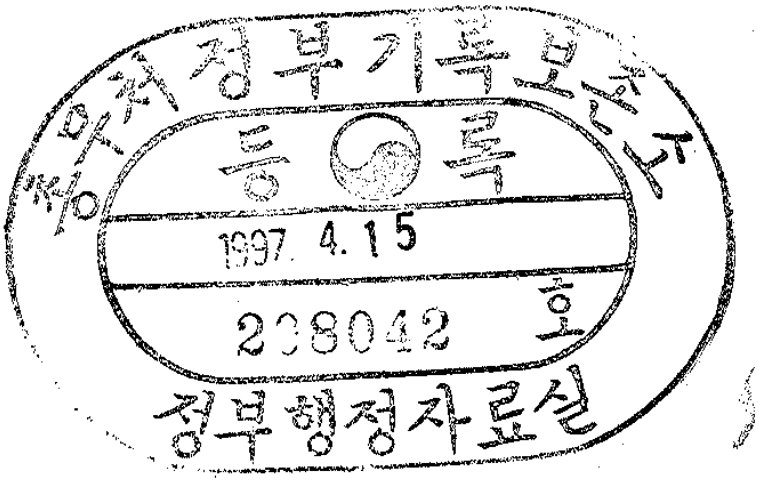
정책자료 95-7

유엔 제4차 세계여성회의 참가보고서

(1995. 9. 4 ~ 15, 북경)

정무장관(제2)실


대한민국정부기록보존소
등록
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238042 호
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Ⅰ. 회 의 개 관

1. 회의개요

가. 명　　칭 : 제4차 세계여성회의－평등, 발전, 평화를 위한 행동
(The Fourth World Conference on Women : Action for Equality, Development and Peace)

나. 기간 및 장소 : '95. 9. 4～15, 중국　북경 국제회의장

다. 목　　적

○ 1985년 이후 나이로비 여성발전전략의 이행상황 검토 및 평가

○ 2000년대 여성지위향상을 위한 행동강령(Platform for Action) 채택

라. 회의성격

○ 제4차 세계여성회의는 '90년대 들어 유엔 주관으로 개최된 세계적 규모의 회의인 아동정상회의(90년), 리우환경회의(92년), 세계인권회의(93년), 국제인구개발회의(94년), 사회개발정상회의(95년 3월)의 결과를 여성지위향상이라는 측면에서 통합함으로써 여성의 문제를 범세계적 문제(Global Agenda)로 인식하는 국제적인 공감대를 형성하였음.

○ 특히 이번 회의가 종전의 세계회의와 다른 점은 이전의 회의는 특정주제와 개발의 상관관계를 집중적으로 다루었는데 반해 세계여성회의는 냉전종식후 새로운 세계질서를 구축하는 과정에서 여성지위향상을 개발의 제반 측면에서 보다 포괄적이고 능동적으로 파악하였다는 점임.

○ 여성문제를 사회문제의 한부분으로 보아왔던 소극적인 시각에서 탈피하여 보편적인 인권으로서의 여성의 권리에 대해 주목하고 다가오는 새로운 세기에 인류전체의 지속가능한 개발(sustainable development)을 이루기 위해서는 여성의 지위향상 및 권한증대(empowerment)가 필수불가결하다는 점을 전제로 하였다는 데에 큰 의의가 있음.

2. 개최 경위 및 배경

가. 개최경위

○ '90. 5. 24, 유엔경제사회이사회(ECOSOC)에서 세계여성회의 개최 권고(1990/12)

○ '90년 제45차 유엔총회에서 동 ECOSOC결의 승인 및 여성지위위원회를 준비기구로 지정(45/129)

○ '91년 제46차 유엔총회에서 개최장소를 여성지위위원회가 결정토록 요청(46/98)

○ '92. 3월 제36차 여성지위위원회에서 제4차 세계여성회의 개최 장소 및 의제 결정

나. 개최배경

○ 유엔, 1975년을 세계여성의 해(International Women's Year)로 지정

○ 제1차 세계여성회의 개최(1975, 멕시코시티)

- 세계여성의 해 기념
- 멕시코 선언 및 세계행동계획(219개항)채택
- 유엔여성 10년대 선포 유도

○ 유엔, 1976~1985기간을 유엔여성 10년대(UN Decade for Women : Equality, Development and Peace)로 선포

○ 제2차 세계여성회의 개최(1980, 코펜하겐)

- 유엔여성 10년대 중간평가
- 유엔여성 10년대 후반기 행동계획(Program of Action for the Second Half of the UN Decade for Women, 287개항)채택

○ 제3차 세계여성회의 개최(1985, 나이로비)

- 유엔여성 10년대 마감
- 여성지위향상을 위한 나이로비 전략(Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000, 372개항)채택

○ 1990년, 제34차 여성지위위원회에서 나이로비 전략의 이행상황에 대한 제1차 검토평가 보고

○ 제4차 세계여성회의는 나이로비 전략의 이행상황에 대한 제2차 검토평가와 동 전략중 시급히 이행해야 할 사항에 대한 구체적인 행동전략을 새로이 모색하기 위하여 개최

3. 회의 참가규모 : 총 13,200여명

가. 정부대표 : 189개국(5,700여명)

○ 영부인 참석국 : 16개국

나. 유엔산하기구 및 국제기구 : 38개 기구(300여명)

다. 민간단체(NGO) : 4,000여명

라. 언론인 : 3,200여명

마. 유엔사무총장 특별초청인사(6명)

○ Hillary Clinton 미국 대통령 부인

○ Bernadette Chirac 프랑스 대통령 부인

○ Basma Bint Talal 요르단 왕비 등

바. 중국정부 특별초청인사(16명)

○ 손명순 우리나라 대통령 부인

○ Vigdis Finnbogadottir 아이슬란드 대통령

○ Alberto Fujimori 페루 대통령

○ Begum Kaleda Zia 방글라데시 총리

○ Benazir Bhutto 파키스탄 총리

○ Gro Harlem Brundtland 노르웨이 총리

○ Speciosa Wandira Kazibwe 우간다 부통령

○ Suzanne Mubarak 이집트 대통령 부인등

4. 우리나라 대표단(36명)

○ 명예수석대표 : 대통령부인 손명순 여사

○ 수 석 대 표 : 김장숙 정무장관(제2)

○ 교체수석대표 : 황병태 주중국대사

○ 대 표 (14) : 함명철 외무부 국제연합국장

김명숙 보건복지부 가정복지심의관

안희옥 정무장관(제2)실 제3조정관

이광재 주유엔대표부 참사관

신 명 노동부 부녀소년과장

황인자 정무장관(제2)실 제3조정관실 담당관

박돌봉 국무총리 행정조정실 제3행정조정관실 서기관

윤미량 통일원 정보분석실 사무관

김형욱 재정경제원 복지생활과 사무관

백주현 외무부 인권사회과 사무관

오현주 외무부 인권사회과 사무관

박춘란 교육부 대학행정지원과 사무관

김혜순 정무장관(제2)실 제1조정관실 5급상당

이정심 정무장관(제2)실 제3조정관실 5급상당

○ 고 문 : 이우정 국회의원(여성특위위원장)

(19)

강선영 국회의원(여성특위)

주양자 국회의원(여성특위)

정옥순 국회의원(여성특위)

강부자 국회의원(여성특위)

박정수 국회의원(외무통일위)

금진호 국회의원(통상산업위)

강장석 국회사무처 국제국장

김영정 대한적십자사 부총재

박보희 여성정책심의위원

이연숙 여성정책심의위원

김모임 연세대 보건대학원장

정세화 한국여성개발원 원장

김양희 한국여성개발원 책임연구원

이미경 한국여성NGO위원회 실행위원

손봉숙 한국여성NGO위원회 실행위원

박영혜 한국여성NGO위원회 실행위원

김령자 한국노동조합총연맹 여성국장

신태희 서울시청 가정복지국장

* 북한은 윤기정 재정부장을 수석대표로 하여 관계공무원 중심으로 15명이 참가하였음(여 11명, 남 4명).

5. 특별행사

가. 민간단체 회의(NGO Forum)

○ 일시 및 장소 : 8. 30~9. 8, 북경교외 懷柔(Huairou)

○ 여성문제에 관심이 있는 NGO의 경우 사전에 NGO조직위원회에 등록만 하면 참가 가능하였으며, 여성과 관련된 회의, 세미나, 워크샵, 강연회, 전시회, 연극, 영화상영 등 다양한 행사를 개최하였음.

○ 세미나, 워크샵을 통해 모여진 의견은 NGO제안내용으로서 세계여성회의에서 정부대표들에게 배포되었음.

○ 우리나라 700여명을 비롯하여 전세계적으로 30,000여명 참가

나. 유엔기구 프로그램

○ UNESCO, WHO, ILO, UNIFEM 등 각종 유엔기구들이 주최한 세미나, 패널토의, 원탁회의 등 특별행사가 세계여성회의 기간중 회의장 인근에서 열렸음.

Ⅱ. 회의 의제 및 조직, 일정

1. 회의의제

구 분	의 제 내 용	관 련 문 서
의제 1	개회(Opening of the Conference)	
의제 2	의장선출(Election of the President)	
의제 3	의사규칙 채택 (Adoption of the rules of procedure)	A/CONF. 177/2 A/CONF. 177/L.4
의제 4	의제채택 및 기타 회의운영사항 (Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters)	A/CONF.177/1 A/CONF.177/L.4
의제 5	의장외 임원 선출 (Election of officers other than the President)	
의제 6	주위원회 구성 등 회의운영 (Organization of work, including the establishment of the Main Committee)	A/CONF.177/3 A/CONF.177/L.4
의제 7	회의 참가대표 신임장 (Credentials of representatives to the Conference) (a) 신임장위원회 위원 임명 (Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee) (b) 신임장위원회 보고서 (Report of the Credentials Committee)	 A/CONF.177/14

구 분	의 제 내 용	관 련 문 서
의제 8	일반의견 교환 (General exchange of views) (a) 나이로비전략 이행상황 제2차 검토 평가 (Second review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the year 2000) (b) 지역 준비회의 주요결과 및 권고사항 (Main conclusions and recommendations of regional preparatory conferences) (c) 각국의 우선순위와 공약 (National priorities and commitments)	A/CONF. 177/4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15
의제 9	행동강령 (Platform for Action)	A/CONF.177/L.1, L.2, L.3, L.5, L.6
의제 10	제4차 세계여성회의 선언문 및 행동강령 채택 (Adoption of the Declaration and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women)	A/CONF.177/L.5 & addenda & corrigenda, A/CONF.177/L.9
의제 11	회의보고서 채택 (Adoption of the report of the Conference)	A/CONF.177/L.7 & Add.1(Parts I & II), A/CONF.177/L.8

2. 회의조직

가. 본회의(Plenary)

○ 각국 정부대표 및 특별초청인사 기조연설, 유엔기구, 국제기구 및 민간단체 대표 연설

○ 북경선언문, 세계여성회의 행동강령 및 회의보고서 채택.

