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Economic Commission for Latin America

DRAFT REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT *

* Produced by the Technical Consultative Meeting prior to the Latin American Conference on the Integration of Women in Economic and Social Development, Mexico City, 10-14 January 1977.

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CONTENTS

/INTRODUCTORY NOTE

INTRODUCTORY NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT

Background

In recent years there has been widespread recognition of the great human and social significance of the problems connected with the status of women in society, and of the importance of the integration of women in both the development efforts of their countries and the achievement of international peace. This international recognition culminated in United Nations General Assembly resolution 3010 (XXIX) which provided for the holding of the World Conference of the International Women's Year in 1975. That Conference adopted a World Plan of Action setting forth a series of concrete actions designed to carry into practice its recommendations and mandates to achieve the above lofty objectives. Subsequently, the General Assembly endorsed the World Plan of Action in resolution 3520 (XXX).

At the regional level, the natural sphere of action of the Economic Commission for Latin America, resolution 321 (XV) was adopted at the Commission's 15th session (Quito, March 1973). It requested the Secretariat to carry out studies on the participation of women in the development of the region and on the necessary measures to eliminate all discrimination and lack of educational, job and economic opportunities for women.

As a preparatory stage of the World Conference of Mexico, the Latin American Regional Seminar on the Integration of Women in Development, of a governmental nature, was organized in Caracas between 28 April and 2 May 1975 by the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs with the collaboration of CEPAL. The recommendations of the Seminar were subsequently submitted to the 16th session of CEPAL (Port of Spain, May 1975), which took note of them and decided to forward them for consideration by the World Conference in Mexico.1/ The Seminar recommended that

1/ See document E/CEPAL/1006/Rev.2.

/CEPAL should

b CEPAL should carry out studies and other activities connected with the integration of women in the development process, emphasizing the particular importance of factors like the family, education, employment, legislation, health, mass communication media, and political participation. It also recommended that CEPAL should "hold a regional conference after the World Conference of the International Women's Year in order to evaluate the results of the latter and consider its applications to the Latin American region".

Furthermore, the World Plan of Action adopted by the United Nations General Assembly recommended that the regional commissions should develop and implement, on a priority basis, effective strategies to further the objectives of the plan at the regional and subregional levels, taking account of their respective plans of action.

In the preparatory phase of the preparation of the regional plan, the "Regional Seminar on the Participation of Women in Economic, Social and Political Development: Obstacles that hinder their Integration" was held in Buenos Aires between 22 and 30 March 1976, organized by the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in consultation with CEPAL. That Seminar recommended, inter alia, the convening of a working group made up of specialists appointed by governments in accordance with the principle of equitable geographic distribution, with a view to preparing a draft regional plan of action under the auspices of the United Nations and in the sphere of action of the Economic Commission for Latin America.2/

While CEPAL was engaged in the work described above, the General Assembly, when endorsing the World Plan of Action in resolution 3520 (XXX), also announced and provided for the holding of a world conference in 1980 to appraise the results of the activities undertaken in the first five years (1976-1980).

2/ See document ST/ESA/SER.B/9, section III, Conclusions paragraph 89.

/The conference

The conference would be preceded by regional preparatory conferences aimed at reviewing and appraising the progress made in that field, particularly in relation to the minimum targets established in point 46 of the World Plan of Action. In addition, in accordance with the mandate received from the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, the study of the progress made in the social situation of women has now been included in the regular appraisal activities of CEPAL in connexion with the International Development Strategy and the Programme of Action for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order. During 1977 CEPAL will be responsible for this process of governmental regional appraisal, first in the third session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) and subsequently at the 17th session of CEPAL (Guatemala, 25 April to 5 May 1977).

Furthermore, the abovementioned General Assembly resolution also invited all the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to prepare and execute a joint interagency programme. An interagency meeting was held in Geneva in 1976; it adopted an agreement for the implementation of the recommendations of the World Plan of Action at the world, regional and national levels. As the co-ordinating body at the regional level, CEPAL has begun to carry out that agreement, deciding with the relevant bodies on the immediate steps to be taken in the Latin American sphere.

It is in the framework of these mandates that the United Nations Secretariat, through the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the Economic Commission for Latin America, decided to convene a Technical Consultation Meeting with a limited but representative group of experts of the region, invited in a personal capacity following consultation with their respective Governments.3/

3/ Experts from the following countries participated in this capacity: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela. Full details of the participants appear in the annex to the report.

/In conformity

In conformity with the recommendation of the Buenos Aires Seminar, the main purpose of the Technical Consultation Meeting, held between 10 and 14 January 1977 at the CEPAL Office in Mexico City, was the preparation of a draft regional plan based on the World Plan of Action and the background material from the abovementioned Caracas and Buenos Aires seminars.

In order to facilitate the work, the secretariat prepared a comparative reference document, an orderly compilation of material from the World Plan of Action - which serves as a core - and from the discussions, conclusions and suggested amendments of the Caracas and Buenos Aires seminars. The full text of the reports adopted by the World Conference of Mexico, the United Nations General Assembly and the Caracas and Buenos Aires seminars, including the various recommendations and resolutions adopted, were also distributed to the participants.

The aim of the technical consultation meeting, given its nature, was to reach the highest possible level of agreeement by means of consensus. As a result, an effort was made to gather the greatest possible number of initiatives and proposals arising from the co-operative work of the group of experts.

The following draft plan reflects the consensus reached by the experts together with the reservations likewise expressed at the meeting.

In distributing this draft regional plan of action on the integration of women in economic and social development prepared by the participating experts, the secretariat, while expressing its thanks for this contribution to the work for which it is responsible, ventures to stress that it is now for the governments members of the Commission to consider and communicate to the secretariat, if possible before 31 March 1977, the observations and suggestions they see fit. It is considered particularly important to learn the views of member governments on the priorities to be established for the achievement at the regional level of the "minimum objectives", established in point 46 of the World Plan of Action in the first half of the United

/Nations Decade

Nations Decade for Women (1976-1980). It is also important to learn the positions of the governments of the region with respect to the institutional aspects of the Plan of Action, including the machinery and resources considered necessary for its execution, a question on which Section IV of the enclosed draft contains some specific proposals aimed both at "the governments" and at "the CEPAL secretariat". All these elements together would greatly facilitate the consideration of the regional plan of action by the States members of CEPAL at the governmental level in the framework of a regional conference to be convened to that end.

/I. INTRODUCTION

I. INTRODUCTION

The World Conference of the International Women's Year held in Mexico in 1975 affirmed in its Declaration that the status of women is inseparable from the development process. It also recognized that the current situation in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres, both national and regional, prevents the full utilization of the human and material potential in the development process so that it is necessary to seek ways of transforming the conditions existing in the region.

The question of the inequality of the vast majority of the Latin American female population is indeed closely linked with the problem of underdevelopment, which exists not only because of inadequate internal structures but also as a result of a profoundly unjust world economic system.

However, although the elimination of underdevelopment is an indispensable requirement for the full emancipation of women, it does not ensure the immediate elimination of the discrimination which afflicts them, resulting from the implantation and persistence of age-old prejudices and their low educational, technical and cultural level which greatly limits their access to and incorporation into work. The struggle against underdevelopment must therefore be combined with the adoption of measures for the immediate and speedy integration of women into national and international life as an important element for development, the maintenance of peace and regional co-operation. Thus, as they become more aware of this fact they will become natural and active participants in the struggle against all types of domination. They thus constitute enormous social potential for the socio-economic transformation needed by the region.

