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Integration of Women into the
Economic and Social Development
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TOWARDS A REGIONAL INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
STRATEGY FOR WOMEN



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INTRODUCTION

This document was prepared as a contribution to the discussions which will be held on the occasion of the Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean. The document contains an outline of information and communication and their role in the process of integrating women in development. It also provides background for developing integrated policies which are consistent with the future development of information and communication activities for women in the region.

The reduction of the many disparities frequently observed in society, clear examples of which are the inequality of and discrimination against women, requires the assumption of a more definite position in respect of information and communication, as a prerequisite. Although there still persist discriminatory laws or bureaucratic and administrative structures which would have to be changed, the main problem lies rather in the continued existence of prejudices with respect to the condition of women and out-moded beliefs about the roles to which they have traditionally been assigned. This situation can only be changed through an effort at illustration and persuasion, in which information and communication should play a preponderant role. This awareness, however, that information, as an active ingredient in all instances, decisions and actions of this process, is not in itself sufficient to overcome other social, cultural and political conditioning factors inherent in this process. Undoubtedly, such a radical change of thinking about the problem of women, which implies such deeply engrained psychological and cultural factors, can only be made gradually, although this task should be considered urgent and should be kept up with determination.

This study has been divided into four chapters, which evolve from the stage of diagnosis and conceptualization of the subject to the action stage, providing the outline of an information and communication strategy for women in the region.

The first chapter includes a global panorama of the influence of information on the development process and the beginnings of awareness of the problem in the Third World countries, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean. This learning process has been a long one, and the lack of information has in fact meant high economic and social costs. This chapter proposes some guidelines for actions designed to improve the flow of information required by the process of integrating women in development under equal conditions to those of men, actions which arise from the normative framework adopted by international forums.

The second chapter provides a diagnosis of the situation of information gathered in institutions of the region. This analysis is complemented by other studies made by the ECLA Secretariat, especially by the special Women's Unit and by the Latin American Centre for Economic and Social Documentation (CLADES), the Statistics and Quantitative Analysis Division and the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE). The results of the diagnosis emphasize some aspects which should be especially taken into account in the formulation of programmes designed to strengthen these actions.

The governments of most of the countries have shown interest in an information and communication policy on the subject; however, up to now it has only been possible to adopt fragmentary measures which constitute elements of present or future systems. The formulation and content of these measures differ basically depending on the forms of organization prevailing in these countries; as a result, although

/they generally

they generally provide a suitable framework for co-ordination of the activities in a flexible way, allowing for a wide range of approaches, they vary notably in how they determine their order of priorities.

In relation to the state of information, it can also be seen that although some aspects of the subject have enough information available, there are others where vacuums exist; in other sectors, information has not been disseminated at the right time, nor has it been used in the formulation of development policies and plans, and there have even been cases where despite having communicated the information at the right time, the medium chosen as a channel of diffusion was not the most appropriate.

Bearing in mind these factors, chapter III proposes a strategy to strengthen the information and communication machinery based on the trends observed in the region and their future projections. The analysis makes reference to the four principal projections which have been taking shape in the implementation of information programmes in recent years: (a) strengthening of national actions; (b) the appearance of the political goal of supporting information programmes at the subregional and regional level; (c) the consolidation of inter-agency co-operation and co-ordination machinery at the regional level, and (d) the incipient mobilization of financial resources to support information and communication activities.

On the operative level, the strategy proposes the creation of a network of institutions to exchange and circulate information effectively, and particularly to stimulate flows of information among the countries of the region. Thus conceived, the network is an instrument of horizontal technical co-operation, which may develop by stages, through the gradual incorporation of new institutions. It may also be carried out in modular form, since every new institution incorporated in the network will contribute information on new areas or will complete those already existing, at the same time expressing new information needs. Thus, the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America directs its action proposals at a wide variety of agents which would fulfil different functions in this process: orientation and direction of the process; formulation of strategies, policies, plans and programmes; co-ordination of operative action; motivation of participation, and organization, research and dissemination. The formulation of the strategy is conceived to satisfy the different information needs of these functions.

Finally, this paper proposes some preliminary conclusions which condense the repercussions anticipated in the concept of the strategy. This brings out the need to have a regional mechanism for co-ordinating actions in the field of information for women and ways of linking the participant organizations in a process of integrating women in development with greater possibilities for promoting changes within their spheres of action, at the national and regional levels. It has been recognized that the problems of information and communication have their own different form of expression in each of the countries of the region and will require specific and concrete efforts by each of the governments; however, an indispensable supplement to these efforts would consist of subregional and regional considerations, which would consolidate intra-regional co-operation and project a regional identity with respect to the information and communication problem and its implications for women's affairs. Also, although in an initial phase the process of integrating women in development generates and requires information of its own, and thus needs to be treated specially, in future stages a closer relationship with broader spectrum systems within the economic and social development of which it forms part is expected.

/Finally, it

Finally, it is also becoming evident that there is a need to obtain resources for the implementation of these actions. The mobilization of these resources is a task which should be shared by the different institutions involved in this process, and the governments should assume a preponderant role in this, in order to be able to ensure, in the near future, the continuity required of these initiatives.

/I. GENERAL

I. GENERAL FRAMEWORK

A. Information as a component of development

The process of generating information is growing increasingly rapidly on the world scene. The transfer of relevant information selected from the vast quantity of existing data and ideas to be used by those who are promoting development (planners, entrepreneurs or administrators, political officials, scholars, workers or the general public) is presently considered to be one of the key conditions for a more rational and participative process of change. However, one of the crucial problems in any process of change is to make accessible, at the right time and at reasonable cost, all the valuable information -of national or international origin, either written, graphic or oral, quantitative (statistical data) or qualitative (ideas, concepts, theories)- which might be of interest to those in charge of making decisions and implementing development actions.

The accessibility of and capacity for managing information may be conceived as one of the determining forces in the nature of the international relations being established between various types of institutions, either national or supra-national, and normally materializing through co-operation agreements, joint projects and investments, trade agreements, political treaties, etc.

All these arrangements involve a process of negotiation in which the parties must have, along with an ability to bargain, the most complete possible informative support with respect to the situation and objectives of their own countries or institutions and those of their counterpart.

In recent years, the problem has arisen of the unequal distribution of information in the world, according to which there are "rich" countries and "poor" countries with respect to information.

This imbalance, which is nothing but a reflection of the centre-periphery problem, also exists in the market of the products of the world information industry. The countries which are "poor" in information, since they lack resources and clear guidelines for the generation and management of national information, are normally low-cost exporters, either directly or through third parties, of unprocessed information about their own national reality, in circumstances where they will have to import -obviously at a higher cost- the same information processed and presented in attractive form by entities from the "rich" countries in the form of studies, advisory reports, indexes, summaries, compendiums, etc.

Due to the economic, social and political value of information, it is appropriate that its control should become an area of important concern in the countries of the region. However, some studies on this show that the institutions continue to deal with this aspect in a partial way, in accordance with punctual criteria which change according to the circumstances, and this has helped perpetuate problems such as: (a) the loss of opportunities to make maximum use of the existing information, since there are no mechanisms to screen it or make it available at the right time; (b) the duplication of studies and efforts aimed at compiling and preparing information; (c) the institutional impossibility of evaluating the overlaps, gaps and inconsistencies in the information available to the institution; and (d) the underutilization of the information, once produced, because it is considered an intermediate good which is usable only once and not a capital good capable of being used many times, thus preventing the recovery of the investment made to prepare it.^{1/}

/The efficient

The efficient management of information as a resource definitely requires the adoption of a position with respect to the problem by the national and regional institutions which are promoting development. The institutional mechanisms responsible for the integration of women have made this their concern, identifying some needs and suggesting possible inter-institutional relations to facilitate the task. The study of the normative framework proposed by these mechanisms and an evaluation of the information situation in some institutions of the region will be valuable elements in defining more concrete action guidelines in this field.

B. Information as a component in the process of the
integration of women in development

According to the Regional Plan of Action, the minimal functional structure of the national administrative machinery must include, inter alia, the spheres of documentation and information, public relations and distribution. In addition, the governments must promote, by means of meetings and international seminars, the regional and international exchange of information and experience. In ECLA, the Regional Plan of Action provides for the holding of regional United Nations conferences on the integration of women into the development of Latin America, which will have, inter alia, the following functions: (a) to make a periodic evaluation of its fulfilment and the activities carried out by ECLA and other United Nations bodies; and (b) to provide a forum for the exchange of information which would facilitate the co-ordination and mutual support of the programmes of integration of women in economic and social development at various levels and would enable the countries of the region to share their experiences in this respect. In addition, the Regional Plan of Action establishes, among the objectives of the Unit for the Integration of Women in Development, that of developing a general revision and evaluation plan for the region.^{2/}

The Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace contains a series of provisions which establish the importance of: (a) preparing and making available compendiums of statistics on women; (b) examining the statistics relevant to women; (c) improving the quality and relevance of data referring to women; (d) preparing, evaluating and up-dating the estimates and projections on their participation; (e) establishing a series of social, economic and demographic indicators; (f) aiding the countries in the preparation of surveys (which will be carried out as part of the programme designed to develop the national capacity for carrying out household surveys); (g) ensuring that questions having to do with women are an integral part of the current information systems, namely: the International Information System for Agricultural Sciences and Technology (AGRIS) of FAO, the Industrial and Technological Information Bank (INTIB) and the Development Information System (DIS) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); (h) ensuring that publications mention the activities which support information media, and training programmes and seminars, etc.; and ensuring that brochures and publications are issued with periodic information on the progress of studies made in respect of the United Nations Decade for Women; (i) ensuring that detailed bibliographies are produced and distributed. To fulfil the responsibility of providing assistance to the governments and non-governmental organizations in the development of policies, strategies and programmes, the regional commissions should strengthen their systems of information and data gathering with a view towards providing a better analysis of the data on women's situation and work; and particularly towards improving the national, regional and subregional studies of the progress made.^{3/}

The International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Decade for Women establishes that the regional commissions must make periodic studies of the most important aspects of the development of their respective regions as a part of their normal economic analyses. In the framework of the industrial and technological programmes, it is also established that the creation of a world and international information network will have to be accelerated.^{4/}

The United Nations General Assembly has urged all governments, United Nations organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify, at the regional level, the distribution of information and the exchange of experiences on the participation of women in all the relevant information programmes and activities, with a view towards achieving the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women. It has also requested the regional commissions to make a complete report to the Economic and Social Council at its first session on specific aspects of the situation of women in all sectors of their development programmes, in order to strengthen and reorient the information methods of these commissions so that they more appropriately reflect the regional concerns of women. It has also urged that these commissions should submit a report on the subject every two years.^{5/}

Finally, one of the functions of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) is to stimulate and support, through research, training and gathering and exchanging of information, all efforts being made by intergovernmental, governmental, and non-governmental bodies towards the promotion of women's participation in economic, social and political spheres.^{6/}

The normative framework, briefly, is centered on the needs for information, documentation and communication, understood in their broadest sense, and it implies a series of relationships among national and international, public and private organizations of various levels.

