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**ACTIVITIES OF THE ECLAC SECRETARIAT WITH RESPECT TO THE
INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
FROM 1 JULY 1988 TO 31 JULY 1989**

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CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Introduction.....	1
I. MAIN EVENTS.....	3
1. Fourth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean.	3
2. Eighth Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean.....	6
3. Meeting of the executive secretaries of the regional commissions.....	6
4. Regional seminar on the analysis of productive women's projects and their policy implications.....	7
II. RELATION TO THE COUNTRIES.....	8
III. RELATIONS WITH OTHER UNITED NATIONS BODIES.....	9
IV. STUDIES.....	11
V. SUBSTANTIVE PARTICIPATION IN SEMINARS.....	12
1. United Nations Interregional Seminar on Women and the economic crisis.....	12
2. Meeting of the Group of Experts on Social Support Measures for the advancement of women.....	13
3. International Seminar on Women and Rural Development: Programmes and Projects.....	14
4. Latin American Seminar on Women in Development.....	15
VI. FUTURE ACTION.....	16
A. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 1989.....	16
1. Meeting of experts to formulate programmes of work and priority topics	16
2. Expert Group Meeting on Equality in Political Participation and decision- making.....	16
3. Working group on women, apartheid and options for a post-apartheid society..	16

	<u>Page</u>
B. FUTURE COURSES OF ACTION.....	16
Bibliography.....	19
Annex I: LIST OF DOCUMENTS PRESENTED AT THE FOURTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.....	21
Annex II: LIST OF DOCUMENTS PRESENTED AT THE REGIONAL SEMINAR ON THE ANALYSIS OF WOMEN'S PRODUCTION PROJECTS AND THEIR POLICY IMPLICATIONS.....	23

Introduction

The activities of the Unit for the Integration of Women into Latin American and Caribbean Economic and Social Development, which is part of the Social Development Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), are carried out in accordance with the mandates of the Governments of the region as set forth in the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development and pursuant to the recommendations issued at meetings of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean. At the international level, the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, which have been endorsed by the General Assembly (resolution 40/108 of 13 December 1985), are currently the main operational instrument in this area. The Commission has also received specific mandates from the General Assembly (resolution 42/178) and from its member Governments (resolution 483(XXI)) to ensure the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies in all its areas of work on a system-wide basis.

Until 1990 the programme of work of the Unit for the Integration of Women into Development has formed part of ECLAC Programme 21: Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. The programme for 1990-1991, which was approved by the Governments at the twenty-second session of ECLAC (Rio de Janeiro, 20-27 April 1988), provides an overall framework for activities relating to the integration of women into development.

The preparation of the United Nations system-wide medium-term plan for women and development for 1990-1995 provides a more comprehensive overview of the subject and serves as the basis for information exchange and co-operation as well as for the adoption of joint measures.

The main activities of the Unit for the Integration of Women into Development during 1988 were structured around the Fourth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, which was held in Guatemala City. In preparation for this event, the Unit conducted diagnostic studies and formulated policy guidelines in respect of women in the region for use by the member States in carrying out their work at the Conference (see the list of documents in annex I).

These studies concerned, inter alia, such essential matters as the repercussions of the economic and social crisis, changes in the status of women, the employment situation of women, rural women, demographic changes, legislative reforms since 1980, and information systems. Substantive services were also provided for the Fourth Conference, during which the participants, in addition to evaluating the progress made in carrying out the Regional Plan

of Action, formulated proposals for action by the countries and by the region. The papers prepared for the conference will, as on previous occasions, be distributed in book form in order to contribute to a fuller understanding of the issue in the region and to achieve a wider dissemination of the information they contain (ECLAC, 1984, 1985 and 1986).