나. 주위원회(Main Committee)

○ 실무위원회(W/G Ⅰ & Ⅱ)에서 토의된 내용을 심의, 채택한 후 그 결과를 본회의에 보고

다. 실무위원회(Working Group)

○ 북경선언 및 행동강령의 미합의 내용을 중심으로 G77, EU, 미국등 각 그룹별로 의견교환 형식으로 토의를 진행

○ 각 그룹간 의견조정이 이루어지지 않는 사항에 대해서는 별도의 Contact Group등을 통한 비공식협의(Informal Consultation)를 진행, 그 결과를 실무위원회에 보고

○ 토의과정은 원칙적으로 NGO, 언론인의 참관이 허용되지 않는 비공개회의(closed meeting)였으나, 세계여성회의 참관자격을 부여받은 NGO의 참관은 사실상 허용되었음.

3. 회의일정

일 시	구 분	내 용
9.2(토) ~ 9.3(일)	사전협의회	세계여성회의 운영에 관하여 비공식 사전 협의
9.4(월) 10 : 00		환영대회 – 강택민 주석 환영사 – 부트로스-갈리 유엔 사무총장 환영사 – 몽겔라 세계여성회의 사무총장 환영사 – "Get-together in Beijing" 주제 문화예술 공연
15 : 00	본 회 의	개회식(제1차 회의) 의제1 개회 – 유엔사무총장 개회선언 및 개회사 의제2 의장선출 – 의장 연설 의제3 의사규칙 채택 의제4 의제채택 및 기타 회의운영 사항 의제5 의장외 임원선출 의제6 주위원회 구성 등 회의운영 의제7 회의 참가대표 신임장 – 신임장위원회 위원 임명 – 신임장위원회 보고서

일 시	구 분	내 용
15 : 00	본 회 의	의제8 일반의견 교환 — 몽겔라 세계여성회의 사무총장 연설 — 부토 파키스탄 총리 연설 — 핀보가도티르 아이슬란드 대통령 연설 — 지아 방글라데시 총리 연설 — 카지브웨 우간다 부통령 연설 — 티 빈 베트남 부통령 연설
9.5(화)		
10 : 00	본 회 의	의제8 일반의견 교환(제2차 회의) — 한국 등 참가국 기조연설 시작
	주 위 원 회	제1차 회의 — 의장단 선출 및 회의 운영사항 결정 — 행동강령(안)토의를 위해 2개의 실무위원회 구성, 동시 진행키로 함.
	실무위원회 Ⅰ	행동강령(안)중 제4장 C(보건) 심의
	실무위원회 Ⅱ	행동강령(안)중 제4장 I(인권) 심의
15 : 00	본 회 의	의제8 일반의견 교환(제3차 회의)
	실무위원회 Ⅰ	행동강령(안)중 제5장 심의
	실무위원회 Ⅱ	행동강령(안)중 제4장 I(인권) 심의
9.6(수)		
10 : 00	본 회 의	의제8 일반의견 교환(제4차 회의)
	실무위원회 Ⅰ	행동강령(안)중 제5장 심의
	실무위원회 Ⅱ	행동강령(안)중 제4장 I(인권) 심의
	실무위Ⅱ비공식회의	북경선언문(안) 심의

일 시	구 분	내 용
15 : 00	본 회 의	의제8 일반의견 교환(제5차 회의)
	실무위원회 Ⅰ	행동강령(안)중 제6장 심의
	실무위원회 Ⅱ	북경선언문(안)심의
19 : 00	실무위Ⅱ비공식회의	〃
9.7(목)		
10 : 00	본 회 의	의제8 일반의견 교환(제6차 회의)
	실무위Ⅰ비공식회의	행동강령(안)중 제4장 C(보건)심의
	실무위원회 Ⅱ	행동강령(안)중 제4장 E(무력갈등) 심의
15 : 00	본 회 의	의제8 일반의견 교환(제7차 회의)
	실무위원회 Ⅰ	행동강령(안)중 제1, 2장 심의
	실무위원회 Ⅱ	행동강령(안)중 제4장 G(정책결정) 심의
19 : 00	실무위Ⅱ비공식회의	북경선언문(안) 심의
9.8(금)		
10 : 00	본 회 의	의제8 일반의견 교환(제8차 회의)
	실무위Ⅰ비공식회의	행동강령(안)중 제4장 C(보건) 심의
	실무위원회 Ⅱ	행동강령(안)중 제4장 G(정책결정) 심의
15 : 00	본 회 의	의제8 일반의견 교환(제9차 회의)
	실무위원회 Ⅰ	행동강령(안)중 제2장, 제4장 J(미디어), 제6장 심의
	실무위원회 Ⅱ	행동강령(안)중 제4장 A(빈곤) 심의
	실무위Ⅱ비공식회의	북경선언문(안) 심의

일 시	구 분	내 용
19 : 00	실무위원회 Ⅱ 실무위Ⅱ비공식회의	행동강령(안)중 제4장 F(경제활동) 심의 북경선언문(안) 심의
9.9(토) 10 : 00	실무위Ⅰ비공식회의 실무위원회 Ⅱ 실무위Ⅱ비공식회의	행동강령(안)중 제4장 C(보건) 심의 행동강령(안)중 제4장 F(경제활동) 심의 북경선언문(안) 심의
15 : 00	실무위원회 Ⅰ 실무위원회 Ⅱ 실무위Ⅱ비공식회의	행동강령(안)중 제4장 C(보건), J(미디어), L(여자어린이) 심의 행동강령(안)중 제4장 H(여성담당기구) 심의 북경선언문(안) 심의
19 : 00	실무위원회 Ⅱ	행동강령(안)중 제4장 K(환경) 심의
9.10(일) 16 : 00	실무위원회 Ⅱ	행동강령(안)중 제4장 B(교육훈련) 심의
19 : 00	실무위Ⅰ비공식회의 실무위원회 Ⅱ	행동강령(안)중 제4장 C(보건) 심의 행동강령(안)중 제4장 B(교육훈련) 심의
9.11(월) 10 : 00	본 회 의 실무위원회 Ⅰ 실무위원회 Ⅱ 실무위Ⅱ비공식회의	의제8 일반의견 교환(제10차 회의) 행동강령(안)중 제4장 C(보건) 심의 행동강령(안)중 제4장 D(성폭력) 심의 북경선언문(안) 심의

일 시	구 분	내 용
15 : 00	본 회 의	의제8 일반의견 교환(제11차 회의)
	주 위 원 회	행동강령(안)중 제4장(A, E, G, J), 제5장, 제6장 심의(제2차 회의)
	실무위원회 Ⅰ	행동강령(안)중 제4장 L(여자어린이) 심의
	실무위원회 Ⅱ	행동강령(안)중 제4장 I, E, G, A 심의(인권, 무력갈등, 정책결정, 빈곤) 심의
	실무위Ⅱ비공식회의	북경선언문(안) 심의
19 : 00	실무위원회 Ⅰ	행동강령(안)중 제4장 L(여자어린이) 심의
	실무위Ⅰ비공식회의	행동강령(안)중 제4장 C(보건) 심의
	실무위원회 Ⅱ	행동강령(안)중 제4장 I, E, G, A 심의
	실무위Ⅱ비공식회의	북경선언문(안) 심의
9.12(화)		
10 : 00	본 회 의	의제8 일반의견 교환(제12차 회의)
	실무위원회 Ⅰ	행동강령(안)중 제4장(C, L), 제3장, 제1장, 제2장 심의
	실무위원회 Ⅱ	행동강령(안)중 제4장 I, E, G, A 심의
	실무위Ⅱ비공식회의	북경선언문(안) 심의
15 : 00	본 회 의	의제8 일반의견 교환(제13차 회의)
	주 위 원 회	행동강령(안)중 제4장(A, E, G, J), 제5장, 제6장 심의(제3차 회의)
	실무위원회 Ⅰ	행동강령(안)중 제3장, 제1장, 제2장 심의
	실무위원회 Ⅱ	행동강령(안)중 제4장 I, E, G, A 심의
	실무위Ⅱ비공식회의	북경선언문(안) 심의

일 시	구 분	내 용
19 : 00	주 위 원 회	행동강령(안)중 제4장(C, I, K), 제1장, 제2장, 제3장 심의(제4차 회의)
	실무위원회 Ⅰ	행동강령(안)중 제3장, 제1장, 제2장 심의
	실무위원회 Ⅱ	행동강령(안)중 제4장 I, E, G, A 심의
	실무위Ⅱ비공식회의	북경선언문(안) 심의
9.13(수)		
10 : 00	본 회 의	의제8 일반의견 교환(제14차 회의)
	실무위원회 Ⅰ	행동강령(안)중 제4장(L), 제3장, 제1장, 제2장 심의
	실무위원회 Ⅱ	행동강령(안)중 제4장 I, E, G, A, F, H, K, B, D 심의
	실무위Ⅱ비공식회의	북경선언문(안) 심의
15 : 00	실무위원회 Ⅰ	행동강령(안)중 제4장(L), 제3장, 제1장, 제2장 심의
	실무위원회 Ⅱ	행동강령(안)중 제4장 I, E, G, A, F, H, K, B, D 심의
	실무위Ⅱ비공식회의	북경선언문(안) 심의
19 : 00	주 위 원 회	행동강령(안) 채택(제5차 회의)
9.14(목)		
15 : 00	주 위 원 회	행동강령(안)채택 (제6차 회의)

일 시	구 분	내 용
9.15(금) 10 : 00	본 회 의	의제8 일반의견 교환(제15차 회의) – 참가국 기조연설 마감 • 후지모리 페루 대통령 연설 • 브룬틀란트 노르웨이 총리 연설 등 – 세계여성회의 사무총장 평화 메시지
15 : 00	본 회 의	폐회식(제16차 회의) – 선언문 및 행동강령 채택 – 회의보고서 채택 – 주최국에 대한 사의 표명 – 유엔 사무총장 폐회사 – 세계여성회의 사무총장 폐회사

4. 의 장 단

구 분	인원수	국 가 명	비 고
의 장 (President)	1	중 국	陳慕華 중화전국부녀연합회 주석겸 전국인민대표대회 상무위원회 부위원장
부 의 장 (Vice President)	27		
아 주	6	방글라데시, 일본, 요르단, 말레이지아, 파키스탄, 시리아	
서구 및 기타	6	호주, 그리스, 뉴질랜드, 포르투칼, 스페인, 스웨덴	
동 구	3	아제르바이잔, 루마니아, 마케도니아	
중 남 미	5	바하마, 브라질, 콜롬비아, 쿠바, 파나마	
아 프 리 카	7	보츠와나, 콩고, 케냐, 모로코, 나이지리아, 세네갈, 수단	
당연직(ex-officio)	1	중국	Mr. Li Zhaoxing 외무차관
총 보 고 관 (Rapporteur-General)	1	나미비아	Ms. Nandi-Ndaditwah 외무차관
주위원회 의장 (Chairperson of the Main Committee)	1	필 리 핀	Ms. P. Licuanan 여성지위위원회 의장

Ⅲ. 회 의 경 과

1. 환영대회

○ 9. 4(월) 10 : 00 북경 인민대회당에서 중국정부 주최로 세계여성회의 참가자들을 위한 환영대회가 열렸으며, 강택민 주석 환영사, 부트로스-갈리 유엔 사무총장 환영사, 몽겔라 세계여성회의 사무총장의 환영사에 이어 "Get-together in Beijing"을 주제로 한 문화·예술공연이 있었음.