An appraisal of the current state of these activities in some institutions of Central America and the Caribbean and a review of the regional panorama will be judgmental factors for discerning major action guidelines to be followed in this field in the immediate future.

II. DIAGNOSIS OF THE SITUATION OF INFORMATION ON WOMEN

Compared with the above outline of the concept "information for the process of integration of women in development", which considers a broad range of options and perspectives, this diagnosis has certain limitations basically to the partial coverage of some aspects of the problem.

The diagnosis is based on information compiled by institutions of seven countries of Central America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean.

The selection of these countries, responding to concrete concerns expressed by these governments through various governmental and non-governmental organizations which are trying to stimulate and guide the circulation and exchange of information on the subject, has made it possible to make contact also with different styles of organization and development of the study of women: the experience of some countries in which these aspects are included in government programmes; the presence of others in which there is a wide range of private activities operating at the same time on behalf of the equality of women; and others involving national mobilization, to cite only a few cases.

In line with this concern, and thanks to the support of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, ECLA carried out two projects aimed at helping some institutions improve their information infrastructure through the study of their realities and the adaptation of the machinery required to achieve these objectives.

Due to limited resources, the amount of time spent in the countries was short, and this prevented the identification of a great number of institutions interested in this process. Moreover, the nature of the organizations which received assistance and their peculiar characteristics made it inadvisable to make generalizations; emphasis was placed on the outstanding features of the programmes of these organizations, based on their potential use for the development of information and documentation activities.

The projection of some situations which repeat themselves, however, and the knowledge accumulated by ECLA from specific experiences and studies in this field, have made it possible to delineate the general outlines of the information situation on the subject in the region.^{7/}

Although the above limitations restrict the applicability of the diagnosis, they have been mentioned not to question their validity so much as to suggest some orientations for the future. Among these, one which appears evident is the need to continue receiving, processing and evaluating information regionally, as a priority task of ECLA in this field.

As a way of organizing the information on this diagnosis, it was decided to present, first, the information gathered in the various countries. Later, on the basis of this information, a regional analysis was made from the viewpoint of the generation, use, dissemination and institutional infrastructure of information on the subject.

A. Information situation in the countries

The information compiled on the institutions which have received assistance have made it possible to make this diagnosis, which was organized according to the following framework: (a) typology of the institutions; (b) analysis of their functions and action programmes, and (c) information needs, according to the type of institution and general state of development of these activities.

/1. Typology

1. Typology of institutions participating in programmes for women

From the analysis of the nature and characteristics of the programmes of the institutions involved in this diagnosis, there results a typology composed of four groups of organizations: national machinery, planning offices, institutions providing assistance to organized base groups, and research organizations.

Although the constructing of this typology of institutions has taken into account the different forms of organization prevailing in the countries, an operative type criterion has been adopted, based on the nature and characteristics of the programmes of these organizations, from the viewpoint of their information needs.

These institutions are located in seven countries of Central America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean, according to the following distribution:

<u>Type of institution</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Name of institution</u>
1. National machinery	Cuba	Federation of Cuban Women
	Guatemala	National Office for Women (ONAM), dependent on the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
	Mexico	National Programme of Integration of Women in Development (PRONAM), dependent on the National Population Council (CONAPO)
	Panama	Department of Promotion and Training of Women, dependent on the National Office for Children and the Family
	Dominican Republic 8/	Office of Women's Affairs, dependent on the Ministry of Foreign Relations
2. Planning offices	Guatemala	Department of Social Promotion, General Secretariat of the National Economic Planning Council (SEGEPLAN)
3. Institutions providing assistance to organized base groups	Honduras	Department of Social Promotion, Higher Economic Planning Council (CONSUPLANE)
	Panama	Programme of Promotion and Development of Women, dependent on the Institute for the Training and Use of Human Resources (IFARHU)
	Dominican Republic	Women in Dominican Development, Inc. (MUDE)

2. Functions and action programmes of the various types of institutions

(a) National machinery

Of the seven countries studied, five have national machinery responsible for women's affairs: Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic. National machinery includes not only central institutions but also the establishment, when necessary, of a network of auxiliary bodies in the form of commissions, offices or posts at different levels, to ensure the effective implementation of action programmes designed to promote equality between men and women.^{9/} These bodies usually depend on ministries, especially those of labour and social welfare, or directly on the executive power, such as secretariats, offices or specialized commissions.

One of the basic objectives for which these national mechanisms were established was to ensure that areas concerning women would come to occupy a more central position within the existing institutional arrangements, so that policies and programmes could be formulated, planned, fulfilled, implemented and evaluated, as well as to conceptualize the problems of women integrally within each sector of development and formulate methodologies, policies and effective mechanisms for the adoption, when necessary, of positive measures to ensure this integrated approach.

In order to carry out these tasks, the organizations have established or are in the process of establishing effective institutional ties with the national planning offices and other national women's organizations, in order to develop national programmes in priority sectors, such as employment, health and education.

In education, these national mechanisms have included activities ranging from the dissemination of information on aspects of family life, to vocational, technical and university training. Thus, an important place is now being given to vocational guidance in the selection of medium and higher-level careers; the granting of scholarships in qualified cases; the training required to carry out activities in the community such as literacy, health and nutrition campaigns and to provide social services such as child care centres, rehabilitation centres, etc.; and other programmes for disseminating information on problems of and opportunities for women.

A third important function of these national mechanisms is to provide an incentive to the participation of popular organizations (organizations of women and youth, rural workers, community organizations, religious groups, neighbourhood associations, unions, etc.), both in the decision-making phase and in the implementation of projects. In this respect, one of its basic missions has been to serve as a link between the competent government agencies and the popular organizations.

A fourth aspect considered is research, which is beginning to be included in these programmes in order to obtain a more precise diagnosis which would facilitate the inclusion of the subject in national planning and lead to actions which are more adapted to reality.

A final aspect is the one related to the organization of special services, such as child care centres -including eating and sleeping facilities- which would allow women to become involved in jobs, education, and other types of activities. With some exceptions, this aspect has not reached an adequate level of development, and in some countries these initiatives have been the responsibility of other parts of the public and private sector, and not the offices for women.

/The above-mentioned

The above-mentioned functions appear in the majority of the programmes of the offices for women included in the study, but they are carried out with varying emphasis and by various groups. Sometimes they differ in their implementation, in the priority and continuity given to the different aspects of the programmes and the human resources available to them.10/

(b) National planning

In two countries of the subregion, technical assistance included this type of body: the General Secretariat of the National Economic Planning Council (SEGEPLAN) in Guatemala and the Higher Economic Planning Council (CONSUPLANE) in Honduras. Through their Department of Social Promotion, the two organizations were responsible for preparing the national development plans under the heading of Social Welfare, including those aspects concerned with women.

From the conceptual point of view, the national development plans propose as objectives to improve the conditions of participation of women in the process of development, especially those with few resources, and to eliminate the obstacles which prevent their equal access to education, employment and the various aspects of civic, social, cultural and economic life in their countries. They also express the need to create awareness in women and in the population in general about the role they should play in the society and about the importance of the human resource they represent for purposes of achieving the objectives of national development.11/ 12/

As regards these essential problems, the plans suggest programmes and projects which should be carried out by the existing institutions, promoting the rational use of the resources currently available and seeking additional resources, both national and international, to support their activities and make a greater impact on the welfare of this broad sector of the population.13/

The content of these programmes and projects includes a wide range of subjects among which are the following: incorporation in the productive process, job training, school instruction on the role of women, dissemination through mass communication media, and improvement of the home. There is also an area of research and studies in support of these programmes and projects.

(c) Institutions providing assistance to organized base groups

This diagnosis examines some aspects of the programmes of work of three regional institutions: the National Agrarian Institute, through its programme of social integration of the peasant family in Honduras; Women in Dominican Development Inc., in the Dominican Republic and the Institute for the Training and Use of Human Resources, through the Programme of Promotion and Development of Women in Panama. In general, these programmes are directed primarily towards the promotion, training and organization of poor urban and rural women and their families.

These are generally micro-projects with social, educational and training objectives, which lack a proper connection with broader range programmes involved in national social policies, and so their possibilities for a positive impact on a change in the situation of women and their families are considerably reduced. The major objective is to promote their incorporation in technical and productive work and business management, which will allow them to improve their economic position and collaborate in the consolidation of the enterprises in which they participate. Another objective is to obtain for these productive projects, managed by women, the technical assistance and credit needed.14/

/Another aspect

Another aspect of these programmes is related to the improvement of the social participation of women in the group to which they belong, through the creation of some internal and inter-institutional mechanisms to promote their integration on an equal opportunity basis with men. The organization of women, however, more than an end in itself, is a means for making the work of the institutions within which the programmes operate more effectively.

A third area to which the programmes are directed is the training of women in the companies and organizations to which they belong. For this purpose workshops and courses are developed in specific areas of their activity, as well as in areas concerning the administration and marketing of their products.

Another basic objective of these programmes is to adopt suitable technologies for increasing the income of these groups and improving the welfare of their homes through the introduction of better, low cost implements and structures.

Finally, an aspect worth mentioning, although dealt with less by these programmes, is that of women as the focal points of their families, facing problems and seeking solutions to them, such as food, health, housing, education, bringing up children and other areas related to their role and social position.^{15/}

(d) Research organizations

This diagnosis includes three private research organizations which are carrying out specific programmes related to women: the Centre for Economic and Social Studies of the Third World (CEESTEM), the Research Centre for Female Action (CEPAF) of the Dominican Republic and the Action Now Foundation of Costa Rica.