As regards the activities conducted in 1989, priority has been given to the preparation of substantive material for the Ninth Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (Guatemala City, September 1989). In 1989 the activities of the Women's Unit have been reorganized in line with the evaluation carried out by the Governments at the Fourth Conference, which drew attention to the need to systematize, with the help of the Presiding Officers, the Unit's relations with the Governments of the region during the periods between regional conferences; to strengthen its links with the countries; to ensure the continuity of the substantive work of the Unit; to reinforce efforts to address women's issues within the ECLAC system; and to increase co-ordination with other bodies of the United Nations system at the regional level.

The following activities report has been prepared for submission to the Presiding Officers at their ninth meeting and covers the main activities conducted between 1 July 1988 and 31 July 1989 (for previous activities reports, see ECLAC, 1988, 1983, 1979a and 1979b).

I. MAIN EVENTS

1. Fourth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean

The Fourth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Guatemala City from 27 to 30 September 1988 pursuant to ECLAC resolution 495(XXII). Its main objective was to evaluate what had been done to carry out the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American and Caribbean Economic and Social Development in the light of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, taking into consideration the impact of the crisis on the status of women.

Participants in the meeting included 22 member States of the Commission, three associate member States and two non-ECLAC States Members of the United Nations which attended as observers, as well as representatives of the United Nations Secretariat, of seven United Nations bodies, two specialized agencies, four intergovernmental organizations and numerous non-governmental organizations and special guests.

The primary goal of the meeting was to proceed further with the analysis of processes of change likely to contribute to the integration of women into development. The fact was also brought out that this process appears to be ambivalent in the sense that it involves a combination of successes and failures and that, in order to overcome the failures, it will be necessary to surmount not only the obstacles standing in the way of the advancement of women, but also those hindering progress towards development, equality and peace.

During the conference the present status of women was evaluated, future action was proposed and the region's commitment to the advancement of women was reaffirmed. The dramatic deterioration of women's living conditions caused by the crisis situation in the region and the common guidelines for action set forth in the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies were the two elements which formed the frame of reference for the debates. In conducting the above-mentioned evaluation, it was noted that Latin America is currently undergoing the most severe economic and social crisis of the last 50 years. This crisis, which has been caused by both external and internal factors, has placed most of the countries of the region in a precarious position. Indeed, since the closing years of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, the overall economic

situation in the region has worsened, and the financial, economic and social crisis in the developing world, which has led to an ever more serious deterioration in the situation of large sectors of the population, has had a disproportionate impact on women.

One of the effects of the crisis and of the debt problem has been an increasingly severe decline in the quality of life of the Latin American and Caribbean population, and this decline has been particularly striking in the case of women. Not only has there been a steep reduction in allocations to cover the costs of social policies, especially in the areas of education, health and housing, but the social well-being of the entire population has been seriously affected.

As regards women's participation in the labour force, the fact was stressed at the conference that despite their entry into the labour market on a large scale, the crisis-induced deterioration in the employment situation has had a severe impact on women, who constitute a majority in the ranks of the unemployed and within the informal sector and who are discriminated against in many countries by being paid less than men. It was also pointed out that women's economic participation is greater in the services sector, and that this is one of the contributing factors to the growing process of tertiarization. However, although the prevailing employment pattern has been in keeping with traditional roles, women's autonomy and economic independence have increased and, and this independence has begun to be regarded in a positive light as having intrinsic value. With respect to education, emphasis was placed on the tremendous expansion of formal education and on women's growing participation therein, but attention was also drawn to the great disparities existing among countries, between rural and urban areas, and among native, indigenous and black sectors of the population. In reference to the subject of health, the conference recognized the fact that a majority of the countries still fail to provide adequate free public services for a large percentage of the population. Furthermore, it was noted that because of their capacity to bear children, women have specific health requirements, especially in the case of frequent pregnancies, which, when combined with poor nutrition and a lack of rest, lead to high maternal and neo-natal death rates. Teenage pregnancies, which are on the rise, and induced abortions may also constitute a threat to life. Despite the seriousness of the situation, no progress has been made in the area of health and sex education for the population in general or for young people in particular.

