



**UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL**



Distr.  
LIMITED

E/CEPAL/CRM.3/L.3/Add.1  
11 July 1983

ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

---

E C L A

Economic Commission for Latin America



REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ORIENTATION OF THE  
ECLA SECRETARIAT'S ACTIVITIES ON THE INTEGRATION  
OF WOMEN INTO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT OF LATIN AMERICA

(1 January-30 June 1983)



CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION .....	1
II. ORGANIZATION .....	1
1. Relations with governments .....	1
2. Relations with Headquarters, bodies of the United Nations system and inter-governmental bodies .....	1
III. LINES OF ACTION OF THE PROGRAMME ON THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT .....	3
1. Integration of women in social planning .....	3
2. Orientation of policies, programmes and technical and financial assistance projects .....	5
3. Research, appraisals and formulation of diagnostic analyses .....	5
4. Strengthening of national and regional capacity .....	6
Notes .....	6



## I. INTRODUCTION

1. This Addendum to the Report on the Implementation and Orientation of the ECLA Secretariat's Activities on the Integration of Women into Development (E/CEPAL/CRM.3/L.3) contains information on the activities carried out during the period 1 January to 30 June 1983, and also orients more precisely the actions to be carried out during the second half of the year.
2. As far as possible the activities carried out this year will be described under the same categories as those contained in the document mentioned above.

## II. ORGANIZATION

### 1. Relations with governments

3. This period saw the conclusion of the preparation for the Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Fifth Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference.
4. The Unit for the Integration of Women also collaborated in the preparations for the Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Youth Year, which will be held during the last quarter of this year, organized by ECLA.
5. Missions of advisory assistance and technical assistance in general were continued, at the request of the governments. Mention should be made of the mission for the appraisal of employment- and earnings-generating projects for women, carried out in one country in the region.

### 2. Relations with Headquarters, bodies of the United Nations system and inter-governmental bodies

6. The policy of working co-ordinatedly with Headquarters, the specialized agencies and the inter-governmental bodies was continued. In fulfillment of a mandate of the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (PROG), ECLA was represented at the First Inter-Agency Meeting on the preparations for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, to be held in 1985.
7. The Inter-Agency Meeting was conducted at the United Nations office at Vienna on 21 and 22 February 1983, immediately before the Commission on the Status of Women held its first session as the preparatory body for the World Conference, in which ECLA also took part.

The Inter-Agency Meeting adopted several recommendations of relevance to the region, relating to the preparations for the World Conference:

- a) Up-to-date information on the progress achieved and the obstacles encountered during the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, will be obtained through a questionnaire to which governments will be asked to reply.1/ The questionnaire, whose semi-final version was discussed

/at the

at the meeting, was prepared by the Advancement of Women Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, which will act as secretariat of the 1985 World Conference.

In general, the questionnaire, which will be sent to the member States in the following months, attempts to establish the achievements gained and obstacles encountered in the implementation of the objectives of the Decade at the national level, according to the guidelines contained in the international and regional instruments adopted in recent years.<sup>2/</sup> It is hoped especially to obtain information on the mechanisms established by the governments to promote the integration of women into national development, including the formulation and implementation of plans and policies and the formulation and adoption of constitutional and legal guarantees for promoting equality. It is also hoped to obtain information on the specific strategies and measures adopted to increase and encourage participation by women in the promotion of international peace and co-operation and in decision-making processes and bodies. The questionnaire will also contain sections on sectoral matters such as employment, education, rural development and industrialization, which will be elaborated in their final version by a technical group of representatives of the specialized agencies.

b) The World Survey on the Role of Women in Development <sup>3/</sup> which constitutes a General Assembly mandate through its resolution 36/74, is another of the preparations for the 1985 World Conference, and the semi-final version of the contents of the survey was an agenda item of the Inter-Agency Meeting. The survey is being elaborated by the Advancement of Women Branch of the CSDHA with the collaboration of all the bodies participating in the meeting, and will analyse the role of women in agriculture, industry and trade; the use, conservation and development of energy resources; monetary and fiscal matters and the development and application of science and technology.

c) The Meeting stressed the need for maintaining communication and co-operation among bodies in order to obtain greater coherence in both the questions and topics and the practical preparatory work for the World Conference, and recommended that the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (PROG) should approve the convening of a second ad hoc meeting prior to the third session of the Commission on the Status of Women in 1984.