These are recently created programmes whose general orientation is directed towards understanding the specific characteristics of women through an analysis of the historical context in which they are found and the reality which surrounds them, in accordance with methodologies suited to the objectives of these centres.

One finding which stands out from the analysis of the research programmes is the lack of relations among the researchers in the region, even among those in the same country. The results of the research do not appear to be cumulative, and this has an influence on future studies.

Specialized meetings and seminars are the main opportunities for the exchange of knowledge and experiences on the subject. Another normal form of communication has been the exchange of documents among specialized centres, although this has not acquired the degree of continuity necessary.

3. Detected needs and current state of information activity

(a) National machinery

An analysis of the principal functions of these bodies shows that the information required is designed to support activities being carried out at various levels in order to ensure that women's affairs occupy a more central position in the existing institutional arrangements, with respect to the formulation of plans and policies, design of programmes in the various fields in which women participate, carrying out these programmes and supervising their implementation and the evaluation of the results.

Since these bodies have generally been established only recently, the information, documentation and communication activities have not yet reached the degree of development required, although there is awareness in all of them from the value of having an information base, as one more component of the programmes in progress or to be undertaken.

/The institutions,

The institutions, with few exceptions, still do not have a definite programme in this regard, and they have not had the opportunity to recruit or train specialized personnel or to obtain, in many cases, the resources budgeted for these purposes.

As regards the identification and compiling of information, the institutions which generate knowledge on the subject are generally unknown, or contact has not yet been made with them. There have been isolated efforts to compile some specific aspects which have lacked the necessary continuity to maintain the information up-to-date. Many times there is no knowledge of how to use the services offered by the regional and international information systems already in existence.

As for the processing of information, there is a lack of compatibilization of methodologies to be used, with the resulting difficulty for the transfer of information between related institutions. There is also a lack of effective channels of communication among the institutions, and there are only sporadic contacts at occasional meetings.

(b) National planning bodies

In general terms, the information needs of these bodies are very similar to those required by the national machinery; in fact, in some countries these bodies fulfil this function.

It is thus a question of information to support the formulation of the plans, policies and programmes directed towards promoting greater participation of women in the development process. There is an awareness on the part of planners that because this is a relatively new area of planning, its information base does not have a sufficient degree of order and systematization, considering the different areas that need to be incorporated; there are deficiencies in relation to statistical information, which lacks the coverage, detail and continuity through time required by support information. Although there is a quantity of specialized knowledge coming from various sources of information, these are widely dispersed, and this prevents their adequate and expeditious use.^{16/} As for bibliographical information, these bodies are integrated into the Information System for Planning in Latin America and the Caribbean (INFOPLAN), which is developing a methodology in the region for improving the exchange of experiences and co-operation on planning in Latin America and the Caribbean.^{17/}

(c) Institutions providing assistance to organized base groups

From the viewpoint of information needs, there are two well defined tendencies: the first is designed to satisfy the needs of the beneficiary groups of programmes and projects; the second is oriented towards supporting institutions in charge of assistance to these base groups.

An analysis of the programmes of these base groups shows that most have not been prepared by taking into account the needs of the community to which they will be applied. In order to achieve this it would be necessary, among other things, for the community to have more systematic information about its reality which would serve as an instrument of support to guide the development of the various stages of its programmes and projects, and the activities comprising them, and which would contribute to the timely and appropriate use of the necessary resources. More specifically, these users require information which would permit them to determine what data was necessary to complete the different stages of the project, including the following: basic survey, profile of the community, identification of

/priority needs,

priority needs, selection of resources and continued evaluation of the different stages completed (check-ups, periodic evaluations, etc.). This generally involves information suited to the audience and the use to which it will be put.^{18/}

Another type of information necessary for these base groups is that related to services being offered in the country to improve the living conditions of the community, using popular means of communication for publicizing them (radio, television) and other forms of communication, such as dramatized stories, illustrations, games, photo-novels, etc.^{19/}

At the institutional level, the information required is directed towards supporting the co-ordination of these programmes and projects in their technical and administrative aspects relating to development. There is a lack of effective co-ordination in the countries among the various institutions developing these programmes which would allow the latter to have a greater impact. This leads to duplications, competition and even contradictions among them. Also required is support information for training the staff of these institutions who are in charge of these community programmes (extension, technical, etc.). Examples would be bibliographical and specialized teaching materials in regard to participative pedagogical methodologies which would complement the training.

(d) Research bodies

The information required by this type of body is that of support for research. A great deal of experience has been accumulated on the subject, insofar as studies, technical efforts and financial resources are concerned; there is, however, no system which would compile and systematize the experiences in this field. The research is generally done individually, but it is not known who the specialists on the subject are, as well as the theoretical, methodological and technical approaches used in these studies and projects. The researchers are known only through the publication of their studies, or even worse, many of them are unable to publish or have limited distribution.

Although there is already some consensus on the sufficiency of the research coverage of some areas, and on those which will require greater concern in the future, as will be explained in the following chapter, there is also a certain intuitiveness in the selection of topics and the organization of action programmes.^{20/}

There are some libraries which have basic material on the subject; however, there are no complete and large collections to support research, and this means that researchers are obliged to form their own collections with the obvious cost in money, time and intellectual effort. As for the level of documental analysis of this material, it does not have the degree of depth necessary, since there are no specialized terminologies on the subject.

B. Diagnosis of the regional situation

The diagnosis of the current state of information on and for women made by the institutions of seven countries of Central America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean, along with ECLA's existing knowledge, which has been gathered from experiences accumulated by the specialized Women's Unit and by studies done by information bodies of the Latin American Economic and Social Documentation Centre (CLADES), the Statistics and Quantitative Analysis Division, the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE), makes it possible to outline a general panorama of the region in areas concerning the quantity and quality of information generated on the subject, the use and dissemination of the information, and the existing institutional capacity in this field.

/1. Quantity

1. Quantity and quality of information generated

An examination of the information in this area shows that while there has been more information on the subject since 1975, there are aspects where there are still large gaps. The question of women has now become a subject of research, investigation and questioning in the region, but because of its multifaceted character, as more research is done there appear other problems, new approaches for dealing with them, and new theoretical perspectives which show the complexity of the topic. Women have been the subject of independent and specific study, necessarily related to other problem areas. Table 1 summarizes the aspects of the subject which have motivated the most study and which merit greater concern, among which are the themes included in the United Nations Decade for Women.^{21/}

As can be seen in this table, among the areas which have generated more information are the so-called structural aspects in which most of the knowledge is concentrated on employment and demographic aspects such as fertility, migrations, and education. There are other topics which have aroused less interest and whose future orientation will deal with their relationship with other processes of social reproduction, such as the role of women in society, the social role of motherhood, the types of family and their forms of socialization. There are also deficiencies in areas such as the participation of women in structured and non-structured sectors of the economy, the condition of women's health, the dual responsibility of women as workers and housewives, female absenteeism on the job due to maternity, the factors contributing to greater illiteracy in women, the situation of households headed by women, political participation and the type of contribution made by women's organizations.

From another point of view, there is a lack of information on appraisals of experiences and results of action-oriented research.

Statistical information is very incomplete and scattered. Most of the quantitative information is contained in censuses, household surveys, academic research, publications of national planning and statistics offices, as well as registries of vital statistics and reports of government and private organizations.

From the point of view of compiling these data, there are two types of problems; some are related to the validity of the information, derived in turn from the operative definitions adopted to measure certain phenomena; other problems are related to the quantity of information or variables collected with respect to the phenomenon being analysed. As regards the validity and coverage of information, a greater effort must be made to improve the quality of the data collected, with a clearer and more appropriate operationalization of the indicators, especially with regard to the situation of women in the home and outside of it.

Another limitation is the lack of sufficient information on the projects and programmes carried out by government and private institutions. There are many isolated projects, but there is no machinery to provide a systematized knowledge of these experiences in order to avoid duplication of efforts, make more rational use of resources and facilitate evaluative processes. An effort in this direction was co-ordinated by ECLA with the participation of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, which made it possible to compile and systematize the information on programmes and projects being carried out in the countries with the assistance of these agencies.^{22/} For lack of resources, this information was discontinued, except for that related to Bolivia, which was later brought up to date.^{23/} As for information on institutions dealing with the subject in the region

Table 1

LATIN AMERICA: STATE OF INFORMATION GENERATED BY RESEARCH ON WOMEN

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Structural aspects	Suprastructural aspects <u>a/</u>
<p>I. AREAS WHICH HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF MOST STUDY (INFORMATION GENERATED)</p> <p>(a) Labour: - Economically active population (EAP); gross rates of participation, by age and marital status; branches of activity; occupational categories; occupations where the female active population is concentrated</p> <p>- Particular sectors of female workers: factory workers, domestic workers, teachers, rural wage earners, peasants, office workers; informal sector</p> <p>- Labour processes, human relations, professional and labour union organizations; participation of women, compatibilization of job and domestic responsibilities</p> <p>- Units which require female labour, and requirements</p> <p>(b) Demographic aspects:</p> <p>(i) Fertility: - Factors influencing fertility: age, marital status, educational level, place of residence, migratory situation</p> <p>- Access to health and contraceptive services</p> <p>(ii) Migrations: - Forms of migration, internal and external, rural and urban; causes</p> <p>(c) Education: Access to education; literacy by sex and age groups; distribution by sex, age and levels of education; distribution by sex in enrollment in higher education, etc.</p>	<p>(a) Social participation: - Participation by women in women's organizations focussed on concrete interests; groups of professionals, mothers' centres in popular neighbourhoods, groups for production and marketing of crafts, etc.</p> <p>- Participation by women in organizations for both sexes; professional associations, trade unions, neighbourhood associations</p> <p>(b) Political participation: - Participation in public and elective offices; government apparatus; political parties</p> <p>- Participation in political and union life: defence of own interests; national liberation struggles</p> <p>(c) Legislation: family and labour legislation</p> <p>(d) Values, ideas transmitted through literature, art, communication media, educational system, religions, etc.</p>

Table 1 (cont.1)