Insofar as legislation is concerned, however, it was noted that substantial progress has been made in the region. Firstly, over half the countries have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and, in

so doing, have expressed their commitment in this regard. Secondly, most of the countries have adopted legal measures in pursuance of the Convention's objectives.

With regard to the family, the conference underscored the fact that the sharp deterioration in the current economic situation in Latin America and the Caribbean has created serious problems that have affected women more than men. The crisis has also led to a deterioration of traditional ways of life, and in many cases this has given rise to instability and to violence against women and children. In some countries migration from rural areas to the cities has increased, as has the number of households headed by women. Moreover, since many societies have maintained their traditional role divisions whereby housework and child-rearing are regarded as being exclusively the responsibility of women, women are called upon to shoulder an inordinately heavy workload.

In relation to political participation, it was noted that women still play no more than a minimal role in the executive and legislative bodies of their countries and that their participation is primarily concentrated in the lower party echelons. Although the political awareness of women in the region has grown, significant obstacles to their participation in political affairs remain.

In recent decades social participation by women has taken the form of new social movements, especially in the low-income districts of large cities. Women have formed mothers' groups, participated in church-run social welfare programmes, led campaigns for day-care centres or health facilities, taken part in volunteer work and in vocational groups, founded organizations to develop survival strategies that will help them to cope with the serious conditions confronting them, and formed pressure groups to obtain housing or infrastructure services. They have also participated in professional associations, trade unions, federations of women workers in various branches of production and federations of peasant women. Participation by women in social movements and the women's movement itself appear to be a reflection of a broader cultural transformation which is linked to new forms of political activity.

Based on the evaluation summarized above, the conference formulated proposals for action at the national, international and regional levels within the framework of an integral concept of development as a process involving the achievement of economic and social goals which would give women a genuine role in the development process and an equitable share in the benefits it brings.

**2. Eighth Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the
Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the
Economic and Social Development of
Latin America and the Caribbean**

The Presiding Officers elected at the Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean held their eighth meeting on 26 September 1988 in Guatemala City in accordance with paragraph 88(2) of the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development, which was adopted at the eleventh special session of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The meeting, which was attended by representatives of Argentina, Ecuador and Mexico, focused on the organization of the upcoming Fourth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, specifically as regards the documentation prepared by the Secretariat for that meeting, its provisional agenda, the election of Officers, the objectives of the Fourth Conference and the way in which its work on the evaluation of the status of women in the region should be organized.

**3. Meeting of the executive secretaries of the
regional commissions**

One of the subjects examined by the executive secretaries of the regional commissions when they met at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile, on 27 and 28 April 1989 was that of co-operation between the regional commissions and the International Institute for Research and Training for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW).

They agreed that co-operation among the regional commissions in relation to the issue of women and development should be strengthened and, within this context, that such collaboration should be based on the results of the regional commissions' recent meetings with INSTRAW (INSTRAW, 1989). The executive secretaries felt that, rather than relying solely on the use of complicated interregional co-operation mechanisms, each Commission should carry out parallel co-operation activities with INSTRAW or other United Nations bodies working in this area, especially the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, and that an exchange of information in this regard among the commissions should be promoted. They also agreed that the heads of the five

regional women's units should meet with INSTRAW officials in order to define a co-operation project on a joint basis. This meeting could either be held in Vienna in July 1990, together with the proposed meeting of executive secretaries, or, if possible, earlier.

4. Regional seminar on the analysis of productive women's projects and their policy implications

This meeting was organized by ECLAC with the sponsorship of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). It was attended by co-ordinators and community leaders of production projects in Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Mexico, representatives of Chilean organizations working in the field of income- or employment-generating production projects, and representatives of a number of United Nations bodies.

The seminar had the following objectives: a) to evaluate the projects in order to ascertain both their potential and limitations as an effective means of generating income or creating jobs for women in low-income sectors; b) to pinpoint what elements play the greatest role in determining whether or not such projects will be successful; and c) to formulate policy recommendations concerning means of alleviating poverty in the countries of the region and of promoting the creation of donor organizations.