가. 강택민 주석 환영사

○ 인류 발전 과정에 있어 여성의 기여에도 불구하고 여성에 대한 불평등이 상존, 이러한 불평등은 일찌기 시정되어야 했었음.

○ UN 창설이후 남·녀평등 실현을 위한 국제적인 노력에도 불구하고 제반 장애가 제거되지 않고 있음.

○ 세기의 변화를 앞둔 현 시점에서 여성의 지위향상 방안 모색과 함께 적절한 평등, 발전 및 평화의 상관관계 설정이 필요함.

○ 여성해방은 국가의 독립, 인민의 해방의 한 부분으로 여성지위 향상은 사회전반의 발전 및 시대의 진보와 연계되어 있음.

○ 평화의 유지는 여성지위 향상을 위한 기본조건으로 평화와 안정 없이는 여성지위 향상과 권익보장은 불가능함.

○ 냉전이후 국제정세의 이완에도 불구하고 지역 분쟁이 계속되고 있는 바, 여성을 포함한 모든 국가의 인민은 세계평화와 안정을 위해 노력해야 함.

○ 여성의 발전을 저해하는 주 요인은 빈곤과 저개발로서 이는 계속적인 식민지배와 현존하는 세계 경제질서의 불평등에 기인하는 것이며 선진국 및 국제사회는 개도국 지원에 있어 피할 수 없는 책임을 지고 있음.

○ 기타 남·녀 평등을 위한 중국정부의 제반시책 언급

나. Boutros Boutros-Ghali 유엔 사무총장 환영사(Kittani 사무차장 대독)

○ 원만한 회의진행을 가능케 한 중국정부의 제반시설 준비에 사의 표명

○ 냉전이후 세계질서 형성 및 UN의 활동에 있어서 중국의 중요한 역할 언급

○ UN의 활동목적이 인간의 존엄성에 기초하고 있음을 강조, 이와 관련한 현금의 분쟁, 환경파괴 및 강자와 약자간의 괴리 우려

○ 인구증가에 상응한 국가의 진보와 함께 균형된 사회개발의 당위성 강조

다. Gertrude Mongella 제4차 세계여성회의 사무총장 환영사

○ 남녀 평등에 기초한 국제적 연대감 강조

○ 금번 여성회의의 목적 설명

- 여성의 능력과 잠재력 집결
- 불평등이 지배하는 현상 개혁
- 여성이 직면하고 있는 정치, 경제, 사회 및 문화적 장애제거를 위한 구체적 해결책 제시

○ 회의 주최국으로서 중국정부의 노력 및 금번회의 참가국과 특히 NGO의 기여에 대한 사의 표명

2. 개회식

○ 9. 4(월) 15 : 00 북경 국제회의장에서 열린 개회식은 부트로스-갈리 유엔 사무총장의 개회사(Kittani 유엔사무차장 대독)에 이어 9. 2~9. 3. 사전 협의회 결과 합의된 바에 따라 의장선출 승인, 진모화 의장 연설, 의제 및 의사일정 채택, 부의장단·보고관 선출 승인, 몽겔라 사무총장 연설에 이어 5개국 국가원수 또는 정부수반의 연설로 진행되었음(파키스탄 총리, 아이슬란드 대통령, 방글라데시 총리, 우간다 부통령 및 베트남 부통령 순으로 진행).

가. Boutros Boutros-Ghali 유엔사무총장 개회사(Kittani 사무차장 대독)

○ 금번 회의는 정부, 시민단체 등이 참여, 심도있고 충분한 의사교환을 통해 새로운 보편성과 정통성을 창출하게 될 것임.

○ UN은 남·녀 평등 없이는 발전할 수 없음을 확인해 왔으며, 일련의 UN주관 국제회의를 통해 여성의 참여가 사회발전과 빈곤퇴치의 중요한 원칙임을 또한 확인해 왔음.

○ 금번 회의 주제와 관련

- 법적인 평등은 물론 사실상의 평등이 보장되어야 하며, UN사무국 스스로도 기구내의 남녀평등참여를 위한 노력을 실현하고 있음.
- 평화의 주제와 관련하여 여성에 대한 성폭력, 특히 여성에 대한 조직적인 폭력(mass rape 등), 또한 전쟁중 여성에 대한 폭력에 대한 국제적 불용인을 강조하려고 함.
- 평등, 발전, 평화가 지구상의 모든 여성에게 혜택을 주게 될 것이며, 모든 영역에서의 여성의 권리와 욕구가 증진될 때 모든 사람이 혜택을

누리게 될 것임.

○ 이번 회의는 반드시 행동이 뒤따라야 함.

- 정부와 시민사회간의 협력은 물론 가족, 지역공동체, 국가차원의 파트너쉽이 필수적이며,
- 동시에 여성의 진정한 권리와 욕구에 대한 인식변화가 광범위하게 이루어져야 함.

나. Gertrude Mongella 세계여성회의 사무총장 개회사

○ 행동강령은 세계를 위한 것이기는 하나 우리와 우리의 후손들에게 다른 삶을 가져다 줄 미래의 전망을 제시해야 하며, 행동위주의 구체적인 강령이 되어야 함.

○ 의제와 관련, 문맹·질병·빈곤·실업·폭력의 퇴치와 의사결정, 여성의 권한 증대의 측면에서의 지위향상을 다루어야 함.

○ 이번 회의는 이전 회의에서 합의된 사항의 이행에 유념하고 진정한 변화를 위한 새로운 조치들도 필요함.

○ 마지막으로 무기구입을 위해 얼마나 오랫동안 여성들이 희생되어야 하는가 하는 심각한 문제와 관련, 행동강령 작성에 있어서 평화문제가 적절히 해결되지 않는 한 올바로 조명될 수 없음을 유념해야 함.

다. Bhutto 파키스탄 총리 연설

○ 이슬람 국가, 모슬렘 여성으로서 모슬렘을 옹호

- 모슬렘이 여성을 이등시민(second class status)으로 본다는 편견을 개선하는데 일단의 책임을 느낌.

○ 여아에 대한 차별문제 지적

- 여아의 교육, 여아에 대한 폭력, 경제적 자립, 스포츠 활동 등에 대한 언급

○ 여성에 대한 차별은 정의에 어긋나는 것임을 강조. 여성차별 철폐를 통한 인권신장의 중요성 강조. 이와 관련, 파키스탄은 지난달 여성차별철폐협약(CEDAW)에 가입하였음을 언급.

○ 강간을 전쟁무기 또는 인종청소 수단으로 사용하고 있음을 비난, 특히 Jammu & Kashmir, Bosnia Herzecovina지역에서의 문제 지적

○ 이번 세계여성회의 행동강령(안)은 평등, 발전, 평화를 위한 미래비전을 제시하는데 있으나, 전통적 가정의 역할을 소홀히 하고 있음을 지적

라. Finnbogadottir 아이슬란드 대통령 연설

○ UN의 선도적 노력에 힘입어 여성의 권리가 주변적이거나 진보적인 의미를 넘어서 보편성을 확보하게 되었음.

○ 행동강령의 이행을 위해서는 각국에 1차적 책임이 있으며, 새로운 재원의 확보가 필요하긴 하나 선결조건은 아님.

○ 최근 국제사회에서 강조되고 있는 인간안보를 확보하기 위해서는 남녀평등을 성취하는 것이 매우 중요함.

마. Zia 방글라데시 총리 연설

○ 여성지위향상을 위해 3가지 중요한 요소가 강조되어야 함.

- 여성지위를 개선하는 것은 인류의 미래에 대한 투자
- 다양한 사회문제 해결을 위해 남녀간, 정부와 NGO간 새로운 관계와 조화로운 동반자 정신이 중요
- 여성의 역할과 기여에 대한 의식 고취 노력

○ 행동강령의 효율적인 이행을 위해서는 후속조치 메카니즘이 요구되는 바,

이에 3가지 사항을 제안함.

- 여성업무를 맡는 U.N. Deputy Secretary-General 신설
- 여류 유명 인사로 구성된 고위급의 UN Commission 설치
- '올해의 여성상' 제정

바. Kazibwe 우간다 부통령 연설

○ 우간다의 민주화 과정에서 여성의 역할은 중요한 부분을 차지하며 새헌법에서는 여성의 보편적 인권과 존엄이 강조되어 있음.

○ 남녀간의 불균형을 극복하기 위해서는 적극적인 조치(Affirmative action policy)를 통해 여성에게 권력을 부여하는 것이 필요함. 우간다의 경우 정책결정과정에서 여성의 참여와 여성의 교육에 있어서 적극적 조치를 실시하고 있음.

○ 여성지위 향상을 위해서는 여성의 경제적인 해방이 요구되며 국가적, 지역적, 국제적 차원에서 재정적 지원이 중요

사. Ti Binh 베트남 부통령 연설

○ 베트남의 여성들은 전쟁후 많은 시련속에서도 국가의 재건을 위한 빈곤퇴치, 개발을 위한 임무를 수행해 옴.