Structural aspects	Suprastructural aspects <u>a/</u>
<p>2. AREAS REQUIRING MORE STUDY (INFORMATION TO BE GENERATED)</p> <p>(a) Female labour and processes of centralization and concentration of capital, including transnational capital, in production, circulation and distribution</p> <p>(b) Ways in which women are inserted in the labour market, especially in the services sector</p> <p>(c) Relation between work done in the home and outside</p> <p>(d) Analysis of sectoral policies with special emphasis on women:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(i) Health: - access to health systems - abortion - levels of sanitation - birth control</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(ii) Education: - access to education - improvement in educational levels and their effect on employment - training of female labour</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(iii) Population: - female migrations, especially of peasants and endogenous women - nuptiality, mortality, fertility</p>	<p>(a) Ideological configurations with respect to: the role of women in society; social role of maternity; relations between the sexes (sexuality, prostitution); types of families and socialization within the family, from the point of view of religions, social values, legislation, mass communication media and artistic and literacy production</p> <p>(b) Analysis of political participation by women: speeches by parties and political movements, government leaders and State officials (family, labour and political law with respect to women; administrative norms and decrees)</p> <p>(c) Historical studies on the political participation of women: mobilization of women, and men and women together, in trade unions; peasant movements, demanding housing and urban infrastructure services; political parties; feminist movements</p>

3. TOPICS RECENTLY INCORPORATED BY THE UNITED NATIONS

- | |
|--|
| (a) Energy: incorporation of new and renewable sources of energy
(b) Science and technology
(c) Environment
(d) Co-operation among developing countries |
|--|

4. IMPROVEMENT OF METHODOLOGICAL ASPECTS
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- | |
|---|
| (a) Expansion of coverage and quality of information sources
(b) Evaluation of methodologies with respect to research on women
- Quantitative and qualitative methods |
|---|

a/ Although there is already information on these subjects, there are some areas which require more study.

/and on

and on specialized human resources, a 1979 study shows that there are a considerable number of institutions and human resources which specialize in the subject.^{24/} This information, however, has not been updated, and in most cases the trajectory followed by these institutions is unknown.

2. Use and dissemination of information

An examination of the production of information on the subject shows that the research being done lacks the needed distribution, relations among specialists are few and infrequent, and the results of the research do not appear to be cumulative, minimizing thus the possibility that they will be used by other researchers or professionals in other disciplines.

The research centered on the official sphere as a support to policies and programmes tends to be restricted to problems of immediate interest, and its results are generally circumscribed within these levels. There is a lack of services providing summaries of research, which not only would summarize the knowledge on a specific area but also could help promote communication among researchers themselves and between them and policy makers.

At some conferences and meetings, special conditions have been created for the exchange and stimulation of ideas; the number of papers presented indicates that the study of women has become an important topic in the social sciences of the region.^{25/} As a recommendation of one of these meetings, at the Latin American Regional Seminar of Study Programmes on Women, held in 1981 and sponsored by UNESCO and the Pontificia Universidade Católica of Rio de Janeiro, it was agreed to establish the Latin American and Caribbean Association of Study Programmes on Women (ALACEM). Its purposes are to ensure a regular exchange among the countries, distribute information on study programmes on women and promote the holding of specialized meetings. Subsequently, in 1982 a consultancy meeting was held in Barbados on the role of women in the Caribbean with special attention to universities, organized by the Association of Universities and Research Institutes of the Caribbean (UNICA). The main purpose of this meeting was to determine ways and means for the universities and research institutes to play a more active and effective role in the promotion of the principal matters affecting Caribbean women. A follow-up committee was established, composed of representatives of subregional organizations, and charged with defining future activities.

The multifaceted character of the subject means that it is involved in most of the disciplines making up the social sciences. There is a need for more specialized services in the region which would review and extract from the studies of the social sciences the results relevant to the subject.

Another aspect which has an influence on the appropriate use and distribution of this information is the variety of users to be reached. The proposals of the Regional Plan of Action.^{26/} are directed towards a great variety of users, with different information needs: directors of general policies, officials with decision-making power, development planners, researchers and scholars, trainers and promoters in the community, project administrators and base groups and social communicators. As shown in table 2, the information required by these users of information differs with respect to content, scope, form of presentation, original sources, etc., and must be adapted to the jobs performed. In addition, each user must be considered not only as a receiver of information but also a possessor of knowledge and experience, methodological techniques, organizing capacity, financial resources, etc., whose existence should be communicated to the other users.

Table 2

USERS OF THE PROCESS OF INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT, AND THEIR INFORMATION NEEDS

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Users	Functions	Type of information and documentation needed	Purpose of information	Generating sources
(1) International organizations; donors	-Orientation of the process of integration of women in development; general outlines and allocation of resources	<p>(i) <u>Official information from governments and member States</u>: action programmes of government agencies involved in the situation of women; final reports of specific studies done in the countries; global development plans; evaluations of some projects</p> <p>(ii) <u>Official information from the United Nations system</u>: documents produced by organs and agencies of the United Nations: international and regional action plans and programmes; resolutions by relevant organs and agencies; final reports of specific studies; recommendations of specialized conferences, etc.</p> <p>(iii) <u>Official information from other international organizations</u>: action plans and programmes; final reports of studies; final reports of specific conferences, etc.</p> <p>(iv) <u>Information on technical meetings on the subject</u>: programme of meetings; list of papers presented; final report and conclusions</p> <p>(v) <u>Information on financial institutions</u>: policies for allocation of resources; activities reports; committee reports, etc.</p> <p>(vi) <u>Information on institutions working on the subject</u></p> <p>(vii) <u>Information on projects completed and in progress, benefiting women and their family groups</u></p>	<p>-To support the formulation of guidelines and general policies at regional and international levels</p> <p>-To provide conceptual support and theoretical orientation on the subject</p> <p>-To support the formulation of general financial policies</p>	<p>-International organizations</p> <p>-Governmental and non-governmental organizations</p> <p>-Financial institutions</p> <p>-Academic institutes and organizations; research centres</p> <p>-Specialized directories and inventories</p>

/Table 2 (cont.1)

Table 2 (cont. 1)

Users	Functions	Type of information and documentation needed	Purpose of information	Generating sources
(2) Officials with decision-making power	-Administration of the process of integration of women at the national level	<p>(i) <u>Official information from government agencies involved in the subject:</u> global development plans, ministerial programmes; political speeches, general statistical reports; final reports of studies on the subject, etc.</p> <p>(ii) <u>Official, mandatory information adopted by international organizations:</u> resolutions and recommendations on specific areas; action plans and programmes, etc.</p> <p>(iii) <u>Information on non-governmental organizations involved in the subject:</u> programmes and projects of the organizations, specialized human resources</p> <p>(iv) <u>Information on financial institutions:</u> resource allocation policies, annual reports and activities reports, etc.</p> <p>(v) <u>Information on international, official meetings and conferences:</u> conference calendars, programmes and participants, etc.</p> <p>(vi) <u>Information on integrated projects and programmes on the subject, or related to it, being implemented in the country;</u> advance and/or final reports on social development projects; evaluation of these projects, specialized human resources in the country, etc.</p> <p>(vii) <u>Technical information on progress and general theoretical orientation on the subject:</u> final reports of conferences and meetings, periodical publications of scientific information, abstract journals, etc.</p>	<p>-To provide information supporting the decision-making process</p> <p>-To provide information to support administration</p>	<p>-Government organizations</p> <p>-Non-governmental organizations</p> <p>-International organizations</p> <p>-Financial institutions</p> <p>-Academic institutes and organizations; research centres</p>

/Table 2 (cont.2)

Users	Functions	Type of information and documentation needed	Purpose of information	Generating sources
(3) Planners	-Formulation of strategy, policies, plans and programmes on areas of economic and social development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Official information from government agencies of various countries: global development plans, ministerial programmes, etc. (ii) <u>Sectoral, quantitative information, according to sex:</u> censuses by countries, households surveys and field studies, tabulations, specialized statistical yearbooks, etc. (iii) <u>Substantive and theoretical information on the subject:</u> results of research; papers given at meetings and technical conferences; abstract journals; lists of titles (iv) <u>Information on development projects and programmes:</u> evaluations of projects (v) <u>Information on legal aspects relevant to the situation of women:</u> comparative legal studies; country codes, compilations of laws 	-To provide information in support of the formulation of diagnoses, policies, plans and programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Government agencies and non-governmental organizations International organizations -Academic institutions and research centres
(4) Project administrators	-Administration and co-ordination of the actions of a given programme or project in the field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) <u>Information on other similar experiences and benefits obtained:</u> final reports of projects, evaluations, available human resources; methodologies, patents and technical standards (ii) <u>Information on appropriate technologies applicable to the implementation of the project:</u> studies, reports and research; teaching materials (iii) <u>Information on sources of financing and credit mechanisms</u> (iv) <u>Legal information on labour aspects and protection of women and their families</u> 	-To provide information in support of the administration and implementation of the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Governmental and non-governmental institutions which implement similar projects -Technical training and capacitation institutions -Financial and commercial institutions

Users	Functions	Type of information and documentation needed	Purpose of information	Generating sources
(5) Community trainers and promoters	-To promote participation of women at the community level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) <u>Methodological, didactic and participative information on community organization</u>: teaching materials; workshop guides; evaluations of similar projects, questionnaires and specific forms (ii) <u>Conceptual, substantive information on the subject</u>: reports on results of research-participation experience (iii) <u>Legislative and administrative information at the national level</u>: national administrative machinery; sectoral programmes in progress, labour and family legislation, etc. (iv) <u>General statistical information, especially demographic</u>: statistical data on the composition of the population and the organization of the family 	-To support the participation of women at the community level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Institutions specializing in research on participation - Government agencies - Non-governmental organizations - International organizations
(6) Women members of neighborhood organizations	-Organization of women in groups and carrying out of joint tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) <u>Information on how to improve women's living conditions</u>: pamphlets on aspects of legal advice and services, technical and professional training programmes, employment opportunities, protection of children and family planning; protection of health, etc. (ii) <u>Information on forms of organization and participation</u>: co-operative programmes; unions, mothers' clubs, access to credit, similar experiences, presented in various forms: films, tape recordings, slides, etc. (iii) <u>Information on appropriate technologies related to women's activities</u>: artisanal techniques; production and preservation of food; marketing of products, etc. (iv) <u>Information on financial institutions and formulation of development projects</u> 	-To support the organization and participation of women locally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National and international organizations through their offices of public information - Community and neighborhood organizations - Technical training and capacitation institutions - Financial institutions