The seminar participants recommended that women's production projects should not be regarded as making no more than a supplementary or marginal contribution to the efforts being made to combat poverty and that the budgets for such projects should make provision for the resources required to systematize the information generated by them, to conduct marketing studies and to recruit the personnel needed in order to ensure the project's success. In addition, the participants felt that although the projects clearly have economic objectives (to generate income or create jobs), this is not their only dimension. Such projects should also pursue participatory and organizational objectives, and donor organizations should consequently display greater flexibility with respect to the real needs of the projects and their participants and should engage in a more direct and open form of communication with the personnel directing such projects (see the list of documents appearing in annex 2).

II. RELATION TO THE COUNTRIES

In the course of the United Nations Decade for Women, almost all the countries of the region created government offices dealing specifically with women's issues. At the present time, a wide range of organizational arrangements exist which warrant analysis. Firstly, there are the many different types of bodies devoted to the advancement of women, which include special bureaus within planning offices, presidential advisory commissions, departments, departmental divisions, special ministries or units within ministries of labour or of family, cultural, youth or social affairs, and units attached to councils of State. Secondly, responsibility for women's issues has also been assumed by other government bodies, especially some of those concerned with social matters. In most cases there are very few links among these bodies, and this hinders both the definition of common areas of work and policy-making.

Strengthening its ties with the countries of the region is one of ECLAC's priorities in this area. Its concerns in this respect include the need to obtain information on the status of women at the national level, on the action taken in this field by governments and non-governmental organizations, and on the co-ordination of activities.

Furthermore, in some of the countries the bodies in charge of women's issues have not yet consolidated their technical capabilities, and this area therefore also needs to be strengthened.

The integration of women into development is now a concern throughout the region, but the treatment of this issue has become quite complex and modifications and adjustments are called for. In addition, the crisis facing Latin America and the Caribbean has introduced yet another problem, since the resources required to implement specific policies, to equip the corresponding offices and to start up programmes are lacking. Moreover, the living conditions of the majority of women have deteriorated, and this problem demands urgent attention.

In view of this situation, ECLAC has begun conducting technical assistance missions to study the countries' present needs and to collaborate in their future programming in this regard. To date, missions have been sent to Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela, and missions to Bolivia and Nicaragua are scheduled for the second half of 1989. Resources permitting, similar missions will be carried out in other countries as well.

In order to update the available information on the countries' legislation in this area, missions were also sent to Argentina, Peru and Guatemala in 1988 using resources provided by ECLAC, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNIFEM. One specific objective of these missions was to analyse the possibility of instituting legal reforms based on the recommendations contained in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Based on the information gathered by these missions, substantive reports and recommendations are to be prepared during the second half of 1989 which may be of use to other countries in the region.

In the Caribbean subregion, missions were carried out which focused on research and training in relation to the subject of violence against women in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, on women traders in Grenada, and on the start-up of a research project on the part played by women in trade in Curacao, among others.

III. RELATIONS WITH OTHER UNITED NATIONS BODIES

Relations with other United Nations bodies in connection with work in this field have been maintained within the framework of international co-operation and co-ordination within the system.

Since the beginning of the United Nations Decade for Women there has been a great deal of co-operation among the organizations of the system with respect to work relating to the advancement of women. The preparations for the three international conferences on women, including the relevant documentation, have been the fruit of a group effort. Many examples of joint efforts can be found at the present time as well: the preparation of studies on many of the priority issues identified by the Commission on the Status of Women; the first update of the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development; and the drafting of follow-up reports, analyses and appraisals. An effort is now being made to strengthen such co-operation further in order to rationalize the available resources and increase the effectiveness of the activities being conducted.