8. The first session of the Commission on the Status of Women as the preparatory body for the World Conference was carried out at the Vienna office from 23 February to 4 March. As a result of its deliberations, the Commission approved the provisional programme of the World Conference, the substantive portion of which contains the following items:

a) A critical review and appraisal of the progress made and the obstacles encountered in achieving the aims and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, and of the sub-item: Employment, education and health, at the national, regional and international levels.

b) Forward-looking

b) Forward-looking through the year 2000 implementation strategies for the advancement of women and specific measures for dealing with obstacles to the achievement of the aims and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, and of the sub-item: Employment, education and health, at the national, regional and international levels.

9. The Commission also approved the documentation for the World Conference, which would include a report containing the recommendations of the five inter-governmental regional preparatory meetings which will be organized by the United Nations regional commissions. The Commission was informed that the provisional agenda of the ECLA Third Regional Conference contained an item on the regional preparations for the 1985 World Conference, on which the ECLA member States will decide.

10. Finally, the Commission made recommendations on preparatory activities for the World Conference, with implications for the programme budget of the United Nations system. At its most recent meeting, the Second (Social) Committee of the Economic and Social Council recommended that the Council should submit the recommendations with programme budget implications to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session (1983).<sup>4/</sup>

11. ECLA participated in the third session of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), on which occasion a useful exchange of information was conducted with the Board and existing co-operation was strengthened,<sup>5/</sup> especially for carrying out joint programmes. In this connection, it would be recalled that ECLA had submitted a proposal to INSTRAW, which was favourably received by the Institute.<sup>6/</sup>

12. Relations with the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace were strengthened during this period through joint meetings between the Voluntary Fund and the regional commissions to discuss guidelines for evaluating the activities of that body. More detailed information on that exercise is found in paragraphs 20-21 of this Addendum.

13. ECLA was represented at the third Simposio de Estudios e Investigaciones sobre la Mujer, held in Mexico and organized by the Programa Nacional de la Mujer (PRONAM), and by the Centre for Economic and Social Studies of the Third World (CEESTEM), and at the Seminario Regional sobre la Situación de la Mujer Trabajadora del Campo y la Ciudad, organized by the Women's International Democratic Federation (FDIM), also held in Mexico.

### III. LINES OF ACTION OF THE PROGRAMME ON THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

#### 1. Integration of women in social planning

14. An increase in the conceptual and theoretical body of knowledge on the various situations and specific aspects comprising the problem of women may be observed in the entire region, and programmes and projects have been implemented for the purpose of improving extreme poverty situations, taking women and their families as a target population.

15. This situation, although it is undoubtedly useful in the progress achieved in research and the formulation and implementation of strategies and programmes for women, lacks the consistency among its elements which would favour a more integral treatment of poverty situations. Although many research projects and actions are being carried out, they do not form a programme which balances and connects both elements, with the result that research and action have different objectives, their scope is limited, they do not promote participation by the population involved and they prove to be temporary measures compared with the magnitude of the social and economic problems.

16. Taking note of these reasons, the Unit for the Integration of Women initiated a regional project on significant research-action experiments relating to women and Latin American families in working-class urban sectors, as part of the far-reaching efforts being deployed in the region towards reformulating the conceptions of social policies to make them identify and recognize the different roles being played by poor women in family survival strategies. These efforts require the identification of unconventional methodologies and of strategies which will effectively alter the living conditions of women and their families, on the basis of explanations of the situation in Latin America by researchers in the region.

17. Since ECLA is a regional body linked to both research and action groups, especially in the area of social development planning, it provided an excellent opportunity to conduct the project, whose objectives are the following:

a) To identify research-action programmes on women and families in marginal urban strata which will provide innovative methodologies and effective strategies for altering the living conditions of that population;

b) To co-ordinate, facilitate and implement an exchange of experiences on the topic and of knowledge acquired among the different groups working in the region, in order to systematize, enrich and disseminate theoretical and field experience and establish possible links with local, regional and national planning and with the provision of technical and financial assistance;

c) To establish effective modalities for the continuous and systematic dissemination of research-action experiments regarding women and families from marginal urban strata.

18. The project comprises three consecutive phases:

a) Compilation of information from research-action projects and broadening of knowledge concerning the most important features of the living conditions of women and their families.

b) Organization and conducting of a regional technical seminar at which the results of the phase described above will be presented and groups and researchers from the region will have the opportunity to present significant experiences. The seminar will be oriented towards identifying the most effective and viable strategies for promoting changes in the population under review.

/c) Implementation



c) Implementation of co-ordination activities among the research-action groups and between them and the bodies carrying out social policies and technical and financial assistance, and the dissemination of the results of the project, including the seminar debates.

19. During 1984, the secretariat hopes to be able to carry out a similar research-action project with respect to women and families from rural zones.

