following goals: (a) to obtain basic data on the economic participation of women for use in the design of action plans; (b) to evaluate projects originating in the countries; (c) to continue to compile and systematize basic data.
- The project has three complementary sub-projects which are summarized below.
22. 1. Improvement of census data and survey of the economic activity of women
- The goals of the project are: to improve basic statistics for the analysis of the economic activity of women, particularly in connexion with domestic work; to identify the areas in which information is lacking and determine the type of data needed; to evaluate the suitability of the conceptual framework and /methodology used

methodology used to analyse the characteristics of the economic activity of Latin American and Caribbean women.

The activities to be undertaken are as follows: the formulation of the statistical needs stemming from the conceptual system available for the analysis of the economic activity of women and their integration in development; inventory of the relevant statistics stemming from household surveys, population censuses and administrative records. The aim is to present a novel methodology in a field where data are insufficient, so as to furnish concrete recommendations for use in the 1980 round of censuses.

23. 2. Study of women in the family group and family organization through the use of census data

This project aims to prepare a methodology for the constitution of family records using census data in order to be able to analyse the interrelationship between the various female roles. The study aims at providing guidelines for action on the basis of an analysis of the situation of women according to the socio-economic status of the families to which they belong, in specific countries. It also sets out to evaluate the living conditions of the families identify forms of living together, and detect the different patterns for men and women in connexion with education, economic activity and migration.

24. 3. Establishment of the basic infrastructure for the future 'information clearing house'

This project aims to create a systematic documentation base which is both centralized and co-ordinated and to which all institutions, agencies and private individuals may have access, and which will in turn receive the information put out by all of them. In specific terms, the aim of this project is to act as a catalyst for information on activities connected with the integration of women; to identify, compile and process basic data; to provide as realistic an overview as possible of the situation of studies and the experts and institutions in the region dealing with the question. It should also provide reference services, become a co-ordinating factor for future activities, produce a controlled vocabulary on the topic and be responsible for publications and other dissemination activities.

25. This project is important for the region since it is vital to tackle the insufficiently studied field of information, using a novel methodology.

The Project containing these three sub-projects was submitted to the Advisory Committee of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women at its sessions of October/November 1977 and February 1978, and was rejected on both occasions because it was not in keeping with the guidelines laid down by the Committee. Consequently the Secretariat was obliged to look for other sources of financing. The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) recently approved the project, which will shortly begin its activities.

10. Participation of Caribbean women in development: Training and income generating programme

26. The Regional Plan of Action states that: "CEPAL's subregional offices will act as liaison offices between the governments of the respective subregions and the secretariat's specialized unit on women's problems, as regards programmes of technical assistance and collaboration with the national bodies in charge of women's integration in development".^{28/} At their first meeting the Presiding Officers recommended that the CEPAL secretariat should "pay special attention to subregional projects that coincide with priority areas indicated by the governments concerned".^{29/} In pursuance of these instructions and following a long mission in the Caribbean subregion, an integrated draft project was drawn up with the central objective of promoting the integration of Caribbean women into development. The programme was designed to reflect and respond to the explicit, specific requirements both of the subregion and of the individual countries, and it is hoped that it can be applied immediately so that results can be obtained in the short term.

28/ RPA, paragraph 88.7.

29/ E/CEPAL/MDM/1, paragraph 9.4.

The project was drawn up in close co-operation with the CEPAL office in Port of Spain. This co-operation will be substantially broadened when, in due course, a co-ordinator is appointed to a post in the subregional office, with responsibilities including the promotion and supervision of the projects of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC). The preliminary project was submitted to the Committee at its session in Belize in April 1978 in the form of a flexible and open framework or network. The Caribbean governments approved it in principle, subject to some small modifications, and expressed the hope that activities would be initiated as soon as possible.

Subsequently, in July and August, the secretariat received three specific projects from the CARICOM secretariat, the Cuban Government and the Government of Guyana, to be incorporated in the network before it was reformulated for submission to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women for approval and financing. Among the activities to be carried out under the network is the Women's Programme, which includes such projects as: teams of consultants working for short periods to research and organize a seminar on training in handicraft and agro-industry programmes in the CARICOM area; a one-month seminar to be held in Cuba to train women's leaders from the subregion, which will be attended by two participants from each country, one representing the public and the other the private sector; and a programme for integrated development in Guyana which will provide support services, training in production and marketing for women.