During the period in question the Secretariat of ECLAC has worked in close co-operation with the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. It also participated in the annual meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-third session and on that occasion presented a review of the activities undertaken by ECLAC in order to follow up on the Nairobi

Forward-Looking Strategies and to monitor the status of women in Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, substantive contributions were made to a number of technical seminars (see sections V.1, 2 and 3 of this report). ECLAC has also exchanged information on all aspects of its work relating to the furtherance of women with the Division for the Advancement of Women on an ongoing and free-flowing basis.

Relations with INSTRAW have been close during the period covered by this report. The ECLAC Secretariat participated in the meeting held by the regional commissions with INSTRAW on 16 and 17 February 1989 to review the current programme of work and the medium-term plan for 1990-1995, as well as to consider possible areas of joint work. On that occasion a basic list was drawn up of activities which could be executed jointly. Despite the differences in their specific programmes of work, the institutions' willingness to collaborate was made clear at that time, as was the feasibility of finding areas of common ground in respect of research and training as well as publications. In addition, the ECLAC Secretariat participated as an ex-officio member in the ninth session of the INSTRAW Board of Trustees (20-24 February 1989), at which the main items on the agenda were the evaluation of the programme of work for 1988 and the analysis of the medium-term plan for women and development for 1990-1995.

The results of these meetings were presented at the meeting of the executive secretaries of the regional commissions (see section I.3 of this report).

In conjunction with UNIFEM the Project for the Analysis of Women's Production Projects and their Policy Implications was launched during this period (see section I.4 of this report).

Within the framework of the co-ordination activities of the United Nations system, the ECLAC Secretariat also took part in the thirteenth ad-hoc inter-agency meeting on women, which was held in April 1989. On that occasion the Secretariat presented a report on ECLAC's activities to the other United Nations bodies and agencies in attendance, an exchange of experiences took place, and future co-ordination activities, especially as regards the medium-term plan, were discussed.

IV. STUDIES

During 1989 the Secretariat continued its work on substantive studies designed to contribute to a better understanding of the status of women in Latin America and the Caribbean. In 1988, papers on the impact of recent changes and of the crisis on the women of the region, women and employment, the new social leadership role of women, and women and demographic change were prepared for presentation at the Fourth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, reports were presented on trading activities in the Caribbean, remittances in El Salvador, women's participation in co-operatives, the status of women in Central America, and the situation with respect to information and communications in this field (see the list of documents in annex I). Some of this documentation has been revised for publication in book form by ECLAC with a view to its wider distribution.

During the first half of 1989 studies were prepared on rural women, socialization within the domestic sphere, and political participation by women. The Secretariat of the Commission has decided to publish these studies as a series in order to increase their dissemination and accessibility and give greater continuity to the treatment of these issues. A study on women and culture is currently being revised for publication in 1989.

As part of a UNIFEM-sponsored project, a bibliography on women in the Caribbean is being published, and a data base on specific aspects of the role played by women in social and economic affairs is being created within the framework of a co-operation project with the Netherlands.

V. SUBSTANTIVE PARTICIPATION IN SEMINARS

1. United Nations Interregional Seminar on Women and the Economic Crisis

In the course of its participation in the United Nations Interregional Seminar on Women and the Economic Crisis (Vienna, 3-7 October 1988), the ECLAC Secretariat made a number of substantive contributions in respect of the repercussions of the crisis on the status of women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The objectives of this seminar, which was organized by the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, were to examine the impact of the economic crisis on women and to prepare reports and recommendations concerning means of mitigating its effects.

The region was represented at the seminar by Cuba, Jamaica, Mexico and Venezuela, whose experts presented analyses of the crisis' repercussions on the women of their respective countries.