○ 여성 및 여아에 대한 지위향상을 위해서는 교육에 대한 투자가 중요, 국제사회에서도 모든 여성을 위한 보편적 교육이 강조되어야 함.

3. 본 회 의

○ 9. 5(화)~9.15(수)간 본회의에서는 의제8에 관하여 각국 정부 및 국제기구, NGO대표들의 연설을 진행하였음.

가. 우리나라 대통령부인 손명순 여사 기조연설

○ 유엔 창설 50주년, 우리나라 광복 50주년을 맞는 뜻깊은 시점에서 열린 이번 회의에서 연설하게 됨을 영광으로 생각함.

○ 유엔을 중심으로 한 세계각국의 남·녀평등 실현을 위한 국제적인 노력을 평가함.

○ 여성의 지위향상과 권익증진에 기여한 민간단체의 역할을 평가함.

○ 금번 회의는 21세기 여성발전을 향한 획기적인 전환점이 될 것으로 확신하며, 앞으로의 여성발전 지침이 될 행동강령을 채택하는 중요한 임무를 가짐.

○ 냉전체제의 종식에 따른 새로운 가능성에 직면한 오늘날의 시점에서 제반 분쟁과 국가간 경쟁심화 및 불평등과 소외에 대한 우려가 상존함.

○ 여성들은 새로운 발전의 가능성이 있다는 확신을 갖고 불평등을 극복, 협력과 공존, 평화의 문화창조에 적극 참여해야 하며, 경제적, 정치적으로 힘을 키워야 함.

○ 우리나라의 경제성장, 민주화와 함께 여성분야에서도 상당한 발전을 이루어 왔으며, 특히 1950년 이후 문맹퇴치교육 5개년 계획등 여성을 위한 범정부적인 시책을 계속해옴.

○ 사회개발 정상회의에서 천명한 바와 같이 저개발국 여성의 교육과 인력훈련 지원에 노력할 것임.

○ 21세기 미래의 주역으로서 여성의 비전을 제시하고 건전한 가정, 건강한 사회를 만드는데 전세계 여성의 선도적 역할을 강조함.

○ 기타 여권 신장을 위한 우리의 국제적인 제반 협력활동을 설명함.

— 아·태지역 협력센터로서의 여성공동의 장 설립 등

나. 주요국 등 연설요지

(1) Hillary Clinton 미국대통령 부인 특별연설

○ 여성문제는 인권과 분리해서 논의될 수 없으며 여성권리신장은 여성의 기본적인 인권보호를 바탕으로 정치등 제반분야의 권리보장을 통해서만 가능하며, 정부는 이를 지원할 의무를 지님.

○ 여성의 건강, 교육, 폭력으로 부터의 해방 및 직업의 자유를 통해 가정의 번영 나아가서 사회와 국가의 번영이 가능함.

○ 지난 25년간 여성활동의 경험을 통해 아직도 여성에 대한 차별과 억압이 계속되고 있음을 목도함.

○ 가정 폭력등 여성들이 처해있는 제반 어려운 상황을 개선해야 함.

○ 비엔나 인권선언등 국제적으로 승인된 인권보장의 중요성 강조, 종교적 정치적 박해 등으로 20세기 말의 오늘날에도 여성인권이 유린되고 있으며 특히 강간이 폭력의 형태로 자행되고 있음을 개탄함.

○ 지금까지의 여성의 역사는 침묵의 역사라고 말할 수 있으며, 여성에 대한 차별이 자행되는 한 세계평화는 이루어질 수 없음.

○ 정부시책으로서의 여성의 강제낙태, 불임시행들을 규탄하며, 민주주의를 통해 여성의 인권은 보장될 수 있으며, 금번회의에 NGO인사들의 참석방해 등을 규탄함.

(2) G77의장국(Leticia Ramos-Shahani 필리핀 상원의원) 연설

○ 21세기는 여성의 세기가 되어야 할 것임을 강조하는 한편, 최근 발간된 1995 UNDP인간개발보고서에 나타난 여성의 저평가, 무보수 노동에 관심표명.

○ 77그룹 및 중국의 관심사항 10가지를 대변함.

- (1) 빈곤, (2) 성폭력, (3) 인간개발권(이와 관련 재정지원 수반필요)
  (4) 사회개발(여성개발 포함)에 선진국, 개도국 공히 국가예산에 20/20 formula 적용
  (5) 개도국 지원에 선진국의 GNP 0.7% 배정
  (6) 외채문제 : '94년 파리클럽에서 합의된 외채경감 방식의 조속이행을 통해 외채문제가 해결될 수 있을 것임.
  (7) 사회개발정상회의 3대의제(빈곤퇴치, 고용증대, 사회통합) 중요
  (8) New and additional 재원 조달 필요성
  (9) CEDAW, DAW, UNIFEM등 유엔기구의 재정, 인력 강화
  (10) 유엔기구내 여성에 대한 차별 철폐

(3) EU의장국(Cristina Alberdi 스페인 사회부장관) 연설

○ 금번 회의 목적은 전세계 모든 여성, 특히 개도국 여성이 당면한 빈곤의 여성화, 산업, 남·녀간 권한의 불균형, 여성에 대한 폭력등의 문제에 대한 해결책을 강구, 평등, 발전, 평화의 성취 및 인권과 민주주의의 강화, 인간중심의 지속 개발을 이루기 위한 것임.

○ 이를 이루기 위해서 비엔나 선언 및 실천계획이 여성의 인권신장을 위한 기초가 되어야 하며, 여성과 여아의 교육을 위해 투자해야 하고, 여성의 성적권리 및 출산권의 확보를 통한 인권 및 기본권리의 완전한

향유를 이루어야 함.

○ 행동강령의 효율적 이행을 위해서도 제도적, 재정적 문제에 대한 특별한 관심이 요구되는 바, EU는 전세계 대외개발원조(ODA)의 가장 큰 공여국으로서 여성에 대한 관심이 고려된 개발협력이 행동강령 이행에 있어 가장 중요한 전략으로 여기고 있으며, 빈곤 여성이나 무력분쟁하의 여성들 및 완전한 인권향유에 제약을 받고 있는 여성들에 대해 지원을 할 것임.

(4) 북한(재정부장 윤기정) 연설

○ 1946년 남녀평등권법령이 제정됨으로써 북한에서는 여성의 사회적 개방이 법적으로 보장되어 있으며 여성운동의 새로운 전기가 마련됨.

○ 여성문제는 본질적으로 여성의 사회·정치적 해방과 자립을 실현하는 정치적 문제로서 사회민주화와 국가 발전에 필수적인 것임. 이의 해결을 위해 남녀평등과 여성의 사회적 해방을 위한 법적, 제도적 보장뿐만 아니라 여성의 모든 정치적, 경제적, 사회적, 문화적 분야에 활발하게 참여할 수 있는 실질적인 국가적 조치가 취해져야 함.

○ 여성의 문제는 특히 과거 식민지배를 경험한 개도국에서는 훨씬 더 심각함. 기아와 질병, 외채, 세계경제의 불평등 구조로 인한 착취하에 국민의 생존뿐 아니라 여성과 아동의 문제를 해결하는데 큰 어려움을 겪고 있는 이들 개도국에 대해서는 문제의 근본적인 원인발생에 책임이 있는 선진국의 관심과 경제협력, UN등 국제기구의 효과적인 조치가 요구됨.

○ 정신대 문제 관련 대일본 규탄

- 일본의 국가정책에 의해 자행된 인류역사상 전례없는 범죄행위로 한

국, 아시아 및 유럽의 20만 여성이 일본 황군의 성적노예로 희생됨.

- 이러한 범죄적 사실이 반세기이상 미해결의 상태로 남아 있음에 실망을 금치 못함.
- 배상에 대한 국제적인 여론이 점증하고 있음에도 불구, 일본 당국은 이를 민간차원의 "위로금"모금의 형태로 대체코저 함을 간과할 수 없음.
- 정신대 문제는 일본정부에 의해 전시에 자행된 국가차원의 인권침해 문제로 국가적인 배상이 이행되어야 함.
- 일본정부는 금전적인 자선이나 불성실한 사과로 국제사회를 설득하려는 시대착오적 노력을 포기하고 범죄행위를 인정, 진상규명, 책임자 처벌과 함께 모든 희생자에 대한 국가차원의 배상을 이행해야 함.

(5) 미국(Madeleine Albright 주UN 대사) 연설

○ 금번 회의목적은 1차적으로 인권보호와 증진에 있으며, 여성의 권리는 인권의 불가분의 부분임을 강조

○ 클린턴행정부가 미국내 존재하는 여성에 대한 제반 장애 철폐에 주력하고 있음을 설명

○ 카이로 인구개발회의에서 확인된 여성의 reproductive health/rights 옹호

○ 미국정부는 모든 사람들의 인권보호를 위해 계속 노력할 것임을 강조

○ UN주관하에 개최되는 금번 회의에서조차 표현의 자유가 침해되고 있음을 비난

(6) 일본(Mr. Koken Nosaka 여성담당 정무장관) 연설

○ 일본정부는 성폭력이나 성적착취로 부터 여성을 보호하기 위해 '95. 9월 아시아 여성기금 설립을 적극 지원코자 함.

○ 아시아 여성기금은 일본의 과거역사에 대한 참회를 반영하고 군대위안부(Comfort Women)에 대한 일본 국민의 사죄(Atonement)를 표현하는 것임.

○ 여성의 권리보장을 위한 3가지 원칙 제안

— 여성의 권한 강화

— 여성인권 보호

— 남·녀간, 정부와 NGO간 및 국가간의 파트너쉽

○ 일부국가의 핵실험에 유감 표명 및 자제 촉구

(7) 독일(Claudia Nolte 가족·노인·여성·청소년부장관) 연설

○ 역대 세계여성회의 이래 독일 통일에 따라 최초로 동·서독 여성대표단이 금번 회의에 참석하였으며, 독일정부는 통독 과정에서 동독지역의 여성들이 겪은 제반 어려움 해결을 위해 노력중임.

○ 금번 회의의 촛점은 여성 인권문제로서 종교적·문화적·전통적 이유에 따른 여성인권의 제약은 있을 수 없으며, 여성인권 보장은 남·녀 평등의 전제조건임.

○ 금번 회의의 후속조치로 1996년을 "평등, 참여 및 동반자관계 구축의 해"로 선포할 것을 제안함.

○ 여성권리신장을 위한 NGO역할을 평가함.