Our region is characterized by a high rate of unemployment and underemployment. This phenomenon is proportionally greater in the case of women, and as time reaches rates three times higher than those for men of the same age groups. This chronic situation tends to be aggravated by the unjust system existing in international economic relations.

/Women have

Women have played an important role in the history of mankind in the struggle for national liberation, political and economic independence, the strengthening of international peace, the elimination of colonialism, neocolonialism and imperialism, foreign occupation, foreign domination, racism, apartheid and all types of discrimination.

During recent decades there has been an intensification of the incorporation of women into the political life of their countries and of their struggle for structural changes which would eliminate the social roots of the discrimination against them.

The United Nations has played an important role in the efforts aimed at equality for women. The General Assembly has approved basic resolutions and key documents such as the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women which have contributed to the struggle to secure the full integration of women into development. It has also carried out seminars such as those of Caracas and Buenos Aires and the World Conference in Mexico with its World Plan of Action, and in the relevant declarations it has reaffirmed the basic principles for advancing in the struggle for the liberation of women.

There is an urgent need for the regional community to adopt measures in keeping with the needs of the countries of Latin America in order to co-operate with them to accelerate the rate of their economic development and significantly improve the standard of living of their peoples, paying particular attention to the situation of women, who - as in other regions of the underdeveloped world - live and every day confront an endless series of serious and pressing political, social and economic problems.

It is thus essential to carry into practice the New International Economic Order, of which the Charter of the Economic Rights and Duties of States constitutes a fundamental element since it is based on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest and co-operation between all States, whatever their economic and social systems.

/The purpose

The purpose of this document 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, in conformity with the principles of justice and equity.

As indicated in paragraph 28 of the World Plan of Action, which states that "since there are wide divergencies in the situation of women in various societies, cultures and regions, reflected in differing needs and problems", each country should establish its own national strategy and the interdisciplinary and multilateral machinery in its government structure to ensure the application of recommendations of importance within the framework of its needs and priorities.

It is essential that these recommendations should be incorporated in development plans and programmes and in sectoral analyses, so that the machinery for the integration of women in development may be an integral part of the International Development Strategy in the Second United Nations Development Decade and contribute effectively to its adjustment to the principles and postulates of the New International Economic Order.

/II. ACTION

II. ACTION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

A. FUNDAMENTALS

(a) Structural changes

The issue of inequality, as it affects the vast majority of the women of the world, is closely linked with the problem of underdevelopment, which exists as a result not only of unsuitable internal structures, but also of a profoundly unjust world economic system.

The problems which hinder the participation of women in the economic, political, social and cultural life of their countries are closely linked with the general state of underdevelopment. It is therefore fundamental to make the necessary changes in socio-economic structures in order to ensure the full equality of women. Particular attention must be paid to women in rural areas, as it is well known that the region is characterized by the uneven development of the city and the countryside; to the detriment of the latter. This implies that the situation of women in rural areas is worse; they suffer not only from isolation, but also from lack of education, employment and other evils which cause them to migrate to the cities in search of work, with the corresponding sequel of prostitution, begging and growth of slum areas. There is therefore a pressing need to implement strategies to eradicate the evils which affect women in rural areas.

Action proposals

1. To promote and support the necessary profound changes which will make possible the solution of the problems facing women in the political, economic, social and cultural fields.
2. To support economic, political and social structural changes in Latin America, by promoting Latin American unity and strongly defending its sovereignty, its natural resources and all its economic activities.
3. To support Latin American multinational enterprises, the producer associations set up throughout the region and all similar projects which provide better possibilities of incorporating women in work, inasmuch as they combat the structural deformation of the Latin American economies and their external dependence.
4. To support SELA and its Action Committees, as a genuine expression of the development of co-operation and unity among the countries of the region.

/5. To

5. To formulate and implement rural development programmes, particularly those which benefit women.
6. To consider rural development as an integral part of the development process, by carrying out structural changes, including agrarian reform the creation of co-operative organizations of workers and small landowners, the formulation of national employment policies, education, health and social welfare services, price-fixing, marketing and financing and credit services.
7. To promote and strengthen popular participation at every level, including at the decision-making level, particularly by means of elections.
8. To take steps to ensure the redistribution of resources and income to the underprivileged rural and urban groups, which will benefit the majority of the population.

(b) Legislative measures

While legislative measures are insufficient by themselves, they are nevertheless necessary to ensure the equality of women.

Action proposals

1. Governments should examine the legislation which bears on the legal and social status of women for their full integration in society, and adopt the necessary legislative measures to ensure the full legal equality of women.
2. To eliminate discrimination against women on grounds of race, sex, religion, national origin, marital status or other reasons, through the adoption of legislation or other measures.
3. To adopt legislative measures to increase the political, economic, social and cultural participation of women.

(c) Administrative machinery

The World Plan of Action and the Caracas and Buenos Aires Seminars recognized the need for interdisciplinary, multisectoral machinery at the national, regional and interregional levels for the formulation and implementation of policies and proposals aimed to secure the objectives of equality and integration for women.

/Action proposals

Action proposals

1. Governments, in accordance with their own administrative systems of work, should immediately establish and/or stregthen machinery with adequate staff and budgets for the purpose of accelerating the achievement of the objectives of the global, regional and national plans within the Decade for Women.

2. The functions of the machinery established by the governments should include the following:

(a) To recognize and affirm the dignity of women as human beings, constantly taking into account their status as productive citizens and consumers;

(b) To increase the qualitative and quantitative participation of women in development programmes;

(c) To consider and promote policies, action and programmes aimed at integrating women fully into the economic, political and social development process;

(d) To combat the persistence of current attitudes to the traditional functions assigned to the sexes through changes in the educational systems and the cultural and traditional patterns;

(e) To combat against the factors which cause the marginalization of women from economic, political and social development and to act as a communication channel to ensure that the points of view of women are recognized and reflected in government policies;

(f) To elaborate and propose the necessary measures for the establishment of programmes and action to secure for women equality of rights, opportunities and access to work, education, specialization, professional and technical training, equal pay for equal work, assistance, pensions and social security;

(g) To concentrate the action of this machinery mainly on eliminating from the mass information media stereotypes and taboos and the use of women as an object;

/(h) To

(h) To inform and advise women on the rights offered to them both by national legislations and by international agreements and conventions;

(i) To revise the legislation existing in countries and to propose the necessary changes to eliminate all the norms which discriminate against women;

(j) To urge governments to implement the international conventions and to revise and modify the laws which contradict these conventions;

(k) To ratify the obligation of the couple to share family responsibilities;

(l) To ratify the right and obligation of the couple to participate and share efforts, action and responsibilities in social, political and economic development.

3. It is considered that the minimum functional structure should include inter alia, the following spheres: (a) participation in the formulation of national plans, policies and programmes, co-ordination and promotion; (b) research and diagnosis; (c) programming and evaluation; (d) documentation and information; (e) public relations and publicity; (f) guidance and advisory services; (g) relations with regional and international bodies.