Most of the countries represented at the seminar reported on the effects which the economic crisis has had since the early 1970s or 1980s. They made the point that the period in question has not been one of unremitting recession, but rather that times of slow growth or actual declines have been interspersed with periods in which economic activity has increased in relative terms. Nonetheless, all the studies showed that the economic trends of the 1980s have had a negative social impact whose severity in relation to women as compared with men has differed from one country to another. In some cases the data did not support the conclusion that the crisis was responsible for the lower living standards of women at the present time, since they have long been the object of discrimination. In others, the studies demonstrated that the economic crisis has led to a deterioration in the status of women and in their standard of living. The crisis has not resulted in a decrease in the percentage of women able to join the work force; indeed, according to some case studies, it has had just the opposite effect. For example, in regions where methods of marketing staple crops and foods have been introduced, the drop in family income has motivated more women to work; moreover, a large number of jobs have been created for women in Latin America, especially in export industries. In many countries there has been a large-scale movement of women into the informal sector either because they need to supplement their families' falling incomes or because it has become increasingly hard for them to find work in the formal sector. Thus, in one sense the informal

sector has helped to cushion the impact of the economic crisis. Trends in unemployment, particularly in the case of women, are difficult to determine in rural areas due to a lack of information.

2. Meeting of the Group of Experts on Social Support Measures for the Advancement of Women

In November 1988 ECLAC staff members attended the meeting of the Group of Experts on Social Support Measures for the Advancement of Women, which was held in Vienna by the Division for the Advancement of Women. The meeting participants analysed a number of studies which delved into three areas relating to support measures for women: health, nutrition and family planning. The subject of housework and child-rearing responsibilities was examined in an effort to formulate new structures based on a fairer distribution of rights and responsibilities between women and men and among individuals, the community and society as a whole. The Group of Experts concluded that health, nutrition and family planning were basic rights that were fundamental to the participation of women in all social spheres. They stressed that there were a number of specific issues which demanded urgent attention if the advancement of women was to be furthered, such as teenage pregnancy, safe maternity and the improvement of occupational and reproductive health. In respect of family planning, the Group reaffirmed the pressing need for reproductive health programmes, especially for the most vulnerable groups, and urged governmental and non-governmental bodies to play an active part in such programmes. As regards child-rearing, attention was drawn to the need for a pluralistic, broad-based childcare network at the national level --particularly for parents and children having special needs (abandoned children, orphans, teenage mothers and others)-- for which responsibility would be shared by government, employers and parents. In relation to the subject of housework, the Group of Experts recommended that measures be devised to promote the sharing of domestic chores and that policy measures be adopted to that end. Such measures would include shortening the workday, making it more flexible and synchronizing it with the hours kept by childcare centres, as well as encouraging fathers to play a more active role and implementing flexible policies concerning postnatal leave for men and women. The final report of the Group of Experts cited the proposals for action made by the Fourth Regional Conference as an example of the progress being made in the evaluation of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies and quoted paragraph 25 of the Evaluation and proposals for action concerning housework and child-rearing responsibilities.

3. International Seminar on Women and Rural Development: Programmes and Projects

Representatives of the ECLAC Secretariat attended the International Seminar on Women and Rural Development: Programmes and Projects, which was organized by the Division for the Advancement of Women and held in Vienna in May 1989. The purpose of the seminar was to examine priority policies for rural women, assistance strategies in rural zones and project design, execution, follow-up and evaluation. A presentation was given on the situation in the region in an effort to illustrate the specificity and diversity of the status of rural women in Latin America. Emphasis was placed at the seminar on the importance of working to improve the living conditions of rural women, who have been hurt by the crisis and who play an essential role in development as both suppliers and producers. The main conclusions reached by the participants in respect of high-priority economic policies for rural women concerned their access to land, credit and marketing channels for their products, and the need to create jobs, especially for young women, and the improvement of the statistical data on economic participation by rural women. With respect to political matters, the seminar underscored the need for women to have access to power at all levels and, in this connection, noted the desirability of promoting the creation of women's organizations. In connection with educational and social issues, the participants urged that family planning, literacy and health programmes be expanded and that social security systems be extended to include rural women. The meeting also formulated guidelines for planners, national institutions, the international community and the private sector in relation to development strategies for rural areas.