(8) 영국(Baroness Chalker 영연방장관) 연설

○ 영국은 카이로 ICPD회의에서 여성지위 향상과 여성권리 확대에 주력했으며, 또한 모든 형태의 여성에 대한 폭력의 제거, 여성이 자신의 출산을 통제할 수 있는 권리를 보장하는데 주력한 바, 금번 회의에서 재확인되어야 함.

○ 이번 회의에서 전세계적으로 단지 한가지만 인정해야 한다면, 그것은 여성의 선택의 자유에 관한 권리임.

(9) 이집트(Suzanne Mubarak 대통령 부인) 연설

○ 이집트의 민주화에 따른 여성해방의 의미는 종교와 가치에 대항하여 일탈코자 하는 현 시대조류로부터의 해방을 의미함.

○ 구조재조정(SAP)정책 시행관련, 이집트는 여성교육의 중요성에 입각, 사회분야의 희생, 특히 여성교육 부문이 영향을 받지 않도록 이의 예산을 3배로 증액함.

○ 가치관의 전도에 따른 혼란이 계속되는 오늘날 여성의 권리는 인권에 국한된 문제가 아니라 생존의 문제로 대두됨.

○ 여성권리 신장을 위한 국제적 목표 제시

- 여성의 자결권
- 국제평화 구축
- 여성에 대한 폭력 철폐
- 여성부문에 대한 대개도국 지원

(10) 교황청(Mary Ann Glendon 하바드대 교수) 연설

○ 오늘날의 무책임한 제반 성적방종 행태 비난

○ 낙태포함, 여성의 reproductive rights에 관한 직접적인 반대, 비난은 자제하고 여성보건에 대한 시책 강화 필요성을 강조

○ 금번회의 행동강령 초안 관련, 성개방 풍조에 따라 비롯된 여성의 보건에 대한 위협을 반영치 못함을 지적

○ 또한 여성의 역할 관련, 모성(motherhood)과 가정에서의 책임이 강조되어야 함을 역설

(11) 프랑스(Colette Codaccioni 국민연대 및 세대담당 장관) 연설

○ 3차에 걸친 세계여성회의 개최에도 불구하고 여성권리 신장에 있어 UN기구의 테두리 내에서도 실망스러운 점이 있음을 지적함

○ 사회개발 정상회의에서 인간중심의 모든 개발을 위한 원칙이 재확인된 바 있음.

○ 그간의 UN주관 국제회의를 일관하여 기본적인 인권존중 및 사회개발은 경제발전과 분리할 수 없음을 인식하게 됨.

○ 여성문제와 관련, 정의실현, 발전을 위한 기본조건 두가지가 선결되지 않음에 따라 문제가 제기되고 있음

○ 남·녀간의 평등, 여성의 권리확보를 위한 제안

- 여성교육
- 경제적, 재정적 권리 확보
- 낙태를 포함한 보건수혜
- 결정과정에서의 전폭적인 참여

○ 금번 회의의 성공을 위한 각국, 국제기구의 협력과 함께 NGO의 역할을 기대함.

(12) 이란(Shahla Habibi 대통령 특보) 연설

○ 금번 회의결과 채택 예정인 행동강령이 아래와 같은 다수의 문제점을 내포하고 있는바, 일부 참가국들이 이를 긍정적으로 받아들이고 있으나, 이란으로서는 의견을 달리할 수 밖에 없음.

- 기본적으로 남·녀간의 대치(confrontation)를 전제로 함.
- 여성의 모성(motherhood)을 경시함.
- 여성의 reproductive rights/sexual right/낙태등을 용인코자 하는 등

일부 문화권에서는 수용하기 어려운 이슈들을 포함하고 있음.

- 회교문화권은 남·녀 관계를 대립없는 보완적 관계로 인식, 남·녀의 조화로운 번영을 기대하고 있음.
- 팔레스타인 여성에 대한 박해, 보스니아내 인종청소등의 범죄적 행위로 고통받고 있는 여성들에 대한 국제적인 관심을 촉구함.

(13) 수단(Osman Yassin 주UN 대사) 연설

○ 남성의 존엄성은 남성이 여성을 동등한 존엄으로 대할 때에만 보장될 수 있다는 코란의 가르침을 전제로 금번회의 관련 아래와 같은 문제점을 지적코자 함.

- 타국에 대한 내정간섭적 행동을 반대함
- 문화적 다양성을 부정하는 경향 및 일부 문화권의 가치를 유일한 모범으로 규정하는 경향은 용인할 수 없음
- 종교적·정신적·윤리·도덕적 가치의 역할이 marginalization화 되는 경향을 주목함.
- 결혼에 기초하지 않은 가정은 있을 수 없음.
- 취약계층여성(이주자, 무력분쟁지역내 여성등)에 대한 배려가 급선무임.
- 행동강령 이행을 위한 선진국의 자발적인 재정지원을 촉구함.

(14) 노르웨이(Gro Harlem Brundtland 총리) 연설

○ 여성들은 더이상 2등 시민으로 머물 수 없으며, 자유는 쟁취해야 함을 역설

○ 여성의 경제적 기여가 국가성장과 발전에 결정적이므로, 성차별 주의로 인하여 여성이 억압에서 벗어나지 못하는 사회는 빈곤에서 헤어날 수 없음을 지적

○ 20/20 Initiative 시행 및 동시책내 여성에 대한 고려 요청

○ 여성의 자의에 의한 출산권(reproductive rights) 및 affirmative action 조치 강조

○ 행동강령 채택에 있어 각국의 문화적 관습이 여성의 인권을 침해하는 도구가 되어서는 안됨을 강조

○ 금번 회의가 반모성적, 반가족적이라는 비난 공박

(15) 페루(Alberto Fujimori 대통령) 연설

○ 여성 빈곤상황의 현실 지적

○ 여성이 개입되지 않은 사회, 경제, 문화적 개혁은 지속적일 수 없음을 강조

○ 여성에 대한 투자가 빈곤 경감, 사회여건 개선의 최선책임을 강조

○ 카톨릭의 교조주의가 여성지위향상에 장애가 되고 있음을 지적하고 여성의 reproductive rights를 위해 적극적으로 지원하겠다는 의지 표명

○ 금번 회의 행동강령 이행을 위한 각국의 실질적 조치의 중요성 역설

(16) 이스라엘(Ora Namir 노동부장관) 연설

○ 여성에 대한 기존의 불평등 시정을 위해 적극적 조치(affirmative action)가 필요함.

○ 중동평화 달성을 위한 역사적인 과정이 계속되고 있으나, 여전히 많은 장애가 놓여 있으며, 이의 제거를 위해 대화가 계속 진전되어야 함.

○ 전세계 모든 여성들의 중동평화 정착을 위한 지지를 희망함.

(17) 쿠바(Vilma Espin Guillois 여성연맹 회장) 연설

○ 미국에 의해 33년간 계속되고 있는 대쿠바 경제봉쇄는 국제법규에 위반되는 행위로 쿠바의 경제발전 가능성을 말살하고 있으며, 쿠바 여성

의 일상생활에 막대한 영향을 초래하고 있는 바, 미국의 대쿠바 봉쇄철회를 촉구함.

(18) 팔레스타인(Al Wazier 사회부장관) 연설

○ 이스라엘의 군사적 점령으로 인해 팔레스타인 여성의 발전이 저해되고 있으며, 28년간에 걸친 점령상태는 팔레스타인 여성에 대한 사회적 위기 심화, 법적·정치적 자유박탈을 가속화하고 있음.

○ 금번 회의에서 나이로비 3차회의에서 채택된 팔레스타인 여성관련 행동강령이 실현될 수 있도록 촉구, 하기 사항 요구

- 이스라엘에 의한 팔레스타인 구금자 전원 석방
- 이스라엘의 토지 몰수 및 정착촌 건설 중단
- 팔레스타인, 보스니아 여성에 대한 모든 박해 중지
- 이라크, 리비아 여성과 아동에게 피해를 주는 부당한 경제봉쇄 철회

(19) 스위스(Ruth Dreifuss 연방의원) 연설

○ 여성에 대한 제반 폭력, 불이익의 철폐 필요성 강조

- 무력분쟁 지역내 폭력
- 개인차원의 폭력(가정폭력 등)
- 아동등 취약계층에 대한 여성의 의무 가중

○ 여성지위 향상의 기본적 책임은 국가에 귀속, 각국정부의 정책적인 노력 촉구

○ 여성지위향상을 위한 NGO의 노력 평가

(20) 뉴질랜드(Jenny Shipley 여성담당장관)

○ 프랑스의 핵실험 문제 관련, 핵실험 중지와 핵확산 금지조약 서명 촉구

○ 세계 모든 여성정치인, 금번회의 여성대표단 및 NGO들에 대해 프랑스

가 핵실험을 중지하도록 압력을 가해줄 것을 요청

○ 여성 인권보호의 중요성 강조

(21) 라오스(Onechanh Thammavong 여성연맹회장겸 국회의원) 연설

○ 여성에 대한 학대와 불평등이 정책적으로 자행되는 중국에서 여성회의가 개최되는 것에 대해 유감을 표명함.

○ 전쟁후의 어려움이 여성지위향상에 장애요소가 되고 있으나 법률정비를 통해 이를 극복해 나가고 있음

(22) 보스니아 헤르체고비아(Jasna Baksic Muftic 여성담당 국가 연락사무소장)

○ 세르비아 측에 의한 여성인권유린, 반인류적인 범죄행위 규탄

○ 전쟁에도 불구하고 B.H.측은 여성지위향상을 위한 제반노력을 기울이고 있음을 설명, 국제적인 지원 요청

(23) 이라크(Mr. Bassam Kuba 주중국 대사) 연설

○ 대이라크 제재는 이라크여성에 대한 제재가 되고 있으며, 여성의 사회진출과 지위향상 이전에 이로 인한 고통을 해소하는 것이 급선무임

○ 대이라크 제재상태 하에서 이라크 정부가 여성지위 향상을 위한 조치를 취하는 것은 불가능하며, 행동강령을 실천할 수도 없음.

○ 금번 회의종료 이전에 대이라크 제재를 철회할 것을 촉구함.