Table 2 (conclusion)

Users	Functions	Type of information and documentation needed	Purpose of information	Generating sources
(7) Researchers and scholars	-Research and further study of specific aspects of the subject	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) <u>Conceptual, substantive information on the subject:</u> reports on research completed and in progress; papers presented at meetings and conferences; theoretical journals; updating services; degree theses (ii) <u>Sectoral, quantitative data according to sex:</u> censuses by countries, household surveys and field studies; specific tabulations; statistical year-books (iii) <u>Information generated by international organizations concerned with the subject:</u> official documents, resolutions and recommendations; specific reports, etc. (iv) <u>Information on research and academic institutions dealing with the subject:</u> human resources in research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To provide support to research -To contribute to defining the institutional framework of actions motivating research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Academic institutes and organizations; research centres -National and international statistical offices -Specialized international agencies -Governmental and non-governmental organizations
(8) Social communicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Public distribution of information on the process of integrating women in development -Creation of images representing the dominant culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) <u>Information on orientations, policies and programmes of the process of integration of women in development:</u> through official relevant documentation and organization of specific seminars and press interviews (ii) <u>Information on results of research and significant projects on the subject:</u> degree theses; final reports of research, evaluations of projects, meetings and field studies, economic reports, etc. (iii) <u>Information on programmes in process which benefit women in the countries:</u> health programmes, child protection, employment opportunities, family planning, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To provide technical and conceptual support to the process of communication and distribution of information on the situation of women -To provide judgemental elements to help improve the image of women presented by the mass communication media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -International and national organizations concerned with the subject -Academic and research institutions -Government and non-governmental organizations

3. Existing institutional capacity

An increasing number of specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system are becoming concerned with analysing and distributing information on the situation of women, and thus there has been an increasing quantity of working reports and other types of studies. The information is used at seminars and meetings of experts, whose reports are distributed to other organizations; however, the regularity of this process varies considerably from one organization to another; some automatically distribute all the material produced, while others act only on request.

There are some centres of reference or data banks in which information is deposited; in UNESCO, for example, a clearing house has been organized on the subject educating women and girls. In ECLA, the Unit for the Integration of Women in Development, since its inception, has established close contacts with the units which form part of the ECLA information infrastructure, namely: the Latin American Economic and Social Documentation Centre (CLADES); the Latin American Population Documentation System (DOCPAL); the Library, the Statistics and Quantitative Analysis Division and the Information Service.

CLADES was established in 1971, at the request of the governments of the region, and in the course of its activities it has acquired experience in the creation of inter-institutional information networks in various aspects of development; in the review, preparation and promotion of standardized systems of information, processing, and in the application of data processing techniques. It has also accumulated a wide range of knowledge on the regional situation with respect to the national information and documentation infrastructures, after making a diagnosis and evaluation in this area.^{27/} As for CELADE, it has maintained Latin American Population Documentation System (DOCPAL) since 1976, which includes the topic of women. This system, created in 1976, is currently developing activities aimed at the enlargement of a computerized data base which contains more than 15 000 bibliographical entries and whose volume is increasing monthly by 100 to 200 documents. It maintains three regional services: (a) it publishes DOCPAL. Resúmenes de Población en América Latina, which appears twice yearly and contains 600 to 700 summaries in each edition; (b) it can rapidly provide specialized bibliographies (which it has in its data bank), and (c) it maintains a free, although limited, service of document duplication upon request. It is also helping in the design of an information network on population and, more specifically, in the Multilingual Thesaurus on Population. As for statistical information, ECLA, through its Statistics and Quantitative Analysis Division and with the collaboration of the Population Studies Centre (CENEP), has made an important contribution to the formulation of new indicators which make possible a more accurate measurement of female labour.^{28/}

In addition to the substantive publications issued by the Women's Unit and those intended for meetings held both within the United Nations system and outside of it, the Executive Secretariat of ECLA has issued four publications, prepared by its Information Service: "Integración de la mujer al desarrollo de América Latina", No. 249, July 1977; "Chile, Mujer y Sociedad", Notas sobre la economía y el desarrollo de América Latina, No. 271, May 1978; "Latin American women in economic and social development", Notas sobre la economía y desarrollo de América Latina, No. 305, November 1979, and "Igualdad, desarrollo y paz. Copenhague: una entrevista mundial para la mujer", Notas sobre la economía y el desarrollo de América Latina, No. 326, September 1980.

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On the basis of this information infrastructure, to which was added the information which originated in the different Unit activities (missions, technical meetings, workshops, research and studies, diagnoses for periodic evaluations, meetings with other ECLA units, inter-agency meetings, etc.). A Reference Service for Women was established in 1979, financed by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), which compiles, prepares and distributes information generated in the region on the subject, especially the most current information on the work done by the government and private bodies of the region involved in the subject of women through their projects and available resources.

At the international level, ECLA, the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system have developed procedures for collecting relevant information and have created machinery to facilitate the evaluation of the mandatory instruments of the United Nations Decade for Women: World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year; Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women; and the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. In response to the recommendations of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, these procedures have been gradually integrated.^{29/ 30/} The Branch for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in Vienna has prepared proposals for the creation of a regionalized and decentralized system for more active participation by organizations in the process of evaluation and for promoting a more rational procedure for gathering data on the subject, integrally covering the needs of the United Nations system.

There has been a need expressed for co-ordination between the Integrated Reporting System on the Status of Women proposed by Vienna and the procedures used by United Nations bodies and specialized agencies for their own purposes. Until now the governments have been consulted separately, which has led to duplication of efforts and an unnecessary burden on them. It has thus been proposed to conduct the biennial evaluations further apart, and it is anticipated that the governments may be helped in the gathering of the data required. This system has also been proposed as a way of broadening the range of information on the subject, through the incorporation of particular aspects dealt with by the specialized agencies of the system: women and international trade, industrialization, production of food, energy, etc.

Finally, the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) includes among its functions promotion and assistance, through research, training and gathering and exchange of information, and also includes all efforts by intergovernment, governmental and non-governmental organizations to promote women in the economic, social and political spheres.^{31/} The Institute proposes to establish a programme of information, documentation and communication, one of the objectives of which will be to establish a network of institutions in different regions to facilitate the exchange of relevant information and contribute to the principal objective of the Institute, which is to develop and strengthen effective strategies for changing the current conditions of the women's lives.^{32/}

4. Summary of the diagnosis on the information situation with respect to the subject

In brief, some factors stand out which should be especially considered in the formulation of policies aimed at strengthening these activities. According to their nature, they have been classified as: (a) institutional factors; (b) conceptual factors; (c) methodological factors; (d) operative factors.

(a) Institutional factors

(i) The existence of various organizational options in the countries with respect to the situation of women and the various possibilities for action in this area.

(ii) The existence of a variety of agents which could undertake various activities in favour of the integration of women in development and which would therefore have heterogeneous needs for information.

(iii) The diversity of resources available: human resources (politicians, planners, experts in various fields, heads of projects, etc.); knowledge (from quantitative and qualitative research); experience (on preparation, implementation and evaluation of actions and projects; action and research methodologies); administrative resources (public and private); financial resources (from the Voluntary Fund, the governments, or various public or private, national, foreign or international institutions).

(iv) The different degrees of autonomy of the agents and the various spheres in which they act. The degrees of freedom of an academic institution, for example, may be different from those of a public body or a women's organization, and the content and presentation of the information they need will be different.

(b) Conceptual factors

(i) The multifaceted nature of the subject in question, in that as it is being studied other problems, new approaches and theoretical perspectives for dealing with them appear.

(ii) Fields of study covered satisfactorily and others which require more attention (information to be generated).

(iii) Lack of design and evaluation of the concepts and classifications to improve the usefulness and relevance of the methodologies needed to describe the function and condition of women.

(iv) Lack of appropriate instruments for an in-depth analysis of the information and documentation on the subject.

(c) Methodological factors

(i) Existence of information on the subject which does not take into consideration the degree of order and systematization required by the users.

(ii) Lack of compatibility among the methodologies for processing the data and documentation.

(iii) Inadequate channels of information distribution on the subject.

(d) Operative factors

(i) Lack of continuous machinery for concerted action in the field of information for women at the national and regional levels.

(ii) Need to formulate projects in the countries and at the regional level for setting up programmes to create this machinery, using the existing infrastructure.

(iii) Need to determine the location and dependency of this machinery and its relationship with the institutions involved.

III. STRATEGY FOR STRENGTHENING INFORMATION PROGRAMMES ON WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA

The participation of women in the development process assumes the identification and implementation of a series of actions designed to enable them to be effectively integrated into society. These actions, which include a wide range of topics, first require an information base by which to identify needs, as well as adequate planning and implementation of programmes.

The scarcity of knowledge on the values and objectives which guide the process of integration of women in development partly explains the apparent resistance to and slowness in incorporating them into the formal machinery, as well as the fact that there is a proliferation of sporadic initiatives on the part of governments and institutions outside the existing agreements. Although there is sufficient information on some aspects of the subject, there are large gaps in others; in other sectors, information has not been distributed in time, nor has it been used in the formulation of development policies and plans. Furthermore, in some cases, despite having been communicated at the right time, the medium chosen as a channel of distribution has not been appropriate.^{33/}

More than four years have past since the ECLA Secretariat established the Unit for the Integration of Women into Development, and the concept of all its activities, from the point of view of information, documentation and communication, and the assessments of regional needs reveal the broad outlines of a strategy whose analysis would be useful for increasing its effectiveness in the region and for defining clearer guidelines for its future actions.