4. For its operation, the following bodies should be set up:

(a) A general co-ordination body responsible for planning, directing and co-ordinating the directives and policies of the mechanisms, in accordance with the national development plans;

(b) An executive body responsible for supervising and controlling the implementation of the policies and plans approved by the competent bodies.

5. Sectors such as the following could be represented in the organization: (a) ministries and governmental dependencies; (b) public and private bodies; (c) women's organizations; (d) co-operatives; (e) voluntary organizations; (f) rural women;

/(g) housewives;

(g) housewives; (h) ethnic and religious groups; (i) employees, workers, trade unions and other organizations; (j) well-known persons with specialized knowledge; (k) student organizations.

6. Specialists in this field chosen in consultation with the relevant organizations should participate in the organization and operations of these bodies; they would interpret and protect the rights and interests of women and could influence the planning of policies which respect and enforce the principles of the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, and in particular the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

B. MEASURES FOR THE INCORPORATION OF WOMEN IN ACTIVE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL LIFE

(a) Employment

If the majority of the Latin American countries are considered, it may be observed that a very low percentage of women is incorporated in the labour force. Most of them carry out unskilled work. The higher rate of female economic activity shows a distortion as regards both sectoral occupation and age. It is concentrated in the service sector, especially domestic work, including unpaid family workers. Women are frequently the object of discrimination in respect of pay, working conditions and hiring practices. In general there are real limitations on the incorporation and retention of women in work, and this hinders their participation in the political, economic and social life of their countries.

According to current data, the female EAP is concentrated in the cities and primarily in the large capitals where the greatest quantity of services and jobs traditionally attributed to women are grouped together, and yet where they do not have the social and educational facilities to enable the great majority to remain employed. This occurs in the context of chronic unemployment and under-employment affecting the region and further worsens the position of women.

/Action proposals

Action proposals

1. To formulate employment policies for women in both the private and public sectors, entrusting the State with the responsibility for seeing that there is equality of job opportunity, equal pay for equal work, and equal promotion opportunity.
2. To promote the effective access of women to work, particularly in the better-paid sectors from which they have traditionally been excluded.
3. To guarantee for women, under equal conditions with men, the full enjoyment of social security benefits and any other right which may be recognized to them by labour legislation.
4. To ensure, through Government policies, the integration of women in rural development with a view, inter alia, to reducing migration towards other zones which worsens the problem of "marginality".
5. To foster the employment of women with special part-time working hours in the positions and sectors of the economy in which this is possible, with the support of the government in order to encourage greater integration of women in the labour force and thus in national development.
6. To set up training and occupational courses in urban and rural areas to prepare women to participate effectively in the job structure of the country and to carry out community and domestic-artisanal activities.
7. To prevent the exploitation of children and adolescents in work by promulgating laws which prohibit the work of the former and regulate that of the latter, and at the same time by providing them with opportunities of access to studies, training and professional and technical preparation.
8. To establish norms in labour legislations which recognize the domestic workers' status as paid workers with the same labour and social protection as all paid workers, including the right to form trade unions.

/9. To

9. To recognize, support and promote the creation of unions and associations which contribute to the equality of working conditions and opportunities for women, including the public, private and domestic artisanal sectors, and to greater participation of women in union activities and contractual benefits.

10. To ensure the preparation and effective implementation of legislative measures which guarantee full respect of the right of working women to enjoy remunerated prenatal and postnatal leave during pregnancy and childbirth, and to re-employment without loss of their jobs, and also the provision of the necessary nursery facilities.

11. To promote, in the agricultural co-operative units, activities with greater female participation, which thus contribute to the broader and more effective participation of women in productive work, higher incomes in the community, stronger self-help programmes, and better standards of living.

12. To train women in rural areas in the techniques of the production, processing and marketing of rural products.

13. To promote the creation of employment in rural areas which are losing population and provide jobs for women, particularly the young who tend to emmigrate, in order to tie them to their place of origin.

14. To review labour legislation in order to reform the existing laws and promulgate new laws which prevent discrimination against women and especially their exclusion from certain jobs because of the so-called protective legislation in the countries where this exists.

15. To make efforts to adopt the necessary measures to recognize the value of the unremunerated functions carried out by women in agriculture, in the home in urban and rural areas and in voluntary organizations, even though this does not strictly speaking constitute employment.

/(b) Education

(b) Education

Education is an essential factor in the economic and social development of peoples and a basic right of men and women as social beings; to receive it is a principle of equity and justice which cannot be foregone without violating a universal standard.

Women represent a high percentage (between 60 and 80 per cent) of the total illiterate population. Even in the countries considered to be of a higher cultural level, the percentage of women with secondary, special and higher education is very low.

There is also discrimination in the nature and content of the education provided and in the options offered to girls, which tend to restrict them to stereotyped roles and occupations.

The impossibility of access to education by the majority of the population, particularly women, has led the latter to turn to the traditional sectors of the economy, basically domestic services, trade, artisanal activities and agricultural work. In the latter two cases, they are generally unpaid.

There is also the special problem of girls who drop out of school because of pregnancy, the need to work or other reasons.

Action proposals

1. To conceive and programme education as an integral part of a national development strategy, accelerating the integration of women in development and promoting social equality and their self-fulfilment.
2. To adopt an education policy in which the equality of opportunity of men and women is established.
3. To review and bring up to date the legislation on education and furnish the means to ensure its application.
4. To create new programmes and strengthen those already in existence to eliminate illiteracy, establishing a fixed time for its elimination, and also to devise post-literacy programmes which prevent the loss of literacy through lack of use. To determine the causes which produce a higher rate of illiteracy among the female population, and take the necessary steps to eradicate them.

/5. To

5. To establish free and compulsory primary education, ensuring attendance through suitable means with the support of social organizations, and making an effort to provide the children with all the resources of education: textbooks, transport, food, etc.
6. To establish coeducation at all levels as a means of obtaining better education and suitable relationships between the two sexes.
7. To reorient the function of schools so that they become multiple-training centres and nuclei for social development, by linking the content of programmes and teaching methods with productive activities which already exist or which should be carried out for development, as well as health, nutrition and other programmes.
8. To increase the incorporation of women in secondary, intermediate and university education through national plans of scholarships provided by countries of the region as well as in the bilateral and multilateral technical assistance programmes at all educational levels.
9. To bring about a suitable correspondence between the fields of specialization required for the country's economic development and the vocational intermediate, agricultural and industrial studies and in all university subjects, particularly technological ones. Educational methods should be revised, whenever necessary, to ensure that they are adapted to national needs and promote changes in discriminatory attitudes.
10. To adopt concrete measures for women to be drawn to, enter, remain in, leave and re-enter the various levels of education by providing them with facilities such as study by audio-visual systems, the extension of non-formal education, open education, correspondence courses, supervised studies and other forms which facilitate the training of women.
11. To establish education programmes aimed at training the women of rural and indigenous areas and of the marginal urban zones, which furnish them with meaningful apprenticeships for meeting the priority needs recognized by the community.