(24) World Bank(Mr. James Wolfenshon 총재) 연설

○ World Bank의 저개발국 지원 프로그램인 International Development Association(IDA)이 여성발전에 미치는 긍정적인 영향에 대하여 언급하고 이에 대한 국제사회의 지속적인 재정지원 요청

○ 지속가능한 개발을 확보하기 위한 전략으로서 여성의 권한증대(empowerment)가 필수적임을 강조하고 이를 위한 World Bank의 우선 관

심분야 및 조치 설명

- 고위 정책결정과정에의 여성참여 확대
  - 최근 3명의 부총재를 여성으로 임명
- 여아 교육에 대한 투자 확대
  - 향후 5년간 교육 대부금액을 연 25억$ 규모가 되도록 매년 20% 씩 증액
  - 그중 초·중등교육을 위한 금액(연 15억불)을 여아 교육에 투자 예정
- 기초 보건서비스 및 신용대부에 대한 여성의 access확대

(25) 여성차별철폐위원회(Ivanka Corti 위원장) 연설

○ 여성권리 보호를 위한 UN의 "여성발전 10년"에 기초하여 이를 구속력 있는 제규범으로 발전시킨 것이 여성차별철폐협약(1979년)임. 따라서 금번 회의에서는 동협약이 여성인권 보호를 위한 기본문서 임을 재확인해야 함.

○ 동 협약은 여성의 권리를 위한 국제적 장전일 뿐 아니라 사회와 가정내에서의 지위와 역할에 관한 전면적 권리를 밝힌 최초의 법적 문서이며, 단순히 평등권 그 자체의 존중에 촛점을 두는 것이 아니라 권리의 평등한 향유를 보장하는데 목적이 있음

○ UN주관 제반 국제회의를 일관하여 여성문제는 사회전체의 문제임을 인식케 되었으며, 남성과 여성간의 동반자관계 정립을 위한 광범한 안건의 일부로서 다루어져야 한다는 것을 인식해야 함.

○ 여성차별철폐위원회가 금번 회의에서 기대하는 것은 비록 동협약이 행동강령 초안에 부적절하게 반영되었다 하더라도, 금번회의를 통해 여성의 인권문제와 관련해서 법적으로 구속력을 가진 유일한 국제규약임을

다시한번 확인함이 중요하며, 이를 위해 금번회의에서 여성차별철폐위원회가 제출한 보고서(A/CONF.177/7)를 각국 정부가 강하게 지지해 주기를 요청함.

- 2000년까지 각국의 조속한 비준, 유보조항 철회, 선택부속의정서 채택 등

(26) INSTRAW(Martha Duenas-Loza 원장 대리) 연설

○ 국제여성훈련연구원(INSTRAW)은 모든 정책결정 과정에서 남·녀 평등이 보장되는 결정을 할 수 있도록 노력중임

○ INSTRAW의 5개 우선사업분야 제시

- 여성의 경제적 자원에의 access확대
- 개도국의 구조재조정 정책이 여성지위향상에 기여하도록 촉구
- 환경문제 및 경제개발결정에 여성의 참여확대
- Media 및 통신기술분야에서의 평등 보장
- 남·녀간의 불평등을 보여줄 수 있는 제안자료의 축적, 지수화 및 홍보

(27) ECE(Mr. Yves Berthelot 사무총장) 연설

○ '94. 10월 ECE회원국간의 비엔나 준비회의 제기사항 언급(경기침체로 인한 여성의 빈곤화등 가속)

- 경제분야 : 대다수 여성들이 여전히 저임금 위험직종에 종사(2/3의 회원국에서 여성실업율 증가 추세)
- 사회분야 : 육아휴직, 탄력근무 시간제도등이 여전히 소수국가에서만 실시, 가정과 직장의 양립에 문제점 제기
- 정치분야 : 북구제국을 제외하고는 여전히 여성의 정치참여가 저조, 오히려 위축되는 경향

○ 이러한 상황분석에 따라 비엔나 회의는 여성의 빈곤화에 대한 투쟁과

여성권리신장을 통한 여성의 모든 영역에의 참여에 최우선 순위를 둘 것에 합의

○ 이러한 비엔나 회의에서의 합의에 따라 금번 제4차 세계여성회의는 아래 사항에 중점을 두어야 할 것임.

- 여성권리는 천부적인 인권의 불가양의 일부
- 여성의 reproductive rights 인정 및 존중
- 여성의 경제에 대한 기여 산정을 위한 통계화, 수치화가 필요

㉘ IMF(K. Burke Dillon 행정국장) 연설

○ IMF는 경제정책결정 과정에서의 여성참여 확대를 위해 노력중이며, 설립목적에 따라 high quality growth를 통한 남·녀 평등실현을 추구함.

○ 이를 위해서는 경제정책뿐만 아니라 광범위한 사회분야의 정책이 뒷받침되어야 하며, IMF의 제한적인 재정수단 및 재원으로 인해 궁극적으로는 각국정부가 1차적인 책임을 맡아야 함.

○ IMF의 구조 재조정 정책(SAP)은 여성지위 향상에 기여하고 있음.

다. 특기사항(답변권행사)

(1) 파키스탄-인도간

○ 9. 6. 파키스탄 대표(총리 특별보좌관) 연설에서 인도정부군에 의한 캐시미르 지역 부녀자들의 조직적 강간등 여성인권유린 사례를 언급한데 대해 인도-파키스탄간 상호 답변권 행사가 오갔음.

(가) 인도측 1차 발언

- 파키스탄이 인디아 정부군·보안군이 캐시미르 지방의 부녀자들을 조직적으로 겁탈하고 여성이 권리를 유린했다고 주장한 것은 사실

에 대한 왜곡임.

- 오히려 파키스탄은 전세계의 테러리스트들을 지원하고 이들을 통해 캐시미르 지방의 치안을 교란시킴으로써 캐시미르 지방 여성의 안전을 위협하고 있음. 이러한 사실은 여러 경로를 통해 문서로 확인된 바 있음.

(나) 파키스탄측 1차 발언

- 인도 정부가 파키스탄이 테러리스트를 지원한다고 주장하는 것은 근거없으며 오히려 인도 치안군이 캐시미르 지방 여성을 집단적·조직적으로 겁탈하는 것이 여러 기구를 통해 확인되고 있음.
- 인도정부는 캐시미르에서 여성의 권리가 유린당한다는 사실을 지적한 파키스탄 정부의 질문의 핵심을 회피하고 있음.

(다) 인도측 2차 발언

- 파키스탄에 의한 테러활동 지원으로 야기된 여성들의 고통을 깊이 인식하고 반성해야 함.

(라) 파키스탄측 2차 발언

- 인도정부는 사실에 대해 정확한 답변을 회피, 오히려 파키스탄을 테러리스트로 비난함으로써 세계의 주의를 분산시키려 하고 있음.

(2) 그리스-마케도니아간

○ 9. 11. 마케도니아 대표(주중대사) 연설에서 국명 F.Y.R.O.M이 아닌 마케도니아라고 칭한데 대하여 9. 11 밤 그리스가 공식 반박(답변권 행사)하자 9. 12 다시 마케도니아가 답변권을 행사하였음.

(가) 9. 11 그리스측 반박요지

- 마케도니아란 명칭은 국명으로 사용할 수 없고, UN총회 및 안보리

결의에 따른 F.Y.R.O.M만을 공식적으로 사용해야 함.

(나) 9. 12. 마케도니아측 답변요지

- F.Y.R.O.M은 하나의 참조(reference)일 뿐 국명이 아님
- 국명을 선택하는 것은 주권국가의 불가침의 주권행사임.

(다) 9. 13. 그리스측 반박 요지

- UN총회 결의 817호에 의해 전 유고슬라브 지역에 연방국가 창설과 F.Y.R.O.M 성립 인정. 그러나 마케도니아란 이름을 쓰도록 한 것이 아님.
- 마케도니아는 그리스 영내 마세도니아 지역의 사회불안 조장 테러 행위를 중단하기 바람.

(3) 이라크-쿠웨이트간

○ 9. 12. 쿠웨이트 대표(고등교육상 보좌역)의 연설에서 걸프전 종료후 아직도 많은 쿠웨이트 여성과 아동, 민간인이 이라크 영내에서 억류되어 있다고 그 석방을 호소한 데 대하여 9. 12 밤 이라크 대표-쿠웨이트 대표가 각각 답변권을 행사하였음.

(가) 이라크측 답변요지

- 쿠웨이트의 주장은 사실이 아니며, 이라크 영내에서 단 한명의 쿠웨이트인도 억류되어 있지 않음. 이 사실의 확인을 위해 쿠웨이트 당국자가 이라크를 방문 조사한다 해도 허용하겠음.
- 이러한 허위주장은 이라크에 대한 부당한 경제봉쇄와 제재를 계속하기 위한 억지일 뿐임.

(나) 쿠웨이트측 답변요지

- 신의 이름으로 쿠웨이트 민간인이 이라크에 억류되어 있음을 거듭 밝힘

- 경제제재는 UN안보리 결정에 따른 정당한 것으로 그 제재의 철회는 이라크가 전쟁포로 및 민간인 석방 등을 비롯 여러가지 비인도적 범죄를 중단하는데 달려 있음.

(4) 아르메니아-아제르바이잔간

○ 9. 12. 아제르바이잔 대표(대통령실 인도주의 정책부장)연설에서 아르메니아가 아제르바이잔을 불법 침공하고 많은 민간인, 특히 여성과 아동을 납치·억류하고 있다고 주장한데 대해 9. 13. 아르메니아 대표가 답변권을, 9. 14 아제르바이잔이 다시 답변권을 행사하였음.

(가) 아르메니아측 답변요지

- 아르메니아는 다른 주변국을 침공한 적이 없고 자위권만을 발동, 영토를 수호하였으며, 아르메니아에는 단 한명의 전쟁포로나 억류된 민간인이 없음.
- 현재 전쟁·무장분규에 휘말린 당사국은 아르메니아가 아니라 아제르바이잔-나고노 카라바크간임
- 1980년 이후 아제르바이잔의 폭정과 정치불안이 많은 난민을 양산하였으며, 이들로 인해 아르메니아가 압박을 받을 지경이지만, 아르메니아는 아제르바이잔에 대한 인도적 원조의 길을 열어두고 있음.

(나) 아제르바이잔측 반박요지

- 아르메니아의 부정은 거짓이며, 아제르바이잔과 나고노 카라바크가 전쟁중이라는 말도 거짓임
- 아르메니아는 주변국을 압박하고 지역분쟁을 조장함
- 억류된 민간인의 조속한 석방을 다시금 호소함.

4. 주위원회와 실무위원회

○ 주위원회는 9. 5(화) 10 : 00 제1차 회의를 개최, 의장단을 선출하고 북경선언문 및 행동강령 중 미합의 문안에 대한 효율적인 토의진행을 위해 2개 실무위원회로 나누어 쟁점사항을 토의한 후 그 결과를 보고받고 재심의하기로 함.