Furthermore, the seminar advocated the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and recommended that modern educational methodologies be employed to provide support and information to rural women as a means of aiding them to exercise their rights; in the latter connection, special emphasis was placed on the use of methodologies involving participatory action by young women, in view of their pivotal role in structural change.

In regard to the subjects of project design, execution, follow-up and evaluation, the participants underscored the importance of fostering an awareness on the part of governments and donors of the gender-based differences involved in project and programme activities, as well as of the need for community participation, for project support and continuity, and for the integration of women's projects into national development plans. Finally, stress was also placed on the need for research on the status of rural women with a view to improving data collection, research methodologies, project identification and formulation, and project execution.

4. Latin American Seminar on Women in Development

The Secretariat played a substantive role in the Latin American Seminar on Women in Development, which was organized by the inter-agency consultative group on programming formed by UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, WFP and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) with the collaboration of ECLAC/ILPES/CELADE. This seminar was held from 2 to 5 May 1989 at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile.

The objective of the seminar, which was to analyse the role of women in development at the regional level, was pursued by means of participatory meetings at which an interdisciplinary exchange of experiences and information took place among professional staff from the various United Nations bodies and government representatives.

The seminar participants underlined the need to incorporate gender-based analyses into development projects in order to provide a clear picture of the ways in which labour, control over resources and decision-making are distributed between the sexes. In addition, attention was focused on the importance of analysing particular regional features which play a part in determining the different forms often taken by the gender-based division of labour and power.

One of the measures to which a high priority was assigned at the seminar was the reformulation of the roles to be played by the various agents and participants. In this connection, the roles of the State in guiding and leading development and of the private sector in production projects were highlighted.

VI. FUTURE ACTION

A. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 1989

1. Meeting of experts to formulate programmes of work and priority topics

The growing demand for action to further the advancement of women and the current shortage of resources make it necessary to set out programmes having clearly-defined priorities which respond in an effective manner to regional needs. Bearing these considerations in mind, Latin American experts will meet at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile, on 22 and 24 November in order to review the action taken to date and the mandates currently in force and, on that basis, to design a medium-term programme of regional activities in conjunction with the Secretariat.

2. Expert Group Meeting on Equality in Political Participation and Decision-Making

ECLAC will take part in the Expert Group Meeting on Equality in Political Participation and Decision-Making organized by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (Vienna, 18-22 September 1989). The Secretariat of the Commission will report on the situation of women in Latin America and the Caribbean in this respect at the meeting.

3. Working group on women, apartheid and options for a post-apartheid society

ECLAC will participate in a working group on women, apartheid and options for a post-apartheid society which is being organized by UNESCO. At this meeting, which is to be held in Caracas from 19 to 22 September 1989, a presentation will be given on the situation of women in Latin America and the Caribbean in relation to this topic.

B. FUTURE COURSES OF ACTION

The Fourth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean has drawn attention to the seriousness of the situation of women within a regional context of crisis. The Note by the Secretary-General, which contains the first chapter of the World

Survey on the Role of Women in Development (United Nations, 1989), states that in various developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America women have experienced a particularly severe deterioration in their economic situation, and that one of the main failings of development strategies has been their neglect of the role and potential of women. The study notes that changes have taken place in the distribution of income and of opportunities both within and among the countries and that these changes, most of which have been unfavourable, have forestalled development in the broad sense of the term in which it is used in the international development strategies, particularly in the case of women. The Secretary General further states that it is clear that, although some women have seen an improvement in their situation thanks to greater access to employment and to better-paying economic sectors, many more have grown poorer, and goes on to point out the irony in the fact that poverty among women has increased, even in the richer countries, thereby giving rise to what has come to be known as the "feminization of poverty" (United Nations, 1989).

Demands have grown in the face of the seriousness of the situation. These mounting demands have been prompted by the decrease in health, housing and educational services which has occurred as a result of the application of adjustment policies, by the higher expectations of the better-organized women of today, and by the greater interest being seen in this issue at the international level, both within the United Nations system and on the part of the general public.