/12. To

12. To carry out a reform of the educational system designed to (a) preserve national cultural values by promoting historical research, protecting ethnic groups by providing them with education in their own languages; and (b) revalue in texts and other educational material the role which women can and should play, with a view to eliminating the distorted image of them generally offered by the prevailing cultural patterns.
13. To include in school programmes suitable courses on family life, administrative, agricultural and industrial topics and methods, and topics related to various professions which facilitate the incorporation of women in urban and rural working life in skilled positions.
14. To set up orientation programmes to raise the level of awareness of parents and teachers about the need for women to participate fully in and complete all levels of education.
15. To organize permanent education programmes with a view to raising the educational levels.
16. To establish broad plans of scholarships, educational credits, grants and other funds which guarantee the education and training of the young people who for various reasons have limited access to the educational centres.
17. Day care and similar facilities should be provided for women and girls who have responsibility for the care of children, to allow them to continue their studies.
18. The revision, discussion and preparation of the school texts and teaching material used in school education programmes which reinforce patterns of differentiation between men and women should be carried out by national technicians so as to ensure a more faithful interpretation in accordance with the reality and needs of each country. This team should preferably be of an interdisciplinary nature (educators, sociologists, physchologists, etc.).

/19. Pre-school

19. Pre-school education should be emphasized as a means of facilitating a less prejudicial socialization process based on more universal human values so as to enable the child to assimilate the changes in our society more adequately. This pre-school education could be organized by the education ministries or by the institutions which each country considers to be more practical and viable for the implementation of these programmes. The education ministries could either direct these plans and programmes, or collaborate in them.

(c) Health

According to CEPAL and United Nations studies the health problem in the region is alarming. Low life expectancy, high mortality rates and the region's critical public health situation indicate the differences which exist between the health and living conditions of the Latin American countries and those of the developed countries of the world. This is all the more worrying if one bears in mind the great differences which exist in this field among the different countries of the region and among the different social groups and regions within each country.

Suffice it to say that, according to CEPAL figures, the number of infant deaths between 1965-1970 was 1,000,000 children under the age of five, whereas if the mortality rates of the developed countries had existed this figure would have dropped to 300,000. The hospital bed situation is likewise critical: most countries have no more than 2.5 beds per 1,000 inhabitants. There is a similar shortage of doctors, to the point that in one country of the region, for example, there was only one doctor for every 13,264 inhabitants in 1972.

Most of the population live in unhealthy conditions, undernourished, ignorant of the elementary standards of hygiene, and without access to health resources, because of the unjust distribution of wealth.

Because of the special care they need during preganancy, childbirth and lactation, women, together with children, are worst affected by the situation. There is also the problem of the increasing cost of medicines,

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and the monopolistic control exercised over them by transnational enterprises as well as the shortage of available and suitable medical resources.

Action proposals

1. To make the population aware of its right to health, through the mass communication media and other means.
2. To provide free access to health services, to cover all the needs of the population in the different countries of the region.
3. To broaden the medical and paramedical infrastructure and services to achieve full, adequate medical coverage for the entire population.
4. To ensure sufficient investment in public health programmes, particularly in rural zones and marginal urban areas which should benefit the entire population without discrimination on any ground.
5. To formulate programmes to reduce mortality among mothers and lactating women by improving nutrition, hygiene and health services for mothers and children and by educating parents.
6. To review periodically public health programmes and adjust them to the needs of the population.
7. To develop special plans for mother-infant health in the framework of overall and community medical services by providing prenatal, postnatal and childbirth services and gyneco-obstretic services.
8. Likewise to develop programmes aimed at providing special services for adolescent girls and women past child-bearing age.
9. To guarantee free access to medicine through public health institutions, and adopt measures to avoid, by all possible means, the negative effect on the price and distribution of medicines stemming from the control of production and distribution by the transnational corporations.
10. To exercise effective control over the medicines whose improper use represents a health hazard, and over those which are harmful to health.

/11. To

11. To establish priority national food and nutrition policies which ensure rational consumption by the more vulnerable population groups from the social and biological standpoints (such as pregnant and lactating women, children, adolescents, old people, etc.).

12. To encourage breast feeding during the early months of the life of the child as the natural basic feeding, as well as the consumption of natural foods, because of the benefit it represents for the child's physical and mental health and future development. In addition, to put an end to all propaganda aimed at encouraging nutritional practices based on artificial feeding, to the detriment of breast feeding.

(d) Family

The family is the nucleus which generates and transmits the values, norms and attitudes which orient the individual and collective conduct of the members of a society. As the mediating institution between the individual and the social group it is particularly important in the situation of women and the possibility of broadening their social participation and eliminating the factors of the discrimination against them.

The family in most cases inculcates and promotes among its members activities and vocations which are based more on sex than on their possibilities and aptitudes as human beings. This situation not only affects women's opportunities of individual development but also directly influences other problems of development which have become priority matters.

The division of work established on the basis of sex, supported by tradition and customs under the pretext of biological determinism, assigns to the man the role of supporting the home and relegates the woman to a secondary and passive role limited to the narrow confines of the home, with the sole basic purpose of matrimony and child-bearing.

The changes in the structure and functions of the family as a consequence of the urbanization and industrialization process and its instability in relation to internal migration are not detected in most cases.

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In the majority of cases, tradition and custom assign to the woman of the family a greater responsibility in affective and formative roles in relation to the children, the man's role in the fulfillment of such responsibilities being limited.

One of the fundamental limitations on the access of women to work, education, management, responsibilities and development is the excessive work load imposed on them by the domestic tasks which are falsely viewed as the exclusive occupation of women, and this has an enormous influence on the millions of women incorporated into production and services, who on top of their working day, have the added burden of all the domestic chores.

In many cases, the early age at which women contract marriage and begin reproductive life, together with the scarce opportunities offered to them to share the responsibilities arising from the family functions which are socially assigned to them, constitute a series of limitations towards broadening their education and acquiring sufficient elements for their development.

The right for the two spouses to decide together on the number of children is not always exercised because of inadequate information and the lack of resources and adequate medical attention; together with this, in many cases, there is the concept which excludes the woman from these fundamental decisions on the basis of the ancient tradition that they should be taken by the man alone.

In relation to the promotion of the family, there is a need both to improve the situation of women within stable unions and to attend to the needs of those who do not form part of a family - or have left the family - and of those who are heads of family.

There is therefore a need for a revaluation of the role of the Latin American woman in society and in the family so as to contribute to securing the active place due to her and her participation in the transformation of the socio-economic structures which have subjected and marginated her.

/Action proposals

Action proposals

1. To promote the equality of rights, opportunities and responsibilities of both sexes within the family, to ensure that the man participates in and shares family responsibilities in a more active and responsible way.
2. To eliminate the factors relating to the cultural attitudes and elements which hinder the development of women, projecting in positive terms the importance represented for the healthy development of children, individuals, the family and society that women should assume the functions which truly correspond to them. To create conditions which favour the balanced development of the child as an individual and social being.
3. To protect the persons who do not form part of a family.
4. To protect through adequate laws and policies the rights of women in the family, whether the latter be the result of matrimony or of common law marriage.
5. The laws on marriage should: (a) be brought in line with the international norms relating to human and civil rights; (b) ensure that both spouses have full legal capacity on a basis of absolute equality; and (c) ensure equal rights for the spouses at the time of entry into and at the dissolution of marriage.
6. To provide family guidance with a view to strengthening the family as the most important nucleus of society, and recognize its rights in respect of its constitution and protection.
7. To provide information on family legislation, with special emphasis on women heads of families, whose situation is not sufficiently clearly-defined, in order to contribute to the strengthening and welfare of the family nucleus and the situation of children born out of wedlock.
8. To respect the right of the individual and the couple to receive information and decide, freely and responsibly, on the number and spacing of their children. Each country, within the framework of its population policies, shall decide on the legal machinery to enable information to be disseminated on this subject.