2. Orientation of policies, programmes and technical and financial assistance projects

20. As already reported in paragraph 12 of this Addendum, ECLA is assisting the Voluntary Fund in the process of appraising its activities. During the meetings held in January 1983, a tentative review was made of the conceptual, substantive and operative aspects which could be appraised, in the frame of reference of the main appraisal objective, that is, to show that incorporation of women into technical co-operation activities has a positive impact on the achievement of development aims. It is also aimed towards applying those methodologies and conclusions from significant projects which will make it possible to achieve that impact more efficiently.

21. During the month of July 1983, the Co-ordinator of the Unit will assist the Voluntary Fund in the final design of the appraisal, especially the portion relating to projects in the region co-ordinated by ECLA. It is hoped that this appraisal will be completed in 1984 for presentation to the General Assembly and subsequently to the 1985 World Conference.

3. Research, appraisals and formulation of diagnostic analyses

22. As part of the regional research-action project on women and families from marginal urban strata, documentation with the following features is being elaborated:

a) A comparative analysis of the research-action programmes in the region; this information is being collected through a questionnaire sent to about 500 institutions and persons.

b) An analysis of the living conditions and especially the survival strategies of women and families from marginal urban strata. This analysis will stress little-studied anthropological, socio-cultural and psycho-social aspects, and delve deeply into those considered to be of greatest relevance and urgency for the formulation of strategies, policies and programmes.

23. During the period work was completed on the experimental survey on the role of women in agriculture in three countries of the Eastern Caribbean, Santa Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Grenada,<sup>7/</sup> and another survey is being concluded on the extent to which governments, through their policies and development financing, provide specific services and earnings to the female population.<sup>8/</sup>

24. As part of the preparation for the Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Youth Year, the Unit for the Integration of Women has prepared statistical and conceptual material on young women to be included in the documentation for that meeting.

25. The Unit is also collaborating with the ECLA-FAO project on "Survival Strategies in Peasant Economies: The Role of Women", for which six case studies are being elaborated in six countries of the region. The project will conclude with a round table which will consider the implications for action of the information presented in the studies.

26. ECLA participated in the Expert Group on Improving Statistics and Indicators on the Situation of Women, convened by INSTRAW. This topic, which is extremely important since statistics and indicators of the situation of women constitute the basis for studies, appraisals and research with policy and programme elements, was extensively discussed at the meeting. By means of a generous offer from INSTRAW, ECLA is elaborating a project on the improvement of statistical data and various types of indicators relating to the situation of women.

#### 4. Strengthening of national and regional capacity

27. With reference to training, information, documentation and communication activities and assistance to national mechanisms, the secretariat is continuing negotiations with INSTRAW on the subregional project for providing training in information and documentation to personnel from women's offices and planning offices.<sup>9/</sup> Communication was also maintained with the countries included in the project carried out during 1982, and technical assistance was provided to women's offices in several countries.

28. As a result of the Training Workshop in Programme and Project Planning held in Panama,<sup>10/</sup> similar exercises were carried out in several countries of Central America and the Caribbean.<sup>11/</sup> The latest of these exercises was carried out in Cuba, with the collaboration of ECLA.

#### Notes

1/ See paragraph 23 of document E/CEPAL/CRM.3/L.3 for information on the integrated reporting system established by the General Assembly in its resolution 33/186.

2/ World Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. Found in the Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, 1975, E/CONF.66/34, United Nations publications, Sales No.: S.76.IV.1; the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. Found in the Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Copenhagen, 14 to 30 July 1980, A/CONF.94/35, United Nations publication, Sales No.: S.80.IV.3; the Regional Plan of Action on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, E/CEPAL/G.1042/Rev.1; and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, General Assembly resolution A/34/180.

- 3/ See paragraph 27 of document E/CEPAL/CRM.3/L.3.
- 4/ See document E/1983/63.
- 5/ See paragraph 27 c) of document E/CEPAL/CRM.3/L.3, for more information on joint activities with INSTRAW, and paragraph 26 of this Addendum.
- 6/ See paragraph 89 of document E/CEPAL/CRM.3/L.3.
- 7/ Ibid., paragraph 89 e).
- 8/ Ibid., paragraph 36 d)
- 9/ Ibid., paragraph 89.
- 10/ Ibid., paragraph 72.
- 11/ Ibid., paragraph 75.

The following information is provided for your reference:  
 1. The total number of items is 100.  
 2. The number of items in each category is as follows:  
 - Category A: 20 items  
 - Category B: 30 items  
 - Category C: 15 items  
 - Category D: 10 items  
 - Category E: 5 items  
 - Category F: 5 items