In order to make maximum use of the resources of the United Nations in training and research, co-operative links have been established with the Inter-American Vocational Training Research and Documentation Centre (CINTERFOR), an ILO body in Latin America, and with the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) in Geneva. It should also be pointed out that work on the planning, programming and implementation of the programme is being carried out in close contact with the

/co-ordinator of

co-ordinator of the University of the West Indies, at its principal location in Barbados, who in turn is working together with the women's organizations, church programmes for women and other organizations in the Caribbean.

11. Workshop on the impact of agricultural modernization on the participation of rural women

27. This initiative falls under the part of the Regional Plan of Action mentioned above in section 5.30/

The Workshop on the Impact of Agricultural Modernization on the Participation of Rural Women is to be organized in Mexico City from 22 to 30 October 1978 jointly by CEPAL, FAO, UNICEF and the National System for the Integral Development of the Family (DIF) of the Mexican Government. It will be attended by men and women from rural areas of Central America, Panama, Mexico, Cuba and the Dominican Republic. Since the participants have direct personal experience of the problems they face, and as a result are best placed to identify what is needed, it is hoped that they will jointly draw up specific draft projects which can contribute to rapid amelioration of their problems. It is also hoped that these projects will subsequently be endorsed by the governments concerned, and lead to new national or subregional projects for rural development in the countries of Central America.

Preparations for this workshop are under way in close co-operation with the CEPAL subregional office in Mexico City. If, as is hoped, the workshop leads to national projects in this subregion, the subregional office will in the near future have to assume greater responsibilities than hitherto. Hence it is planned to increase the staff of the office so that the requests made to it can be met.

30/ RPA, paragraph 88.6.

/12. Experimental

12. Experimental studies for immediate action in Bolivia, Ecuador and Paraguay.
28. This activity falls under the part of the RPA referred to in section 6 above,^{31/} and the following paragraphs: "To prepare, in consultation with the governments, projects for national, subregional or regional training and development programmes for women in those areas mentioned in preceding chapters of this Regional Plan of Action,"^{32/} and "To collaborate in regional meetings held by the United Nations specialized agencies on topics connected with economic and social development and further the actions stemming from this Regional Plan of Action".^{33/}

On the basis of these directives, measures are well advanced for action-oriented investigations in Bolivia and Ecuador. In Bolivia it is planned to carry out an anthropological study of women living on the altiplano in order to ascertain their perceptions, their activities within and outside their homes and their participation in development. The Government of Ecuador has requested a study of the position of women in four different geographical areas to provide a better grounding for the Five-year Plan, one of the objectives of which is to expand the participation of women. Work on these projects is proceeding in close co-operation with the Resident Representative of UNDP, so that the resulting programmes are linked to the national development plans.

In Paraguay a pilot project is being planned which will be carried out in a selected municipio to promote the status of rural working women. The project will provide training for women and their families in home economics and agro-industries; a survey

31/ RPA, paragraph 88.5(viii).

32/ RPA, paragraph, 88.5(vi).

33/ RPA, paragraph, 88.5(vii).

is to be carried out at the same time to determine the characteristics and requirements of the women and their families. The project aims at two basic objectives in the advancement of women: increasing their participation in the life of the community through all-round training, and improving family income through training in agro-industrial development. Once the results of this first pilot project have been assessed, it will be possible to plan and direct similar experiments in the future.

13. Co-operation with non-governmental bodies

29. The need for close co-operation with non-governmental bodies is referred to in the Regional Plan of Action in the following terms: "In executing this Regional Plan of Action, within its field of competence, the CEPAL secretariat will establish forms of co-ordination and co-operation with ... private institutions that may be working on this subject."^{34/} In pursuance of these instructions CEPAL has a permanent staff member working as a focal point in its relations with the non-governmental organizations, with whom the Women's Integration Programme is working in close co-operation in order to broaden the scope of activities in that direction. At the same time, the Programme's initiative has been extended, and contacts are maintained with various private organizations in work on specific tasks in this subregion.