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9. To include in all school study plans at the appropriate levels and in non-school education plans, family education programmes including sexual education and psychosexual development in order to prepare young people of both sexes for responsible marriage and child-bearing and to eliminate cultural patterns and customs which encourage and perpetuate ideas of superiority or inferiority based on sex.

10. To provide unmarried mothers with full legal and social status in their capacity as child-bearers and grant them the corresponding legal and social protection.

11. To ensure that children born out of matrimony have the same rights and obligations as children born within wedlock.

12. To implement a policy for the creation of clinics and hostels which provide the necessary protection to mothers, whatever their marital status, before and after giving birth.

13. To establish in national legislations the right of women to share equally in the exercise of parental authority (patria potestad) over their children, whether or not born in wedlock.

(e) Conditions which facilitate the incorporation and retention of women in work

(i) Child care

The integral education of children should be an essential goal for all societies. The infant's institutions created for the purpose of the education and care of children make an important contribution to securing this objective and also ensure to the working woman adequate care for her children during the working day.

It is also important to create conditions to provide the working woman with care for her children at the other levels of education, especially during the recess periods of teaching activity.

Irrespective of the particular characteristics of each country of the region, it is a global reality that the working woman, who is both mother and housewife, has an excessive burden of activities as she is usually responsible, not only for the care of the children, but also for the home chores and family illness.

/There is

There is therefore an urgent need to take decisions to establish installations devoted to the care of the children of working women. This would reduce the rate of women leaving work and increase their incorporation, as employers should have no justification for refusing female labour on the grounds of instability, as they now tend to do.

Action proposals

1. To establish infants' institutions which ensure the integral education of the child and make it feasible for women to participate in work and studies, and to continue in these activities after giving birth.
2. To set up school canteens and improve those already in existence.
3. To give priority in scholarships to the children of working women.
4. To create vacation programmes and recreational activities to ensure care and recreation for children during holidays.

(ii) Social services

According to CEPAL, UNESCO, ILO and FAO figures, in the fields of education, housing, health and the cost of living, the standards of living during the period 1959-1975 has not improved, and has even deteriorated in many cases. Despite the differences between countries, some of which have in recent years taken steps to introduce measures which encourage the creation of social services, the situation of the region continues to give cause for concern.

Action proposals

1. To encourage the establishment of institutions which carry out research and promote the creation of social service aimed at providing care for children, such as child-care services, public health programmes, infants' institutions and boarding, semi-boarding schools and other services, including workers' canteens and centres for the care of the elderly and the physically and mentally handicapped, all of which facilitate the incorporation of women into work.

/2. To

2. To encourage the development of the social services, such as the food and industrial services which facilitate domestic work, laundries and other services, allocating part of the budget to them and encouraging self-help programmes in this respect.
3. To pay particular attention to the needs of elderly women who tend to receive less protection than elderly men although they are numerically predominant in the over-50 age group and many of them are indigent and need special care.
4. To prepare draft laws and provisions to guarantee social security, especially that of women, in accordance with the specific conditions of the various countries of the area, and to ensure the observance of those in existence.

(f) Housing

It is clear that the woman, as the member of the family who spends most time in the home, is faced with a critical situation which, although it can be alleviated with remedial measures, can only be finally solved through a profound change in the socio-economic structure.

The shortage of housing in Latin America is calculated at 20 million units. According to CEPAL (1975), the shortage of housing is of such magnitude that not only is an immediate solution problematical, if not impossible, but the same is true of the prospects of solution within a reasonable period of time. This is aggravated by the fact that, by way of example, in only nine countries more than half the population have electric light and in only seven over 50 per cent of the urban population have sewage services.

Action proposals

1. To take the necessary measures to guarantee the right of citizens to housing.
2. To adopt measures aimed at planning and financing the design of human settlements, both urban and rural, and urban housing complexes, taking into account the needs of the entire population.

/3. To

3. To initiate changes in agrarian structure and the consequent programme of human settlements as an essential element for modifying population trends, eradicating marginality and diminishing the exodus towards the towns.
4. To programme urban and rural settlements in a rational way, including in their construction installations for collective use - infants' institutions, laundries, shops, recreational areas - so as to better serve the interests of women and the community.
5. The design of housing should pay special attention to the needs of the family. The use of the following should be encouraged: (a) construction materials which require minimum maintenance; (b) equipment and utensils which do not represent a danger to users, and, (c) all that makes the construction and use of housing more economical and functional.
6. To organize orientation and training courses which help the family to make a more rational use of housing. To encourage the formation of community associations or groups which ensure that the norms of community living are respected and encourage the solidarity and participation of all the families of the community in their own self-improvement and mutual aid.
7. To eradicate insanitary neighbourhoods and replace them by new human settlements.

(g) Political participation

Although in Latin America women currently represent about half the electors, only 3 per cent of them participate in legislative bodies and an even smaller proportion are members of executive bodies.

As a result, women do not participate in decision-making, their opinions are neglected and their needs are not taken into account in the planning of development.

/Efforts must

Efforts must be made so that in practice women have the same rights and opportunities as men to vote and participate in public and political life at the national, local and community level, with an understanding of their responsibilities as citizens at the same time as these rights are guaranteed to them, so that they may participate in the solution of the problems which affect society and those which affect them directly as women. This makes it necessary to take measures which promote female participation in political activities and in the organs of power.

Action proposals

1. To support the participation of women in political activities on an equal footing with men and to give wide dissemination to this attitude.
2. To create awareness among women of the importance of their participation in political activity at all levels.
3. To encourage women to apply for public and elective positions.
4. To establish norms aimed at organizing adecuate publicity, with the help of the mass communication media, press, radio and television, in order to awaken among men and women a greater interest in the political participation of women, both nationally and internationally, and also greater female participation in electoral processes and in political management in general.
5. To apply the necessary measures in rural and urban areas to enable women to have opportunities for political training, cultural and technical education and acess to courses for administrative levels aimed at providing them with real possibilities of promotion.
6. To review periodically the number of women employed at the different levels of the State apparatus and in the international organizations, according to their skills and abilities, in order to reduce the prevailing injustices, and lay down government instructions to remedy them.

/(h) Other

(h) Other social questions

The prevailing economic and social situation largely determines the existence of problems such as prostitution, delinquency, white slave trading, illicit drug traffic, drug addiction and other forms of crime and antisocial conduct.

Prostitution is one of the most serious problems which persists in most of the countries of the continent, essentially because for many women it is the only means of subsistence.

Moreover, attention must be paid to the situation of women prisoners, ensuring respect for their human dignity and carrying out efforts for their effective rehabilitation.

It is therefore necessary to take these problems into consideration in order to make the efforts required to secure the reincorporation of these women into the societies of their countries.

