

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

REPORT

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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468(XX) INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO DEVELOPMENT

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that the objectives and targets of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade cannot be achieved without the effective participation of women in national, regional and international efforts.

Bearing in mind that, in spite of the activities that have been carried out in the implementation of the World Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Women, insufficient progress has so far been made and that it is therefore necessary to intensify action, optimize resources and reformulate strategies in the light of the circumstances currently prevailing in the region and of its pressing needs,

Recognizing the work that ECLA has carried out to further the application of the Regional Plan of Action for the integration of women into the development of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Stressing that the serious economic crisis affecting the region has caused a gradual deterioration of the quality of life of a high percentage of its population,

Appreciating the support that has been provided by the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, yet aware of the countries' increasing requirements for financial assistance for the execution of comprehensive promotion projects giving priority to women in the marginal urban areas and in rural areas,

Stressing the vital importance of the governments' policies at the national level to ensure the effective participation of women in development,

Taking into consideration the convening of 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,

Reaffirming the recommendations of the Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Mexico City, from 8 to 10 August 1983,

1. Urges governments:

a) in the design and implementation of new development strategies that are consistent with the accelerated pace of progress in science and technology and culture, to encourage the full integration of women into the economic and social processes of their countries;

b) to adopt short and medium-term policies aimed at carrying out the activities pertaining to women that are envisaged in the Regional Programme of Action for the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to ensure the continuation of these activities beyond the United Nations Decade for Women;

c) to prepare a comprehensive diagnosis of the situation of women which should bring together the scattered efforts that have been made in this field in order to make it possible to formulate policies that are consistent with the real situation of each country;

d) within the framework of comprehensive development strategies, to plan and implement projects of national, regional and zonal scope in order to slow down the migration to the cities of women and their families and to prevent them from being exploited and marginated;

e) to adopt immediately measures aimed at improving working conditions and the working environment of women in the rural areas, and, in particular, to avoid the damaging effect of the uncontrolled use of insecticides and pesticides, especially among pregnant peasant women;

f) to carry out more thorough research and diagnostic studies on the issue of female minors in their family and social contexts, with emphasis on illiteracy, dropping out of school, exploitation, fertility and health, in order to make it possible to plan and implement duly co-ordinated multisectoral programmes;

g) to carry out research studies on the effect which working conditions and the working environment have on women's health, as well as studies on social security coverage for women;

h) if they have not already done so, to sign, ratify and put into effect as soon as possible the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women and to promote its dissemination;

i) to extend or increase effectively the coverage of social security schemes to family members at all stages in their lives, stressing the situation of women who are housewives;

j) to carry out activities and projects designed to promote a sense of responsibility among fathers by educating couples as regards their obligations to society;

k) to participate actively in the process of preparing for the World Conference;

2. Requests the ECLA Secretariat to provide Governments with technical support in the process of requesting technical and financial co-operation from the United Nations Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women for the

purpose of carrying out projects to ensure the improvement of living conditions for women and their families; such projects should include, among others, the following components:

- a) The training of women, particularly for the middle level of management;
- b) The creation of jobs for women, especially through the creation of self-managed and other enterprises;
- c) Training to secure access to credit by enterprises managed by women;

3. Requests the Chairpersons of the Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women (Mexico City, August 1983) and the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the World Conference to transmit the conclusions and results of their respective conferences to the World Conference;

4. Reiterates its support for the work being done by the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) to promote better living conditions for women and their more effective integration into development.

223rd meeting
6 April 1984