14. Meetings, conferences and other activities

30. The programme for Women's Integration has been represented at various seminars linked with the problems of women in society, including those held at the Colegio de México in November 1977 and at the University of Sussex in September 1978. A representative is also to be sent to a seminar on "Women in the Labour Force" which is to be organized by the Rio de Janeiro University Research Institute in November 1978 with participants from all over Latin America.

^{34/} RPA, paragraph 88.6.

/Moreover, the

Moreover, the programme was represented at the World Congress of Sociology held in Uppsala, Sweden in August 1978. In all these cases written papers were contributed. Lastly, a representative will be sent to a workshop on "Women in Development" organized by the National Cultural Institute of Peru and the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, the Netherlands in October-December 1978.

Mention should also be made of attendance by representatives of CEPAL at the meeting organized in New York in March 1978 by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the United Nations to discuss preparations for activities to be carried out in the 1980s, and the meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee composed of representatives of the University of the West Indies, the women's organizations (CARIWA) and the churches of the Caribbean.

31. Missions to various countries of the region have continued, and the subject of the integration of women has been included in the technical assistance missions of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) to various countries. The subject will also be included on the agenda of the next meeting of Planning Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Lima in November 1978.

32. Representatives were present at the seventeenth session of CEPAL, held in Guatemala City in April-May 1977, the meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women held in March 1978 and the CDCC session held in Belize during the current year. Finally, representatives participated in the meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference which were held in Kingston, Jamaica in February 1978 and in Mexico City in September 1978.

15. Interagency meetings

33. In order to comply with the provision of the Regional Plan of Action that "the CEPAL secretariat will establish forms of co-ordination and co-operation with United Nations bodies ... that may be working on this subject",^{35/} three interagency meetings have been held to date, two in 1977 and one in July 1978.

In addition to representatives of various divisions and units of CEPAL, ILPES, CELADE and CLADES, they were attended by regional representatives of FAO, ILO, PREALC, WHO/PAHO, UNDP, UNESCO and UNICEF. These meetings permitted fruitful exchanges of views concerning the co-ordination of joint activities, which remain a permanent link for contacts and co-operation.

16. Regional review

34. In the Regional Plan of Action provision was made for a regional review in the following terms: "To draw up a general review and appraisal plan for the region. This must be done immediately in order to be able to have a general plan that can be used for the 1979 biennial review."^{36/} Under this provision the secretariat initiated preparations for an appraisal of the participation of women in Latin America and the Caribbean. To this end a consultant was engaged for three months using part of the permanent funds of the Women's Programme. In addition close relations have been established with the Social Development Division, CELADE and other secretariat units and programmes which help by supplying materials and specific information and assuming responsibility for the preparation of the documents needed for the evaluation of the International Development Strategy.

35. For that purpose an evaluation plan has been drawn up which includes consideration of the priority sectors under RPA: legislation,

^{35/} RPA, paragraph 88.6.

^{36/} RPA, paragraph 88.5(ix).

employment, education and health, infrastructure for basic services (water, electricity, sewerage, housing) and the family. In addition, views are being gathered concerning the predominant approaches in the region to the programmes, actions and activities of the agencies of the United Nations system to carry out RPA. Finally, it is planned to draw up recommendations and suggestions in the fields of technical assistance, training, research and dissemination for consideration by national and international public and private organizations. Government replies to the questionnaires sent to them 37/ should have constituted a major contribution to the evaluation. However, since very few countries have replied, the answers received so far are of very little use. Moreover, the information supplied in the replies is limited, and therefore of little value for the preparation of the documentation for the regional evaluation.

37. A draft evaluation will be drawn up by the Group of Experts, who are to meet before the Committee of High-level Government Experts, which in turn is to meet before the eighteenth session of CEPAL. The evaluation will subsequently be submitted for consideration by the Second Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in the second half of 1979. Its date and venue will be discussed with governments during the eighteenth session of CEPAL, and the final decision will be taken in agreement with the Presiding Officers.

17. Relations with Headquarters

38. An active exchange of information and activities has been maintained between the CEPAL Women's Programme and the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. In particular, in accordance with the Regional Plan of Action, 38/

37/ See section 5 above.

38/ RPA, paragraph 88.5.

co-operation has been intensified in the preparatory work for the forthcoming World Conference of 1980.