Action proposals

(a) Struggle against prostitution and the illicit traffic in persons

1. To take legislative and other steps to eradicate or put an end to prostitution and the illicit traffic in women, particularly young girls.
2. To take measures of an appropriate legal nature to punish those who procure and live off the earnings of prostitutes and to suppress the white slave trade.
3. To create sufficient incentives and the necessary conditions (education, infrastructure, work, etc.) for rural women to remain in their milieu, thus avoiding migration from the country to the towns.
4. To adopt the necessary measures to create rehabilitation and orientation centres for women where they are re-educated and guided as to their true role in society, providing them with adequate facilities in the rehabilitation process and ensuring them employment opportunities.

/5. To

5. To promulgate laws which prohibit and punish the prostitution of minors, to revise existing legislation, and to see that it is strictly observed, ensuring that it provides for rehabilitation and re-education through special institutions for minors.

(b) Protection of female prisoners

1. To review penal legislation in order to eliminate all inhuman and discriminating treatment for women.
2. To provide pregnant women prisoners with the special attention maternity requires, and implement systems of imprisonment which enable her to give the child the necessary care so that the normal development of its personality is not affected.
3. To provide for the proper care and supervision of the dependent children of women prisoners.
4. To establish systems of imprisonment with separation of the sexes which ensure full respect for the dignity of both women and men, as well as their effective rehabilitation.
5. To prevent rape or any other sexual outrage which violates the physical and mental integrity and the dignity of women prisoners, and censure corruption and ill treatment in penitentiary establishments.
6. To ensure respect of the human rights and physical integrity of women deprived of their freedom for any reason, and ensure the protection of all persons against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, in accordance with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

(c) Drug addiction

1. To encourage the establishment of centres for the guidance and social integration of young people, with a view to the prevention of drug addiction among children and youths, and carry out rehabilitation and adaptation programmes for those suffering from that social illness.

/2. To

2. To review national legislation in order to combat and eliminate the improper use of narcotics and enervating drugs, and impose severe sanctions on the persons who induce others, particularly minors, to use any kind of narcotic drugs.

3. To carry out the necessary dissemination activities about the dangers to physical and mental health of the use of any narcotic or enervating drug and psychotropic substances, with a view to warning young people about the risks of drug addiction, with special emphasis on suitable programmes in this respect.

(d) Rape

To review current legislation and procedures in respect of rape with a view to ensuring respect for the physical integrity and dignity of the victim, and to establishing whose severity is proportional to the nature of the offence.

(i) Creation of interdisciplinary and multisectoral research commissions

The shortcomings of most of the studies carried out in the region, resulting sometimes from inadequate conceptual framework and, at other times, from an adequate interpretation of statistical data or limitations due to the lack of such data, make it an urgent task to co-ordinate research work in respect of the situation of women.

It is therefore essential to obtain and construct statistics on various aspects in order to have a basis for carrying out comparative studies of men and women; to use indicators which make it possible to evaluate periodically how the situation of women is progressing or deteriorating in the various spheres of social activity in the different countries; to seek the support of the universities and research centres in these tasks and all those being carried out in order to provide a true picture of Latin American women today.

/Interdisciplinary analysis

Interdisciplinary analysis, by bringing together economists, jurists, teachers, sociologists, psychologists and other social scientists in research teams, will also make possible a structural and complete view of the problems of women, overcoming the isolated picture obtained by analysis from the angle of only one of these disciplines.

The multisectoral study of the problems which affect men and women from all groups of society will make it possible to take decisions rapidly and effectively on the basis of the situations observed, with a view to solving the problems of women.

The national research commissions should be co-ordinated with the work of other national machinery for the integration of women.

The activities which could be carried out by the multidisciplinary and multisectoral research commissions could include the following:

Action proposals

1. To study the real effect of legislative measures on the actual participation of women in the political, economic and social life of their countries.
2. To study the conditions of female employment more fully and thoroughly and to improve the criteria and mechanisms for the collection and presentation of statistics and information in order to gain a better knowledge of the situation, importance and true participation of women in productive activities, bearing in mind that many women who are primarily engaged in domestic chores also carry out complementary activities which represent family income. Furthermore, to study the causes of the situation of women in employment in order to have more background material to overcome the obstacles which arise.
3. To study and evaluate the effect of overall economic and social transformation on the situation of women.

/4. To

4. To study the effects of the prevalence and spread of indiscriminate consumption at the global level on the national economy, economic and social development and the situation of women.
5. To study the influence of the customs, practices, attitudes and discriminatory beliefs which hinder the training and education of women and their contribution to the development process, and the ways of eliminating their effects.
6. To study the problems of health and nutrition, especially those of women and children.
7. To study ways of promoting the utilization and consumption of products of high nutritional value which because of tradition or ignorance, or because of structural distortions in the economy and society, are not included in the diet, even when they exist in various areas of the region.
8. To study and evaluate, in the countries where family planning programmes are carried out, the impact of these programmes on women in accordance with their real needs.
9. To carry out in-depth research on the effects of the different contraceptives measures on women's health, the indiscriminate use of which is encouraged by the propaganda of the companies which produce them.
10. To carry out research into the effects of the control exercised by the transnational corporations on the production and marketing of consumer goods in the different countries of the region, fostering an artificial and distorted image of the role women should play in the progress of their nation.
11. To improve the registers, information and research on the processes which occur within the family, such as births, marriages, loss of parents, divorce and migrations, and to encourage research related to social attitudes on child-bearing, divorce, widowhood and marriage so as to have useful information to contribute to the better development of the family.

/12. To

12. To improve criteria used for collecting statistics on women heads of families.
13. To study the needs for specific services for women and children in the various social groups and the need for families to contribute to the socialized solution of the tasks relating to the care of children and domestic work.
14. To study the economic and social causes of the practice of prostitution, the forms of the exploitation of women who practice this activity and other antisocial conduct, and also the relation between these phenomena and the urbanization processes.
15. To investigate the effects of the mass communication media on women and their image and on the social attitudes to that image, and also the ways of utilizing those media to reverse this situation and contribute to the better incorporation of women into the process of economic, political and social development of their countries.
16. Research activities should be promoted to identify discriminatory practices in education and training and in order to formulate the relevant recommendations to ensure educational equality.
17. To continue research efforts, including the search for economic indicators to determine the impact of the unremunerated functions carried out by women in agriculture, in the home in urban and rural areas and in voluntary organizations.
18. To promote historical research aimed at retrieving the biographies of women who have played an important role in any field of social activity.

/III. THE

III. THE DISTORTION OF THE IMAGE OF WOMEN BY THE MASS COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA AND IN GENERAL BY THE PREDOMINANT CULTURAL PATTERNS

The mass communications media offer great possibilities in their role of information, education, entertainment and advertising: (a) as a vehicle of social change; (b) for the dissemination of information in the fields of education and training; (c) to eliminate prejudices and stereotypes; and (d) to accelerate the acceptance of increasingly broad responsibilities of women, as well as their integration in development on an equal footing with men.

In many cases, however, the mass communications media do not meet these objectives because in general they tend to reinforce or present a stereotyped, degrading and immoral image of women and because they use women as sexual objects and as agents to promote indiscriminate consumption, particularly when seeking to market various types of articles.

The mass communications media should be taken to mean not only radio, television, cinema, the press, advertising, etc., but also the theatre, literature, story-telling and puppet shows and similar functions which in many countries are essential to reach the rural areas.