A. General characteristics of the strategy and its objectives

A network of institutions needs to be created to effectively carry out the exchange and circulation of information, and particularly to stimulate the flow of information among the countries of the region. Thus conceived, the network is an instrument of technical co-operation among developing countries. Its establishment could take place in stages, through the gradual incorporation of new institutions, and could be carried out in modular form, since each new institution incorporated into the network will contribute information on new areas or will add to those already existing, at the same time proposing new information needs. The critical mass that must be developed is minimal, since it is basically a question of making more intensive use of the already existing resources and infrastructure of equipment and specialized installations; although minimal, this critical mass must actually exist in order to achieve continuity in the activities. The following are the objectives being sought:

(a) to accumulate an information base which can be used to identify the needs of women, and to design, formulate and carry out policies, plans and actions appropriately;

(b) to provide governments and other interested institutions with access to a store of systematically organized information on the existing resources for the preparation of diagnoses and the formulation of development policies and plans;

(c) to respond fully to the specific information needs;

(d) to

(d) to strengthen all efforts being made and to improve the administration of resources and avoid duplication of efforts by co-ordinating more efficiently;

(e) to provide the flow of relevant information in the region; and

(f) to provide access to the various forms of technical assistance, with the strategy itself being a form of technical assistance.

In trying to establish the information, documentation and communication network, it must be kept in mind for achieving the previously listed objectives that spontaneous efforts and interactions between institutions will not necessarily lead to the setting up of such a network. In fact, it would appear that the inventory and directory published by the Unit have led only to isolated co-ordination activities between institutions, and losses of energy and information continue to occur.^{34/ 35/}

It is becoming necessary, therefore, for ECLA to take charge of the reactivation of the network through its information system and put into practice the proposed strategy in accordance with the following four lines of action: strengthening and extension of national activities; support for information programmes at the regional and subregional levels; consolidation of the inter-agency co-ordination machinery at the regional level, and mobilization of financial resources.

Through this decentralized network of national and subregional centres, most of the information produced in the region on the subject can be collected and used, once it has been processed. Moreover, through the activities being developed in this field by the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), new possibilities are being offered for information on activities going on in other regions.

B. Strengthening and extension of national women's information activities

National machinery which may act as a focal point of programmes for women generates a quantity of information and documentation which must be properly systematized in order to make timely and expeditious use of it. Moreover, to carry out the actions of an institution, there must be a basis of knowledge to support decision-making and to ensure a better use of the existing resources inside and outside of the institution.

The circulation of information among the agents which produce it and between the latter and the final users of this information is a complex process. The diversity of sources which produce information and the multiplicity of users makes it impractical to resort exclusively to direct and informal mechanisms through which each user makes contact with each source of relevant information in order to make use of it. The geographical dispersion of the sources and the time this would cost the user have created a need to establish a set of intermediate mechanisms, made up of all kinds of units, whose purpose is to establish a connection between sources and users. There is a notable shortage of national agencies which have a systematized control over information on women which avoids duplication of efforts and increases the effectiveness of services. It is thus becoming necessary to establish a series of exchanges aimed at creating, inter alia, information units in places where there are none,

/rationalizing and

rationalizing and strengthening the existing ones and generally promoting more co-operation and exchange of information among them. This must be done through a system which co-ordinates the work being done by various institutions in the country without changing their individual structures, and seeks to reconcile the methodologies in use.

It is also important to remember that problem-solving, decision-making and implementing of actions in the process of integration of women in development normally requires various combinations of prepared information simultaneously. Rather than a single piece of information or unidimensional data, there needs to be an organized set, or as it is usually called, a "package of information", structured in accordance with the various facets of the information needed.^{36/}

1. Organization of the information required

To carry out their programmes of action, the national mechanisms require, first of all, an information base to support their management. The scope and content of this information base must include the various aspects and considerations necessary for the development and co-ordination of the various programmes on women: (a) statistical data, compiled, analysed and prepared sectorally on the basis of some components and indicators, which make it possible to formulate the basic profile of the situation of women in the country, at the same time incorporating new indicators which increase its utility and relevance; (b) institutional information related to the programmes of action and to the institutional and administrative mechanisms created for carrying them out; compilation of this information will help to support inter-agency co-ordination, permitting access to adequate arrangements to supervise and evaluate the participation of women in the development programmes, both general and sectoral; at the same time improving intersectoral communication and avoiding the creation of water-tight compartments, and (c) bibliographical information which includes some key documents, the result of specific studies on women, which contribute knowledge on the real situation and its causes, and which make possible the preparation of global diagnoses and/or on certain groups of women to be given preference.

On a more specific level, a base of this nature should contain information on aspects of the programmes to which these offices are reporting. In the field of legislation this should include, for example, information on programmes designed to inform about the laws guaranteed by legislation, advisory assistance and legal services; educational and informative programmes on the socio-economic consequences of the laws, which may help to avoid the unilateral application of the law; programmes for distributing information on existing legal machinery, etc.

Since education is another priority area proposed by the programmes of these offices, its information base must contain specialized areas, such as programmes of information about opportunities for employment and obtaining education, training and technical knowledge; education programmes and campaigns using the mass communication media, aimed at eliminating prejudices and changing traditional attitudes; training programmes on the use of different means of communication;

support programmes for community activities, such as literacy and health campaigns, nutrition and attention to social services, such as child care and rehabilitation centres; programmes to publish information on problems of and opportunities for women, including the practical areas of family budget, health care and family planning. An information base of this type would also help develop periodic research aimed at generating specific data or updating the information in periods between censuses, with coverage and breakdown according to the particular needs of planning in direct relation to the national statistics offices, offices of national planning and research bodies.

2. Institutional arrangements

The creation of these national mechanisms and the need for an information infrastructure to support the development of their programmes makes it necessary that these information, documentation and communication activities should be under their jurisdiction. However, the responsibility of putting them into operation should be shared by those institutions which in one way or another are related to the subject of women, and especially by those which already have information units, that is, ministerial secretariats, national planning offices, national statistics offices, and academic and research institutions.

Presently, there is no doubt that it is impossible for an institution, or even a country, to possess all the information produced in any field of knowledge or area of development. The volume of information, costs of publication, transport and analysis of information make this possibility remote.

Inter-agency co-operation agreements in the field of information, which in their most complex form are expressed in information networks, function on the basis of sharing the costs of the various technical operations in order to obtain all the benefits. If the fields of responsibility of a network are well defined, it is possible to have access to all the information as well as to avoid the materials being acquired and processed more than once.^{37/ 38/}

Thus, the allocation of responsibilities for the co-ordination of this network should be a motive for inter-agency agreements, since the perceived needs make it necessary to establish an information system which is more than a centralized, unique processor in that it facilitates the work being done by various agencies in the country without changing their individual structures, seeking rather to standardize methods and forms of storing, processing and disseminating information on the subject.

3. Financing

Nationally, it is assumed that the obtaining of financial resources to carry out information programmes will continue to be one of the principal limitations to the strengthening of management in this area. It is thus important to design a domestic strategy which will make it possible to direct these resources towards these programmes, depending on the possibilities of each country.

/It would

It would therefore be useful to stimulate interest at the highest level in having national information programmes adapted to the nature, possibilities and location of the producers and users of this information and to ensure that the operations of the latter are taken over by the countries and financed by their own resources.

In some countries the quantity of information on development has been considered of sufficient general interest for the services to be provided free, so their cost has been financed by the governments. In others, there are good arguments against these information services being offered free; it is generally held that free information is not analysed critically but it is accepted even when it is invalid and inappropriate. In this case, the "quantity of users" factor would have to be considered, since it has a visible effect on the costs of a given service, and thus government aid will inevitably be necessary.

The costs of establishing and financing information centres may be absorbed by one or more of the following sources: regular agency budget; government subsidies; aid from international organizations; foundations and other private organizations in the country and abroad; payments by users and donations by groups for projects which require specific information. Help might also come from academic and research institutions which have a functioning infrastructure already. All these possibilities could be combined to take care of the financial needs.^{39/}

In conclusion, forms of direct financing should be developed and implemented by establishing special funds in favour of these programmes, as well as devising other mechanisms to build up the resources to be used for this purpose.

C. Support for regional and subregional information programmes

The very characteristics of the problem of information on the subject of women makes it advisable to resort to a regional or subregional approach in order to implement, in a given socio-cultural framework, the general methods resulting from the global approach to women's affairs. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the strengthening of regional co-operation with respect to information for development is making it possible to resolve similar or shared problems with increasing effectiveness.

The objectives of a future intra-regional co-operation on aspects of information for women could include, inter alia, the establishment of new forms of integration of the mechanisms which are participating in the process, the adoption of exchange and co-operation agreements and better use of the experiences and existing resources in some countries. From another perspective, the powers conferred on ECLA by regional and international mandates as the responsible body for the execution of the regional programme of action for the integration of women into development make the need foreseeable of strengthening a regional information infrastructure on the subject. This infrastructure, upon receiving the information from the national centres, will facilitate the periodic evaluative processes of the Commission and aid in appropriate decision-making. These objectives could be achieved, for example, by the following measures:

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(a) The establishment of regional machinery which could provide in a step-by-step programme the elements necessary for establishing an information exchange network among the relevant national agencies.

(b) Strengthening of regional co-operation, which should be basically directed towards complementing and supporting national efforts to create the necessary machinery to help improve information on the subject and provide appropriate systematization and distribution.

(c) Promotion of a co-ordinated distribution of responsibilities and services so that each country received what it needs and can provide what others require, thus substantially strengthening regional self-sufficiency in such areas as training, information technologies and exchange of information and experiences.

(d) Establishment of shared goals and objectives, selection of options, maintaining of long-term policies and gradual strengthening of national agency machinery so that the latter help improve the participation of women in the process of development, by means of expeditious information services, thus supporting the consolidation of an authentic regional collective collaboration.

(e) Strengthening of the structure of the ECLA Unit for the Integration of Women into Development, with specialized information resources for the co-ordination -in regard to information programmes for women- of the efforts of the institutional infrastructure of international co-operation in the region, especially of the agencies of the United Nations system and the regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations which could participate in the programme of the future network.

(f) Development of the subregionalization of the proposed programme in order to deal with specific problems and facilitate the operativeness of this programme.

A programme of this nature tries to reflect a regional attitude and is primarily oriented towards complementing national efforts, but in no case replaces them. The framework of regional co-operation in information matters for women proposed here tends towards the carrying out of regional, priority initiatives which contribute to and support the efforts which the governments might make in pursuit of these objectives.