18. Projects submitted to the Advisory Committee of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women.

39. To date experience with the Advisory Committee of the Voluntary Fund has not been happy. As is indicated in the next section, various projects have been submitted for consideration by the Committee, most of which have for one reason or another eventually been deferred or rejected. It would appear that the actual criteria applied by the Committee are not fully in line with the priorities laid down in RPA, or with the requirements indicated by the governments of the region. It is likely that the criteria for project evaluation are more appropriate to the characteristics of other regions of the world, which differ in many ways from those of Latin America as a whole. At all events, financing from the Voluntary Fund has not yet proved an appreciable contribution to the practical implementation of RPA.

It is to be hoped that this type of problem is largely due to the fact that this machinery within the United Nations system for the advancement of women has not, because of its recent creation, acquired sufficient experience to enable it to understand the specific features of the various regions and countries. All possible efforts are being made to identify clearly the points of divergence and to bring home the specific characteristics and needs of the region, as set out in RPA, which the CEPAL secretariat is mandated to put into practice.

40. The following projects were submitted to the Advisory Committee at its latest meeting:

1) Participation of Caribbean women in development: training and income generating programmes.

This is an integrated set of projects which are designed to produce practical and immediate solutions to the problems of integrating women in development in the Caribbean subregion.^{39/} Only a few

^{39/} See section 10 above.

of the projects have been approved, and in an isolated manner, and as a result the integrated set of projects has remained incomplete and lacks the co-ordinator whose services had been scheduled.

2) Promotion and co-ordination of action-oriented research on women in development.

Although this project is not designed specifically for any country or subregion, its aim is to direct action through technical assistance missions in concrete areas, such as the establishment of multidisciplinary research facilities, research design and implementation, in order to provide national planning bodies with more and better information. To be reformulated.

3) Directory on women and development

A directory of persons and public and private bodies in the field of women and development, including details on types of activity, staff levels, information on documents produced, and so on.40/ Approved.

4) Programming official.

Request for an extension of the post for the next two years, as the work to be done calls for more staff. Not approved.

5) The image of women as seen through Chilean basic education texts. Action-oriented research.

The purpose of this project, which was submitted by the Government of Chile, is to analyse the role of women through school textbooks, discover dominant cultural patterns which discriminate against women and recommend positive principles to promote their integration. Not approved.

19. Plans for the future

41. In view of the meagre staff available to the Programme on the Integration of Women in Development, even continuing the activities already begun would be rather difficult. Nevertheless, new activities are being planned which will require preparatory missions. They include:

40/ See section 7 above.

(a) A regional workshop on "The effects of publicity on the image of women", to be held in Ecuador in March 1979 in co-operation with UNESCO and CIESPAL. The workshop will last one week, and will be attended by two representatives from each participating country. Its objective will be to identify aspects of professional training and ethics of workers in the communications media in order to alter the discriminatory content of the role of women as presented in the output of the media. The workshop will consider reports based on research on this topic which is being carried out throughout the region.

The workshop is linked with the preparations for a UNESCO conference on the theme of women in the communications media to be held in Paris in 1979.

(b) A regional workshop on legislation relating to women and the family, to be held in 1979;

(c) A seminar for women planners is to be organized jointly with ILPES, as an important aid for planning offices in the region. The aim is to permit an exchange of experience and an analysis of problems related to the incorporation of sectoral plans on women into the general development plans;

(d) For the meeting of the Executive Board of UNICEF which is to be held in Mexico City in May 1979, a paper on "The family and women as the child's immediate social context" is being prepared in co-operation with the UNICEF secretariat;

(e) The Programme on the Integration of Women is also participating in four CEPAL projects, on Critical Poverty in Latin America, Development of the Environment, Rural Social Development and Human Settlements;

(f) The Programme on the Integration of Women is also engaged in preparations for activities to be carried out in pursuance of paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of the resolution adopted by the Regional

/Conference on

Conference on the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development, which refer to the convening of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development in 1979 as a preparatory activity for the World Conference, and to the preparation of the documentation for the meeting of the Group of Experts for the evaluation of the Regional Plan of Action, to be held prior to the World Conference and in co-operation with the Committee of High-level Government Experts.