– 의장단

- 의 장 : Ms. Patricia Licuanan (여성지위위원회 의장, 필리핀)
- 부의장 : Ms. Zelmira Regazolli (아르헨티나)

  Ms. Irene Freudenschuss-Reichl (오스트리아)

  Ms. Natalia Drozd (벨라루스)
- 보고관 : Ms. Selma Ashipala (나미비아)

○ 실무위원회 Ⅰ·Ⅱ는 각 그룹별 의견대립이 심한 제4장 C(보건)과 북경선언문(안)의 비공식협의를 위하여 각각 Contact Group을 결성키로 결정함.

– 실무위원회 Ⅰ

- 의장 : Ms. Nana Amma Yeboaa(가나)
- 기능 : 행동강령(안) 제1, 2, 3, 4(C, J, L), 5, 6장 심의

– 실무위원회 Ⅰ Contact Group

- 의장 : Ms. Mervat Tallawy 전 여성지위위원회 의장(이집트)
- 기능 : 행동강령(안) 제4장(보건) 심의

– 실무위원회 Ⅱ

- 의장 : Ms. Irene Freudenschuss-Reichl(오스트리아)

• 기능 : 행동강령(안) 제4장(A, B, D, E, F, G, H, I, K) 심의

— 실무위원회 Ⅱ Contact Group

• 의장 : Ms. Olga Pellicer(멕시코)

• 기능 : 북경선언문(안) 심의

5. 세계문맹퇴치의 날 기념행사

○ 9. 8(금) 10 : 00 국제회의장 인근 북경 상품교역소에서는 유네스코 주관으로 세계문맹퇴치의 날(9. 8) 기념식을 개최하였음. 이 자리에서는 한국의 대통령 부인 손명순 여사의 특별연설을 청취하고, 한국이 지난 1990년 이래 문맹퇴치에 공이 큰 개인이나 단체에게 수여해온 세종대왕상 시상식을 거행하였음. 올해의 세종대왕상 수상자로는 중국의 중화전국부녀연합회(주석 : 진모화)와 에콰도르의 한 자선교육단체로 결정됨.

가. 손명순 여사 특별연설

○ 문맹퇴치를 위한 유네스코의 활동 치하

○ 오늘날 세계 10억 문맹인구중 2/3가 여성이라는 사실은 남녀불평등 문제가 어디에서 시작되고 있는지를 명백히 드러내고 있음.

○ 한국이 성공적인 산업화와 민주화를 이룩한 것은 문맹퇴치를 바탕으로 한 국민교육의 성공에서 비롯됨.

○ 한국이 그동안 국내외 문맹퇴치를 위해 기울인 노력과 사업을 소개함.

○ 문맹퇴치운동은 인류 평화와 발전을 가져올 수 있는 원동력으로서 이에 대한 계속적인 관심과 지원이 요청됨.

6. 폐회식

가. 주위원회 의장의 행동강령 및 선언문 초안 심의 결과 보고

나. 선언문 및 행동강령 채택(A/CONF.177/L.9)

○ 쿠웨이트, 이집트, 리비아, 이란, 모리타니아등 회교권제국 대표들은 상기 채택후 설명발언을 통해, 여성의 상속, 보건 및 성, 가족의 정의등과 관련한 행동강령 문안중 이슬람 교리 및 각국의 주권에 반하는 사항에 대한 유보를 표명함.

○ 교황청 대표는 설명발언을 통해 금번 행동강령이 여성의 빈곤, 개발, 문맹퇴치, 여성에 대한 폭력철폐등 중요한 문제들을 간과, 개인주의적, libertarian적인 사항들을 용인하고 있다고 지적, 교황청은 특히 낙태, 동성애등을 용인할 수 있다고 해석되는 문안등을 중심으로 교황청 교리에 위배되고 여성의 복지에 반한다고 판단되는 사항에 대해 서면으로 유보를 제출할 예정임을 밝힘.

○ 필리핀, 말레이지아 및 동남아 회교국들도 여사한 유보를 표명함.

다. G77의 제안으로 주최국인 중국정부에 대한 사의 표명 결의문 채택(A/CONF.177/L.8)

라. 유엔 사무총장 및 세계여성회의 사무총장의 폐회 연설

Ⅳ. 북경 선언문 및 행동강령

1. 북경 선언문

○ 북경 선언문은 나이로비 여성발전전략의 이행에 대한 각국 정부의 의지를 재확인하는 한편,

○ 평등·발전·평화를 위한 행동강령의 이행에 대한 각국 정부의 의지를 천명하고 있음.

○ 또한 빈곤과 개발, 여성의 인권, 인류의 평화 등 전략적 주요관심분야에 있어서 여성의 지위 향상 및 권한 증대(advancement and empowerment of women)에 대한 실천적 의지를 담고 있음.

○ 이러한 의지의 실천에는 시민사회 특히 여성단체의 역할이 중요함을 강조함.

2. 행동강령

가. 목 차

Ⅰ. 임무의 기술(Mission statement)

Ⅱ. 세계적 구도(Global framework)

Ⅲ. 주요 관심분야(Critical areas of concern)

A. 여성에 대한 빈곤의 지속적·가중적 부담

B. 교육및 훈련에 있어서의 불평등

C. 보건 및 관련서비스에의 불평등

D. 여성에 대한 폭력

E. 무력갈등이 여성에게 미치는 영향

F. 경제 구조와 정책 및 생산활동에의 참여 불평등

G. 정책결정 및 권력배분 과정에의 참여 불평등

H. 여성지위 향상을 위한 관련기구의 미흡

I. 여성인권의 존중 및 보호 미흡

J. 미디어에 나타난 여성에 대한 고정관념과 미디어 및 정보통신분야에 있어서의 불평등

K. 자연자원관리 및 환경보전에 있어서 불평등

L. 여자어린이에 대한 차별 및 권리 침해

Ⅳ. 주요 관심분야별 전략적 목표와 조치(Strategic objectives and actions)

A. 여성과 빈곤　　B. 여성과 교육·훈련

C. 여성과 보건　　D. 여성에 대한 폭력

E. 여성과 무력갈등　　F. 여성과 경제

G. 여성과 정책결정　　H. 여성담당 기구

I. 여성의 인권　　J. 여성과 미디어

K. 여성과 환경　　L. 여자어린이

Ⅴ. 제도적 조치(Institutional arrangements)

Ⅵ. 재정적 조치(Financial arrangements)

나. 목차별 내용요지

(1) 임무의 기술

○ 행동강령이 지향하는 바, 상위목표인 임무를 아래와 같이 기술하고 있음.

– "행동강령은 여성의 권한 증대를 위한 의제(agenda for women's empowerment) 이다… 행동강령은 나이로비 전략 이행을 가속화 하는

데 목표를 두고… 모든 인권과 모든 여성의 생애 주기를 통한 기본적 자유를 증진·보호 하고자 한다… 행동강령은 평등의 원칙과 남녀의 동반자적 관계를 강조한다… 행동강령은 각국 정부와 국제기구의 실천의지를 요청한다…"

(2) 세계적 구도

○ 나이로비 전략이 채택된 이래 지난 10년간 세계는 정치·경제·사회·문화적 재편과정을 겪으면서 새로운 구도와 질서를 갖추게 되었는 바, 이는 새로운 세기를 향한 새로운 여성발전 전략인 행동강령이 채택되는 배경을 이룸.

○ 행동강령의 기반은 여성차별철폐협약과 나이로비전략이며 특히 '90년대 들어 유엔이 주관한 각종 세계회의의 성과도 행동강령의 배경이 됨.

(3) 주요 관심분야

○ 향후 5년간 각국이 정책적 관심과 노력을 기울여야 하는 주요 관심분야로 12가지 분야를 선정.

(4) 주요 관심분야별 전략적 목표와 조치

○ 12개 주요 관심분야별로 전략적 목표와 이에 따른 행동조치 방안을 정부, 민간단체, 유엔, 국제기구 등 각 행동주체별로 구체적으로 제시하고 있음. 분야별 목표는 아래와 같음.

① 여성과 빈곤

- 빈곤 여성의 요구와 노력을 지원하도록 거시경제정책과 개발전략 검토·채택·유지
- 경제자원에 대한 여성의 동등한 권리 및 접근을 보장하도록 법률 및 행정관행 개선

- 금융에 대한 여성의 접근 배려
- 여성의 빈곤과 관련, 性에 기초한 방법론 개발 및 연구 수행

② 여성과 교육 훈련

- 교육에 대한 동등한 접근 보장
- 여성의 문맹 퇴치
- 직업훈련, 과학기술, 평생교육에 대한 여성의 접근 증진
- 비차별적인 교육훈련 개발
- 교육개혁 이행에 관한 재원 할당 및 모니터
- 여성에 대한 평생교육훈련 촉진

③ 여성과 보건

- 생애주기를 통해 양질의 적절한 보건 및 관련정보 서비스에 대한 여성의 접근 증진
- 여성보건을 증진하는 예방프로그램 강화
- 성병, 에이즈 등 性보건 관련 사업 착수
- 여성보건에 관한 연구 촉진 및 정보 유포
- 여성보건 관련 재원 증대 및 후속 모니터

④ 여성에 대한 폭력

- 성폭력 예방 종합 대책 강구
- 성폭력의 원인과 결과 및 예방 대책의 효과에 관하여 연구
- 여성인신매매 근절 및 윤락행위·인신매매로 인한 폭력의 피해자 지원

⑤ 여성과 무력갈등

- 갈등 해결 과정에 여성의 참여 증대 및 외국 점령하 무력갈등 상

황의 여성보호

- 과도한 군사비 감축 및 군비 통제
- 갈등 해결의 비폭력적 방법을 촉진하고 갈등상황하 인권유린 사례 감소
- 평화의 문화 조성에 여성의 기여 증진
- 난민여성의 보호 지원 및 훈련 제공
- 식민지 및 비자치지역 여성에 대한 지원 제공

⑥ 여성과 경제

- 여성의 경제적 권리 및 독립 촉진
- 자원, 고용, 시장, 무역에 대한 여성의 동등한 접근 촉진
- 저소득 여성에게 사업편의, 훈련 및 시장, 정보, 기술에의 접근 제공
- 여성의 경제적 역량 및 상업 네트워크 강화
- 직업분리 및 모든 형태의 고용차별 철폐
- 직장과 가정의 조화 촉진