D. Consolidation of the inter-agency co-ordination machinery

The formulation of an information, documentation and communication strategy for women is also conceived as a component which will help strengthen the activities carried out in the region by the agencies of the United Nations system and regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations, and as an instrument of inter-agency co-ordination.^{40/} Through the existing institutional and operative machinery, the co-ordination of information activities for women is presented as a process of practical and progressive adjustments, in accordance with the existing effective possibilities, tending to increase the rationality and compatibilization of activities and avoid duplications, with integration considered as a pragmatic rather than theoretical exercise. A co-ordination of this nature is fully compatible with the individual character of the organizations, which would continue to develop their own activities and provide information to the co-ordinating unit about them.

One of the existing mechanisms which it has been suggested should be strengthened is the one that controls the exchange and dissemination of information and documentation on women produced by the different agencies of the United Nations system. An improvement in this direction would make it possible to acquire a wide range of information and experience on activities for women or about them which have been carried out or which are in progress in the various organizations, since these activities are not the same for all the sectors dealt with by the various organizations (although some of them are closely interrelated) nor are the measures the same which each agency can adopt in the different countries with which it co-operates.^{41/} It is anticipated that if planned and effective exchange procedures among these organizations were applied, each organization would be able to maintain its collections of material, which would result in better access to information for the staff of each agency.^{42/}

Another useful mechanism for overcoming the shortage of resources dedicated to these programmes is the maximum development of the existing resources, which should be oriented towards action by means of co-ordination and integration of the activities being carried out regionally, subregionally and nationally and by co-operation among the countries themselves.^{43/} The accomplishment of these tasks regionally and subregionally has been undertaken by ECLA, and nationally by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through its Resident Representative Co-ordinator.^{44/} It is thus necessary to strengthen the efforts at co-ordination now being made in this field between UNDP and ECLA, in order to support the establishment of the proposed network. This would make it possible to have the information on the programmes or projects for women in the different countries centrally located.

In addition, the focal points of the agencies of the United Nations system, through its specialized systems of information -the Inter-American Agricultural Sciences Information System (AGRINTER), the Health Information Network for Latin America and the Caribbean (BIREME), and the Latin American Population Documentation System (DOCPAL), etc.- could circulate through the existing channels, inventories of information resources in the region which could be used by programmes for women: clearing houses, data banks, documentation centres, specialized libraries, etc., with information on the content of the collections, forms of organization, access and type of services provided. These exchanges of information would require only the preparation of informative guides for access to these services.

In relation to the technical internal procedures used by the specialized information systems of the various organizations of the United Nations system, the suggestion has been made to establish some levels of standardization, mainly with regard to terminologies for the analysis of information for women and access to data bases. This mechanism is conceived on the basis of inter-agency co-operation on information, which is a concept which has been developing for some time within the 'macro' objective of a regional action, acquiring concrete features based on proposals by international and regional agencies such as UNESCO and ECLA, through CLADES, on the basis of studies and research done in the region.^{45/}

Finally, there are mechanisms with experience in inter-agency co-ordination on programmes for women -such as the subdivision for the advance of women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in Vienna and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) which could extend their scope to other regions of the world.

The inter-agency co-ordination mechanisms mentioned above are only examples and were selected to show some achievements made through the co-ordination among the institutions involved in women's affairs and the approaches they have taken to the problems of information. The strengthening of these mechanisms would help reinforce the setting up of the regional and/or subregional information programme, in accordance with the governmental support allocated to it at this meeting. The setting of priorities on the part of the governments will be the indispensable policy guideline in defining the forms of concrete co-operation and co-ordination based on the commitment by the regional organizations to participate in these activities.

E. Mobilization of financial resources

One of the reasons that the development of the areas concerning information, documentation and communication for women has been limited regionally and sub-regionally has been the shortage of resources available for these activities; the development of these resources has not been considered a priority in the resource allocation policies of the financial bodies of programmes for women, whose approaches have been primarily action-oriented, with projects which lead more directly to economic well-being of women and their families.

The few experiences in the area of information and communication for women suffer from some limitations which have impeded a more planned and longer-term action; financing in general has been for too short a period to permit continuity within the institutions. The sporadic and uncertain nature of the allocation of funds, and the granting of these funds conditioned upon punctual aspects of the problem, have delayed institutionalization and made a more global action in this field difficult.

As a result of this situation, it has been felt that a fourth component of this strategy should be an effective and efficient search for a mobilization of financial resources to support information, documentation and communication programmes for women. This should be carried out nationally, regionally and worldwide with the support of governments, programmes and organizations of the United Nations system, and should receive bilateral and multilateral aid.^{46/}

In this area it would be useful to identify and disseminate information on financial institutions and other possibilities for aid in this field. It would be also necessary to keep the governments and other institutions in charge of women's affairs, which are seeking to implement information and documentation programmes, informed about the internal procedures by which the financial institutions are governed in order to guide future requests for aid. It will also be useful, therefore, to seek a closer relationship with existing development information systems in the region, such as the Inter-American Agricultural Sciences Information System (AGRINTER), and the Health Information Network for Latin America and the Caribbean (BIREME). It will also be desirable to create a link with the Information System for Planning in Latin America and the Caribbean (INFOPLAN), which works in a broader field than the other organizations.

In general terms, these are financed mainly by international, multilateral organizations. A feasible and rational alternative for obtaining funds for the programmes of information on women would be to incorporate the subject as one more component in the existing information systems.

Finally, the international and finance bodies which participate in programmes for women should make an effort to understand the importance of information as a component of development and the appropriateness of these programmes' including this component among their activities, so that an infrastructure is created in this field to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge and to increase the possibilities for transmitting experiences.

IV. SOME CONCLUSIONS

Knowledge and experience have been accumulating in the region about the situation of women; interest and concern for the study of the subject has increased since 1975, with some areas still missing, however. The problem of women has currently become a subject of research, study and questioning in the region, but due to its multifaceted nature, more problems have appeared, as well as new approaches for dealing with them and new theoretical perspectives which show the complexity of the subject.

On the operational level there are various options in the region for organizing it, and a number of isolated actions carried out by government and private institutions which lack the machinery which would allow them to acquire systematic knowledge of this experience, which besides avoiding duplication of efforts would facilitate evaluative processes and help give these actions a multiplier effect. The studies done using different working methodologies lack the necessary distribution, and their results do not appear to be cumulative, so there is little possibility that they could be used by other researchers and professionals interested in these matters.

There is also a growing number of bodies of a different nature which publish information on the situation of women; however, the regularity with which this occurs varies from one organization to another, with no definite policy existing. In this same sense, the variety of participating agents with specific functions in this process is another aspect which may be observed, and the need for information from these agents differs in content and scope. The process of integration of women into development generates and requires information of its own, and although a part of it is found already in the data bases of other disciplinary or interdisciplinary systems, the bias that they give to this information means that its presentation and the context in which it is inserted are not the most suitable for the different users of this process. In future stages, however, a close connection is anticipated with broader spectrum systems within the field of social development and with other sectoral systems of information.

Some national and international financial support has also been given to the subject.

The background information and proposals presented represent various challenges for the institutions of the region. The accomplishment of the tasks assumes taking a position on information, since the institutions and persons which promote development require information each time they need to resolve a problem, and more specifically each time they need to make decisions, either to come up with alternative solutions or to carry out actions to put some of them into practice.

The lack of a mechanism for concertive action in the field of information for women is described in the third chapter of this document, which formulates a regional strategy, conceived on the basis of a concept of a network of participants which tend to be integrated and co-ordinated with some institutions acting as focal points or catalysts of the flows of information.

The network, which must be made up of intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental institutions and centres involved in the problem of women, has the following priority objectives: (a) to carry out effectively the exchange and circulation of information and particularly to stimulate information flows between countries of the region; (b) to strengthen all efforts being made and, through a more efficient co-ordination, to improve the administration of resources and avoid duplication of efforts; (c) to operationalize the results of the diagnosis in order to make the changes needed to improve the flow of information on the subject in two time periods: in the first, through a specific and particular system which incorporates the various aspects of information with the level of preparation required by the process of integration of women into development; then, through their integration in broader spectrum systems, within the area of economic and social development of which they form a part.

To achieve these objectives, the strategy proposes to carry out actions in accordance with four principal projections, which have been taking shape in the implementation of information programmes in recent years: strengthening of national actions, support for subregional and regional information programmes, consolidation of inter-agency co-operation and co-ordination machinery at the regional level, and mobilization of financial resources to support information and communication activities.

(a) At the national level, the institutions involved in programmes for women now have proposals in the field of information on which they need to make a statement. Among these, the strengthening of the focal points which feed into the network is a basic area of the strategy proposed and requires governmental support. The attempt is to establish a system of informations which besides being a centralized, single processor would help co-ordinate the work being done by various institutions in the country, without changing their individual structures but rather trying to standardize methods and forms of storage, processing and dissemination of information on the subject. It has also been recognized that the problems, in the area of information and communication as well as with respect to development in general, are national in nature, and that each country must first resort to its own devices to solve them. But although the principle of self-sufficiency is of utmost importance, it has also been observed that there is an evident link between the areas related to information and communication at the national level and at the regional and international levels. As a result, although it is appropriate to determine measures in these areas in the countries, it has also seemed essential to anticipate, in the formulation of national information and communication programmes, measures to promote co-operation and exchange with the greatest frequency possible at the subregional, regional and international levels.

(b) Regionally, ECLA, by the mandates of the governments, is one of the institutions which has programmes in the information area. This places it in a position to issue, through CLADES, its specialized branch, certain statements with respect to the deficient areas of the regional information infrastructure and identify those institutions which could potentially have a greater impact on the promotion of change.^{47/}

/In addition,

In addition, the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into the Development of Latin America recommends that ECLA should assume a leading role in formulating policies, developing machinery and instruments and co-ordinating and implementing measures that permit women to participate equally with men in the political, economic and social life of the respective countries of the region as a whole.^{48/}

Thus, the strategy proposes the strengthening of regional and subregional actions. The implementation of a programme in this field could gradually provide the necessary elements for the establishment of the network. The strengthening of regional co-operation will basically be directed towards complementing and supporting national efforts to establish the necessary machinery for improving information on the subject and its appropriate systematization and dissemination. A regional programme thus conceived will necessarily tend to stimulate actions in the countries and promote a co-ordinated distribution of responsibilities and services, thus substantially strengthening regional self-sufficiency in various areas, inter alia, training, information technologies and the exchange and dissemination of information and experiences. The development of the latter will not merely be a response to conjunctural problems but rather a programmed and continued action, which will be carried out in stages leading to a coherent and global whole.