Furthermore, there is now a greater awareness of the complexity of the women's issue than there was at the outset of the Decade. In addition to the acknowledged importance of social and economic factors which determine the nature of women's objective living conditions, there is a growing recognition of the effects of many as yet little-understood cultural traits that are more resistant to change. These cultural features are a matter which calls for special attention since, together with social and economic conditions, they define the role of women in society. In order to deal with this situation, existing resources must be maximized and other supplementary sources will have to be explored, preferably through regional projects which will also strengthen horizontal co-operation.

The fundamental issues would appear to concern the relationship between women and their culture in terms of societal change; the situation of rural women, especially with respect to statistical improvements in the measurement of their economic activity; the problems of young women, who constitute the most vulnerable sector and who need training and assistance; and the status of women in the informal sector, as a means of analysing female employment and gauging women's economic contribution.

Courses of action in these areas should be outlined and made available as a form of substantive support to permanent monitoring bodies (the Presiding Officers and the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean) for use in preparing studies and reports on the status of Latin American women --especially low-income urban women, peasant women and young women-- with a view to the formulation of social policies to improve their status and to promote their participation in concrete projects through which women can become involved in generating income and improving their efficiency.

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Annex I

LIST OF DOCUMENTS PRESENTED AT THE FOURTH REGIONAL
CONFERENCE ON THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO THE ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Latin American and Caribbean women between change and crisis
(LC/L.464(CRM.4/2)).

Information and communications at the service of women in
Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.461(CRM.4/3)).

Activities of the ECLAC Secretariat with respect to the
integration of women into the economic and social development of
Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.456(CRM.4/4)).

Women and legislation (LC/L.456(CRM.4/5)).

Women, work and crisis (LC/L.456(CRM.4/6)).

Women and cooperativism in Latin America
(LC/L.466(CRM.4/7)).

Woman as a social protagonist in the 1980s
(LC/L.470(CRM.4/8)).

Women in the inter-island trade in agricultural produce in
the Eastern Caribbean (LC/L.465(CRM.4/9)).

Diagnóstico de la situación de la mujer centroamericana
(LC/L.472(CRM.4/10)).

Women and demographic change: statistics and indicators
(LC/L.473(CRM.4/11)).

Remittances, family income and the role of women: the case
of El Salvador (LC/L.476(CRM.4/12)).

Report of the Fourth Regional Conference on the Integration
of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin
America and the Caribbean (LC/G.1539(CRM.4/13)).

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS PRESENTED AT THE REGIONAL SEMINAR ON
THE ANALYSIS OF WOMEN'S PRODUCTION PROJECTS
AND THEIR POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Proyectos productivos de mujeres: problemas y soluciones en las intervenciones sociales (LC/R.764(Sem.49/2)).

Los proyectos productivos con mujeres de sectores populares (LC/R.765(Sem.49/3)).

Una producción que produce otras: ... las artesanas del proyecto Timbi de Brasil (LC/R.760(Sem.49/4)).

Vinculación de la mujer con aptitudes de liderazgo a la promoción del desarrollo y producción de material didáctico de apoyo (Cali, Colombia) (LC/R.761(Sem.49/5)).

Desarrollo rural integrado en áreas deprimidas, con atención específica de la mujer campesina (Ecuador) (LC/R.763(Sem.49/6)).

Generación de empleo a través de la creación de microempresas para mujeres de la región metropolitana. Chile (LC/R.766(Sem.49/7)).

Producción lechera con mujeres campesinas del altiplano, La Paz, Bolivia (LC/R.769(Sem.49/8)).

Programas socioeconómicos para organizaciones de mujeres (Tempoal, Veracruz, México) (LC/R.770(Sem.49/9)).

Proyectos productivos de mujeres en México y Centroamérica: resultados y reflexiones sobre la experiencia (LC/R.771(Sem.49/10)).