The mass communications media tend to have a harmful effect on attitudes and values relating to the role of women in society, which frequently creates obstacles to positive changes in patterns of behaviour and may perpetuate the stereotypes and myths about women.

Despite the technological and scientific advances made in the area of communications, most of the countries of the region continue to be in a situation of dependence in relation to the monopolies of communications equipment and services.

A similar dependence can be observed in the sphere of international information, as it is the transnational news agencies which set the trends in the information and publicity to which the Latin American public has access.

/To a

To a very considerable extent, the communications media, in general basically motivated by the economic interests of the transnational enterprises, have perpetuated the colonialization of women by showing them a reality which is alien to them and, by disguising their real identity, have contributed to keeping them restricted to the confines of the home, prevented the development of their critical consciousness and propagated the concept of their role as useful merchandise for consumption, reaching the extreme of using the female body as an element to encourage pornography as an object of consumption.

Illustrated magazines, films, radio and television programmes, etc., attempt to impose patterns of beauty as the weapon of the female sex, minimizing the virtues and qualities of women and underestimating their abilities and values which could be directed more effectively towards the collective effort for economic and social development.

It is therefore essential to recommend measures to prevent the transmission of a distorted image of women, to the detriment of their status as human beings with responsibilities and rights in society.

Action proposals

1. To promote the utilization of the mass communications media to diffuse educational programmes in spheres of national interest such as health, nutrition, population, employment, training, legal information specifically concerning women and the family, and other questions of social importance which would contribute to ensuring that equality between men and women is not only a recognized legal principle but also a social reality.
2. To utilize the mass communications media to bring about the elimination of sexual stereotypes in education and information activities and the projection of a positive image of women and men.

/3. To

3. To utilize the mass communications media and the activities of social organizations to contribute to the education of the family and especially the housewife and also to keep her fully informed of her work and educational opportunities and the ways of taking an active part in the life of society.
4. To promote the production of films, radio and television programmes and other materials which encourage women to play a more dynamic role in society and promote their socio-cultural development and political consciousness and to create didactic information centres or banks which would facilitate the attainment of these objectives.
5. To adopt measures to prohibit the degrading exploitation of women through the mass communications media as sex symbols and instruments of economic interests.
6. To urge those responsibles for the mass communications media to project a dignified and positive image of women, eliminating the commercialized and stereotyped images of them - particularly pornographic publications - and their utilization in showing sexual crimes and misdemeanours and violence and also all propaganda which tends to impede the changes needed to revalue the role of women. This will contribute to changes of attitudes and mentalities in both men and women which should promote women's equality, integration and full participation in society.
7. To guide women not to acquire products which are harmful to health and human dignity and detrimental to the family budget by means of information campaigns on family responisibility and nutrition, awareness of the risk of auto-medication, alcoholism and food habits which are detrimental to the health of the mother and child.
8. To prevent the conditioning of preconceived roles for girls and boys through the influence of books, comics and television programmes and instead to encourage the publication of comics and production of children's television programmes which support national educational programmes.

/9. To

9. To restrict the diffusion of radio and television programmes, films, publications, messages and articles which encourage cultural archetypes which are contrary to social reality or the cultural values of each people.
10. To encourage the effective utilization of the mass communications media to secure a change of mentality in respect of women.
11. To organize publicity campaigns in support of community and preventive medicine.
12. To promote a greater participation of women in the activities carried out by newspapers, magazines, radio and television programmes and in the production of films and documentaries, and also adequate representation in administrative and directive posts.
13. To encourage and broaden the access of women to scholarship systems in communications and telecommunications research centres.
14. To encourage the mass communications media to consider their policies and practices in respect of hiring, training and promotion in order to ensure that there is no discrimination against women and that they have equal promotion opportunities in all categories of professional, technical and decision-making posts in the mass communications media.
15. To encourage the training and participation of women as communications and telecommunications experts in national and international bodies.
16. To include in the curricula for journalism and communications science careers subjects which give rise to discussion about the distorting effect of the mass communications media on the values and conduct of women in our society.
17. To prevent the utilization of women as publicity models in advertisements and other publicity activities which are detrimental to the norms and values of the family.

/IV. ACTION

IV. ACTION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

(a) Governments

In order to carry into practice the preceding action proposals, Governments should commit themselves to according importance and priority to measures to improve the situation of women as a means of achieving the ends of social progress and development and as an end in itself.

The solidarity of all women of the world, and particularly within the framework of the region, is likewise indispensable to put an end to the inequality and discrimination of which they are the victims in countries of the area.

Non-governmental, national and international organizations and their subsidiary bodies should work jointly and individually within their own spheres of interest, to carry into practice the proposed measures.

Women should be equitably represented in the delegations sent by Governments to the different conferences, international committees and other events so that they may participate fully in the formulation of policies at the national and international levels.

Action proposals

1. To support all action aimed at producing profound structural changes as a premise for the full incorporation of women in economic, social and political life.
2. To support the efforts and struggle of women of the region to defend full national sovereignty.
3. To take the necessary measures for the implementation of resolutions 28 and 29 of the Mexico Conference, which advocate the participation of women in the strengthening of international peace and security, the process of détente, peaceful coexistence and international co-operation, and in the struggle against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination and foreign domination.

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4. To support the efforts of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations whose goal is the strengthening of international peace and security, the development of firendly relations among nations and the fostering of active co-operation among States, by encouraging women in every possible way, to participate actively in the efforts of such organizations.
5. To support actions aimed at carrying into practice the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, all aimed at the radical transformation of the prevailing unjust international economic order.
6. To encourage technical co-operation and training and advisory services, including co-ordination with the national and regional activities of the bodies of the United Nations system.
7. To foster the adoption of conventions and the observance of official international declarations and to establish the submission of periodic reports and other procedures for the evaluation of the observance of those instruments and whatever others are adopted.
8. To encourage, by means of international meetings and seminars, the regional and international exchange of information and experiences.
9. To express the need that negotiations between the United States of America and Panama for a new treaty on the Canal should put an end to the colonial situation, racism, racial discrimination and domination and occupation without the consent of the territorial sovereign, which violate national sovereignty, and express the conviction that the current negotiations should also eliminate, once and for all, the causes of conflict and, in particular, envisage the effective jurisdiction of Panama

/in the

in the so-called "Canal zone" and the control of the Canal by Panama in exercise of its full sovereignty and as an instrument of its full development.*/

(b) The secretariat of CEPAL

In view of the plight of Latin American women, in addition to the measures Governments adopt to improve their position and rapidly achieve a speedy final solution, CEPAL must play the important role of contributing with its technical and human resources to the preparation of studies, the formulation of policies and the adoption of measures to enable women to play the role which benefits them in the political, economic and social life of their own countries and of the region as a whole.