(c) In an intra-regional strategy, ECLA is not the only possible place to formulate proposals in the field of information and integration of women into development. The opinions expressed must therefore be considered as preliminary suggestions subject to discussion among regional institutions interested in these problems. Through the existing institutions and operative machinery, the co-ordination of information activities for women is presented as a process of practical and progressive adjustments, aimed at increasing the rationality and compatibilization of actions in order to take advantage of the existing experience in international institutions which have already participated in this process.

(d) In order to implement the three areas described above, it is necessary to mobilize financial resources. It has been estimated that the first components of the strategy must be the search for effective and efficient financial resources to support information, documentation and communication programmes for women. The resources which should be sought nationally, regionally and worldwide will be composed of contributions by governments, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system and bilateral and multilateral financial sources.

In brief, the field of information, by its very nature, is one of the most propitious for promoting a full development of horizontal co-operation in the form of the proposed strategy. The most relevant actions of the latter would be the activities of the national information, documentation and communication infrastructures and the supply of information services, and their accessibility to institutions in the field of women study would also facilitate the exchange of experiences among countries with similar levels of development.

Notes

- 1/ ECLA/CLADES, La infraestructura de información para el desarrollo, América Latina y el Caribe. Informe de diagnóstico regional, E/CEPAL/CLADES/L.7, Santiago, Chile, 1981.
- 2/ ECLA, Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development, paragraphs 21.3.iv and v; 88.1.iii, and 88.5.ix.
- 3/ United Nations, Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, paragraphs 259, 260, 263, 266, 268, 270, 272 and 285.
- 4/ United Nations General Assembly resolution 35/56, paragraphs 125 and 173.
- 5/ Ibid., resolution 35/136, paragraphs 8 and 10.
- 6/ Ibid., resolution 31/135.
- 7/ ECLA/CLADES, La infraestructura de información..., op.cit.
- 8/ In August 1982, the government established the Office of Promotion of Women, dependent on the Presidency of the Republic.
- 9/ United Nations, Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace ..., op.cit.
- 10/ ECLA, Diagnóstico de la situación de la mujer centroamericana de Cuba, México, Panamá y República Dominicana, E/CEPAL/MEX/SEM.7/R.1, January 1982.
- 11/ SEGEPLAN, Department of Social Development, Plan Nacional de Desarrollo 1983-1986, "Participación de la mujer en el desarrollo", preliminary version, Guatemala City, February 1982.
- 12/ CONSUPLANE, Plan Nacional de Desarrollo 1979-1983, "Promoción Social", Tegucigalpa, undated.
- 13/ Ibid., Sistema interinstitucional para incrementar la participación de la mujer en el proceso de desarrollo (SIMDE), second version, Tegucigalpa, 1981.
- 14/ INA, Programa de Integración Social de la Familia Campesina, Directrices para la incorporación de la mujer campesina al proceso productivo en el sector reformado, Tegucigalpa, May 1982.
- 15/ Industrial Development Centre, El Programa de Tecnologías Rurales (PTR), Tegucigalpa, April 1982.
- 16/ Ive de Barreiros, Diagnóstico sobre la situación actual de la información para planificación, Tegucigalpa, CONSUPLANE, 1979.
- 17/ ECLA/CLADES, Information system for planning in Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago, Chile, 1979.
- 18/ International Women's Tribune Centre, Mobilizing women, New York, 1980.
- 19/ Mónica Jiménez, Evaluación de programas de acción y de educación de la mujer rural, FAO, 1981.
- 20/ Teresita Barbieri, Investigación sobre la mujer en América Latina: estado actual, necesidades y perspectivas, Mexico City, Instituto de Investigaciones Sociales, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, 1980.

21/ This summary table is a result of the following experience:

(a) information gathered during the technical assistance missions to institutions in Central America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean; (b) preparation of the following documents: ECLA, Lista bibliográfica sobre la situación de la mujer en América Latina, E/CEPAL/G.1100, 1979, and Perfil de la situación de la mujer en Bolivia, E/CEPAL/G.1190, 1982; (c) review of specialized studies: Zulma Recchini de Lattes and Catalina Wainerman, Data from censuses and household surveys for the analysis of female labour in Latin America and the Caribbean: appraisal of deficiencies and recommendations for dealing with them, E/CEPAL/L.206, 1979; Teresita Barbieri, Investigación sobre la mujer en América Latina: estado actual, necesidades y perspectivas, Mexico City, Instituto de Investigaciones Sociales, 1980; Mónica Jiménez, Evaluación de programas de acción y de educación de la mujer rural, FAO, 1981; (d) analysis of specialized bibliographies on the subject of women done by UNICEF, IICA and DOCPAL; and (e) review of plans, programmes and mandatory documents emanating from the United Nations system.

22/ ECLA, Inventario de proyectos sobre integración de la mujer al desarrollo en América Latina, Santiago, Chile, 1979.

23/ ECLA, Perfil de la situación de la mujer en Bolivia, E/CEPAL/G.1190, 1982.

24/ ECLA, Integración de la mujer en el desarrollo de América Latina. Directorio de instituciones, actividades y recursos humanos, E/CEPAL/G.1102, Santiago, Chile, 1979.

25/ El Colegio de México and Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Primer Simposio Mexicano-Centroamericano de Investigación-sobre la Mujer, Mexico City, 7-9 November 1977; Instituto Universitario de Pesquisas do Rio de Janeiro (IUPERJ), Seminario A Mulher na Força de Trabalho na America Latina, Rio de Janeiro, 23-26 November 1978; Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales (CLACSO), Grupo Ocupación-Desocupación, Subgrupo Participación Femenina en el Mercado de Trabajo, Primera Reunión sobre Participación Femenina y Familia, Montevideo, 11-14 December 1979.

26/ ECLA, Regional Plan of Action ..., op.cit.

27/ ECLA/CLADES, La infraestructura de información ..., op.cit.

28/ Zulma Recchini de Lattes and Catalina Wainerman, Data from censuses and household surveys for the analysis of female labour in Latin America and the Caribbean: appraisal of deficiencies and recommendations for dealing with them, E/CEPAL/L.206, 1979; ECLA, Perfil de la situación de la mujer en Bolivia, op.cit. In this study, done by the Specialized Women's Unit, some of the areas are developed which are considered priority areas by the Decade for Women, formulating suggestions on new indicators.

29/ United Nations, General Assembly resolution 33/186.

30/ United Nations, Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/15, E/CN.6/642, chapter I, section A.

31/ United Nations, General Assembly resolution 31/135, op.cit.

32/ ECLA/CLADES, Design and implementation of the Information, Documentation and Communication Subprogramme of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), Santiago, Chile, 1981.

33/ ECLA/CLADES, Design and implementation of the Information, ..., op.cit. pp. 17 and 18.

34/ ECLA/CLADES, Inventario de proyectos sobre la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo ..., op.cit.

35/ ECLA/CLADES, Integración de la mujer en el desarrollo ..., op.cit.

36/ ECLA/CLADES, La información: catalizador del proceso de integración en América Latina, E/CEPAL/CLADES/R.7, Santiago, Chile, 1980.

37/ ECLA/CLADES, La infraestructura de información ..., op.cit.

38/ Study Group of the Information System for the Development Sciences, DEVSIS: Preliminary design of an international information system for the development sciences, Ottawa, 1976, pp. 114 and 128.

39/ UNESCO/UNISIST, Guidelines on the planning of national scientific and technological information systems, Paris, 1975.

40/ The implementation of the Joint Inter-Organizational Programme was normatively based on decisions adopted by the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year (Mexico, 1985), General Assembly resolution 3520 (XXX) and the Inter-agency Geneva Agreement of September 1976 (Co-ordination R/1117). This agreement points out the special responsibility of ECLA as the regional co-ordinator of the Joint Inter-agency Programme, whose implementation is under its competence along with the participant organizations which signed the Geneva Agreement. For its part, the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development (RPA), 1977, calls on ECLA to convene periodic meetings for exchanging information and evaluating the activities carried out by the United Nations system on the subject.

41/ ECLA, in its role as co-ordinating body of the inter-agency programme and clearing house for information on programmes related to women in the region (paragraph 28 of the Report of the Special Inter-agency Meeting on the Recommendations of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, carried out a study in 1979 on the projects and activities related to women which were being developed in various countries of the region with the collaboration of the organizations of the United Nations system. Later, in 1982, a document was prepared entitled Perfil de la situación de la mujer en Bolivia. Recently, the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women approved the preparation of corresponding profiles for Honduras and Haiti; this act was a new opportunity to work in co-ordination with the agencies of the United Nations system.

42/ With respect to the dissemination of information, exchange of mailing lists and development of a joint central list would contribute to this process. ECLA prepared a computerized list of institutions involved in women's affairs in 1982: ECLA, Catálogo de direcciones de la Unidad de la Mujer, 1982.

43/ ECLA, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), developed a study on the work being done by the various bodies of the United Nations system in Mexico: ECLA, Informe sobre los proyectos relacionados con el tema de la mujer que llevan a cabo en México los organismos del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, E/CEPAL/MEX/Proy.1/L.1/Rev.1, 1982.

44/ United Nations, General Assembly resolution 32/197.

45/ ECLA/CLADES, Guidelines for concerted action between agencies operating information programmes for development in Latin America and the Caribbean, E/CEPAL/CLADES/R.3. Document presented at the Inter-Agency Consultation on Information Activities in Latin America and the Caribbean, sponsored by UNESCO and the General Programme of Information (GPI) and organized by the Inter-American Agricultural Sciences Institute (IICA) and the Inter-American Agricultural Documentation and Information Centre (CIDIA), San José, Costa Rica, 21-25 April 1980.

46/ Study Group of the Information System for the Development Sciences, DEVSIS: Preliminary design of an international information system ..., op.cit., p. 111.

47/ ECLA, resolution 303 (XIV), 1971.

48/ ECLA, Regional Plan of Action ..., op.cit., paragraph 87.

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