Action proposals

1. To prepare the ground, in consultation with the Governments and in co-operation with other bodies of the United Nations system, for the setting up of a regional centre for research and training regarding women, of an interdisciplinary and multisectoral nature, with the following objectives:
   (a) To appraise periodically the legal, economic, political, social and cultural aspects of the status of women in the different countries of the region, taking into account features such as: the labour situation, political participation, maternity protection, educational status, etc. The research

*/ Mrs. Blanca Stábile de Machinandiarena stated that: "With regard to the inclusion of the subject of Panama, I cannot but express a positive reaction since that is the position maintained by my Government that of the Republic of Argentina, in various fora and in the General Assembly. However, I must note that the inclusion of a subject of such a special nature sets a precedent for the future discussion of other similar subjects such as the sovereignty of the Malvinas for Argentina and other conflicts in the countries of the region in an area of work such as that of CEPAL rather than in the specific context of the institutions created for the denunciation of the violation of national sovereignty. I suggest that this subject should be included as a final point because of its special nature".

/should be

should be placed within an interdisciplinary and multisectoral theoretico-methodological perspective which permits the evaluation of current statistics as well as the distorted views in national cultures;

(b) To undertake activities, on the basis of the studies made, designed to disseminate the activities emanating from this Regional Plan of Action;

(c) To advise governments, should they so request, on the measures to be taken to implement the resolutions adopted by the United Nations in relation to the equality of women;

(d) To ensure that all CEPAL programmes take full account of questions concerning women;

(e) To ensure that the recommendations of the Regional Intergovernmental Committee on women are implemented;

(f) To prepare, in consultation with governments, draft national, subregional or regional training programmes for women in the areas envisaged in previous chapters of this Plan.

2. To collaborate in the regional meetings held by the specialized agencies of the United Nations system on the topics implicitly linked with economic and social development, bringing forward the action proposals emanating from this Plan of Action.

3. To provide assistance to the governments which so request, in co-ordination with governmental organizations and the joint interorganizational programme, with a view to the identification of the necessary measures for the preparation of policies, strategies and programmes designed to strengthen the role of women in national, social and economic development, and in the formulation of requests for technical and financial assistance for such programmes.

4. To prepare the ground for the setting up of a Regional Intergovernmental Committee on Women, comprising the countries of the region, whose purposes would be inter alia:

/(a) To

(a) To analyse the studies carried out by the regional research centre and, on the basis, propose recommendations to the governments and CEPAL about the most viable means of carrying into practice the agreements adopted by this Conference;

(b) To carry out biennial appraisals of the activities of CEPAL and other United Nations bodies in implementing the programme of the Decade for Women, in order to prepare recommendations for the Regional Conference on Women prior to the world conference programmed for 1980;

(c) To provide a forum for the exchange of information which will facilitate the co-ordination and mututal support of programmes for the integration of women in economic and social development at different levels, and enable the countries of the region to share relevant experience;

(d) To identify the technical assistance needs of the region, and ensure that all the bodies of the United Nations system carrying out activities in the region are in a position to meet those needs; and

(e) To appraise periodically the Regional Plan of Action.

5. CEPAL should prepare a format for a review and appraisal system for the region within the shortest possible time. It is important that this should be carried out immediately so that an overall plan may be ready for use in the biennial review in 1979.

6. To take special pains, when fostering technical co-operation among the developing countries of the region, to co-ordinate its programmes with those of the existing United Nations centres and with the Latin American Economic System (SELA), in the spheres of action linked with the objectives of this Plan.

7. CEPAL should appoint liaison officers in the countries of the region which so request, and in particular one in its Port of Spain Office.

The duties of the liaison officers will be:

/(a) To

(a) To serve as liaison with the bodies responsible for technical co-operation among developing countries and the joint interorganizational programme in order to facilitate the provision of technical assistance within the programme and to see that continued attention is paid to initiatives to integrate women in development;

(b) To serve as liaison between CEPAL and Governments in the preparation of requests for assistance;

(c) To serve as liaison between CEPAL and Governments in the collection of data and information on national programmes to integrate women in development.

8. To strive to co-ordinate CEPAL programmes with those of the existing national machinery and other regional centres whose spheres of responsibility are linked with the goals of this Plan.

9. To submit to the meeting of the Committee of High-Level Governmental Experts (CEGAN), to be held prior to the XVIII session of CEPAL in 1979, a study on the success achieved in the execution of this Plan of Action by governments in the course of 1977-1978, in order to prepare recommendations for the Conference.

10. To explore with the countries and the international co-operation bodies of the United Nations system the possibility of obtaining funds to support technical co-operation activity.

11. To the above ends, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in co-ordination with CEPAL, should allocate funds from the Fund for the Decade for Women for the purpose of carrying out co-operation programmes in the implementation of this Regional Plan of Action.

12. In conformity with the World Plan of Action it should forward to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the text of this draft Plan of Action which embodies the political will of the participating Governments of the region with a view to achieving the full equality of women in their participation in the economic and social development of our peoples.

/Other matters

Other matters

The Technical Consultative Meeting decided to formulate the following recommendation:

Bearing in mind the concern of the United Nations at the constant violations of human rights in Chile, particularly to the detriment of women and children who are doubly affected by the disintegration of the family and by the abuses committed against them,

Desiring that an end should be put to these offences against human dignity, and displaying the concern which exists among Latin American women at the suffering of their Chilean counterparts, as a demonstration of solidarity,

Recommends that the Ad hoc Group of Experts of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights should pay special attention to the situation of women and children in Chile with a view to seeking the way in which to put an end to this degrading state of affairs.

After it was agreed to adopt the recommendation, the following reservations were made:

Mrs. Blanca Stábile de Machinandiarena stated:

"I do not consider it appropriate to include a subject such as the violation of human rights in the document as this may create a precedent for discussing the subject outside the ambit of the bodies created by the United Nations for its consideration, since CEPAL is not really competent to discuss the subject of violation of human rights."

Mrs. Margarida Zobarán requested the inclusion of the following text:

"Having been appointed by my Government, and in view of the position expressed by the Brazilian delegation at the World Conference of the International Women's Year on this matter, I am obliged to say that, at this Meeting as at the abovementioned World Conference, Brazil has difficulty in endorsing a text of this nature."

Note: After the draft regional plan of action was adopted, Mrs. Margarida Zobarán made the following reservation:
"Considering that this is a meeting of experts in consultation with their Governments, and in view of the shortage of time which prevented me from carrying out the necessary consultations, I am obliged to state that although I followed the work of the Meeting in a constructive spirit, I have some reservations about the draft plan of action adopted by this group."

/Annex

Annex

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Experts invited by the secretariat in a personal capacity and in consultation with their Governments

Peggy Antrobus 16 Graham Heights Kingston 8, Jamaica	Director Women's Bureau
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Sandra Mancebo Domingo Savio 79, Ma. Aux. Santo Domingo República Dominicana	Profesora Universitaria Asistente del Ministro de Educación
Verónica Penalvez de Lepage Calle Suiza, Quinta Capravera Urbanización Prados del Este Caracas, Venezuela	Representante de Venezuela ante la Comisión de las Naciones Unidas sobre la Condición Jurídica y Social de la Mujer
Amalia M. de Pérez c/o Agencias Iraquel, S.A. Apartado 9536, Zona 4-A Panamá, República de Pánama	Decana de la Facultad de Administración Pública y Comercio
Blanca Stábile de Machinandiarena Coronel Díaz 1824-6 A Buenos Aires, Argentina	Coordinadora General Centro Multinacional de la Mujer

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2. Other experts

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3. United Nations secretariat

Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs

Rasil Basu
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Jorge Graciarena
Carlos Borsotti