⑦ 여성과 정책결정

- 정치 및 정책결정에 여성의 동등한 접근과 충분한 참여를 보장하는 조치 강구
- 여성의 정책결정에의 참여 역량 및 리더쉽 증진

⑧ 여성 담당 기구

- 여성 담당기구 설치 또는 강화
- 입법, 공공정책, 시책사업에 있어서 남녀평등적 관점 통합
- 성별 통계 및 기획평가 정보 생산 및 유포

⑨ 여성의 인권

- 여성차별철폐협약등 관련 국제법 이행을 통한 여성의 인권증진 및 보호
- 법 및 관습상 평등 보장
- 법률문해 달성

⑩ 여성과 미디어

- 미디어 및 신통신기술에 있어서 여성의 참여와 접근 증진
- 미디어 여성에 대한 균형된 이미지 증진

⑪ 여성과 환경

- 환경정책 결정과정에 있어서 여성의 참여
- 지속가능한 개발 정책 및 사업에 남녀평등적 관점 통합
- 개발과 환경 정책이 여성에게 미치는 영향을 평가하는 기구의 강화 또는 설치

⑫ 여자어린이(女兒)

- 여아에 대한 모든 형태의 차별 철폐
- 여아에 대한 부정적인 문화와 관습 타파
- 여아의 권리 증진·보호 및 여아의 요구와 잠재력에 대한 인식 제고
- 교육·훈련에 있어서 여아차별 철폐
- 보건·영양상 여아차별 철폐
- 아동근로의 경제적 착취 근절 및 근로소녀 보호
- 여아에 대한 폭력 근절
- 사회·경제·정치적 활동 참여에 대한 여아의 인식 증대
- 여아의 지위향상을 위한 가정의 역할 강화

(5) 제도적 조치

○ 행동강령 이행을 위한 제도적 조치로서 각국 차원에서 여성담당기구의 강화 및 비정부기구 특히 여성단체의 역할 증진이 요청됨.

○ 지역적 차원에서는 아·태 경제사회이사회 등 지역기구의 여성관련부서의 강화가, 국제적 차원에서는 유엔 총회, 경제사회이사회, 여성지위위원회, 여성차별철폐위원회, 여성지위향상국 등 유엔관련기구의 효율적 기능 강화를 요청하고 있음.

(6) 재정적 조치

○ 행동강령 이행을 위한 재정적 조치로서 국가적, 지역적, 국제적 차원에서 각기 재원확보가 중요함.

○ 특히 선진국은 GNP의 0.7%를 개도국을 위한 대외개발원조(ODA)에, 또한 ODA의 20%, 국가예산의 20%을 사회개발에 할당함에 있어서 남녀평등적 관점(gender perspective)을 고려할 필요가 있음.

다. 주요 합의사항

(1) 남·녀평등의 정의

○ 남·녀평등의 정의에 있어 Equality와 Equity 중 어느 용어를 선택하느냐 하는 문제와 관련, 회교권 제국의 반대에도 불구하고 다수국의 입장에 따라 절대적 평등의 의미를 내포하는 Equality로 합의

(2) 성에 관한 용어선택

○ Gender 표현이 UN 제반회의에서 관례적으로 사용되고 왔고, 특히 행동강령 전체적인 맥락에서 Gender 표현은 사회적으로 형성되어온 남·녀간의 역할관계와 이러한 사회적 역할에 수반되는 책임과 기회를 의미하는 바, 행동강령 전반에 걸쳐 Gerder로 용어 통일

(3) 여성권리의 보편성 명시여부

○ Universal 표현을 삭제, (All) Human Rights로 문안 합의

(4) 여성의 인권

○ 분쟁지역내 여성인권침해, 특히 전시 성폭력 행위에 대한 범죄사실인정 및 책임자 처벌문제와 관련, 전시 성폭력이 인류에 대한 범죄및 집단학살 행위임을 재확인하고 이에 대한 철저한 진상규명과 책임자 전원의 처벌 및 희생자 보상이행 명시

○ 분쟁 상황하에서 여성인권 유린을 근절하기 위해 과도한 군사비 지출 삭감, 무기개발 중단, 지뢰제거 및 핵무기 등 대량살상 무기의 폐기를 위한 노력 경주

(5) 여성의 보건

○ 여성의 성과 출산에 관한 자기결정권과 관련, 성에 관한 여성의 권리(Sexual Rights)및 성적취향(Sexual Orientation)의 인정문제는 회교권 및 카톨릭 국가의 강한 반대로 인해 채택되지 못하였으나, 출산에 관한 제반 결정 및 정보와 수단을 가질 기본권리와 가장 높은 수준의 성건강과 출산에 필요한 건강을 향유할 권리(Reproductive Rights)는 인정

(6) 여성관련 국제적 재원조달

○ G77을 중심으로한 개도국의 입장을 반영, 여성 빈곤문제 해결과 행동강령의 이행을 위해 필요한 신규·추가지원(New and Additional Resources)확보 노력에 합의

- 미국은 행동강령 자체가 법적인 구속력을 갖지 않음을 밝히고, 동 문안에 유보

(7) 대개도국 ODA 지원

○ 개도국의 입장을 반영, 선진국 GNP 0.7% 수준의 지원노력에 합의

— 미국, 동문안에 합의할 수 없음을 발언, 유보

(8) 여성의 성적권리

○ EU측의 포함 노력에도 불구하고 낙태, Sexual Rights 및 Sexual Orientation(레즈비언 선택 취향등 의미)인정부분을 삭제. 그 대신 Reproductive Rights/Sexual Health로 표현하고 EU측의 Sexual rights 주장내용은 여성인권의 일부분에 포함되는 것으로 절충.

(9) 여성의 경제적 권리

○ 경제적 권리에 대한 여성의 동등한 접근을 보장하고 특히 상속권을 중심으로 한 여성의 동등한 제반 경제권 보장에 합의

— 회교권제국 유보

(10) 자녀양육에 있어 부모의 책임과 권리

○ 자녀의 이익, 보호의 대전제하에서 성교육등에 부모가 책임· 의무와 함께 권리를 가진다는 문안 합의(EU등의 요구에 따라 청소년의 권리 및 Confidentiality 보장전제)

(11) 여성권리 신장에 있어 문화적 가치등 고려문제

○ 행동강령중 특히 상속, 보건 및 성문제와 관련된 조항들이 이슬람의 전통과 가치에 부합되지 않는다는 회교권 제국의 강력한 반발을 반영, 행동강령 서론부분(Para. 9)에 국별, 지역별 특수성과 함께 각국의 주권, 역사적, 문화적 및 종교적 배경을 고려해야 한다는 문항(비엔나 선언5조 참조)을 추가

(12) 여성의 무보수노동 산정방식 개발

○ GDP에 산정되지 않는 전체 무보수노동(가사등)의 2/3를 여성이 제공

한다는 사실을 들어 카나다등은 여성 무보수노동의 수치화를 제안, 적절한 수치화 및 산정방식(Satellite 또는 Parallel Account) 개발노력에 합의

(13) 평화증진 및 무력분쟁 해결 필요성

○ 과도한 군사비지출 삭감, 무기개발 중단, 지뢰제거 및 핵무기등 대량살상 무기의 폐기 필요성 포함에 합의

(14) 여아에 대한 차별 관련사항

○ 여아에 대한 차별이 시작되는 시점과 관련, EU는 낙태합법화 입장에 따라 유아기(Infancy)를, G77측은 임신(Conception) 단계부터를 주장, 절충안으로 ICPD문안을 원용, 생명의 초기단계(The Earlier Stage of Life)로 합의

○ 여아에 대한 차별사례중 여아낙태를 Female Foeticide대신 Prenatal Sex Selection으로 합의

(15) 점령지역하에서의 여성보호

○ 개도국, 아랍권 및 인도의 주장에 따라 외국점령, 지배(Foreign Occupation & Alien Domination) 및 테러리즘으로 부터의 여성보호 추가

(16) 행동강령 이행을 위한 제도적 조치

○ 여성지위향상을 위한 UN기구 개편 및 관련 재원문제 등은 기존의 인적·재정적 자원을 활용하거나, 여성지위위원회 기능강화 등 UN정규예산내에서 예산을 재배정함으로써 확보하는 것으로 합의

라. 조항별 토의내용

○ Para.50 : 빈곤의 여성화에 따른 가정의 위기(crisis)명시에 대한 G77 및

교황청 측의 제안에 대해 EU측은 삭제를 요구하였으나, 카나다측의 insecurity 절충제안을 양측이 수락, 문안조정후 채택.

○ Para.91 : 보건문제에 있어서 여성에 대한 장벽은 남·녀간 뿐만 아니라 여성들간(among women)에 또다른 불평등이 된다는 유보부분은 ICPD용어를 따르자는 교황청의 의견에 따라 "in different geographical regions, social classes and indigenous and ethnic groups" 문안을 추가하기로 합의.

○ Para.95 : 청소년의 sexual and reproductive haealth와 관련, 교황청, 회교권 국가등은 청소년의 성적개방을 방지하기 위하여 부모의 책임과 권리를 고려해야 한다는 점을 명시할 것을 제안하였으나 EU측의 의견대로 아동의 권리도 함께 존중한다는 내용도 포함시킨다는 것으로 합의

○ Para.97 : sexual rights와 관련하여 EU측의 권리로서의 명기주장에 대해 G77, 회교권등의 반발로 합의에 이르지 못하고 여성이 sexuality(sexual and reproductive health포함)와 관련, 자유롭게 결정할 수 있는 권리는 인권의 일부라는 포괄적인 의미의 수정안에 합의(회교권 유보)

— reproductive health/rights(Para.96)관련, ICPD문안(reproductive health)을 그대로 채택하는 것으로 합의됨.

○ Para.107(a) : 여성의 보건문제와 관련, 인구개발회의(ICPD)행동계획을 기준으로 삼고자 하는 EU측과 ICPD보고서(낙태등 일부조항에 대한 교황청등 일부국가의 유보내용 포함)를 기준으로 삼고자 하는 국가간의 의견대립이 있었으나, 동 행동계획과 보고서를 함께 언급하는 것으로 합의

○ Para.110(e) : 낙태, 인공수정, 성적방종이 여성의 건강에 중대한 영향(암유발등)을 미치게 된다는 점을 여성들에게 알려야 한다는 내용과 관련, 중국·이집트 등은 직접적인 상관관계가 있다는 과학적 증거가 없으며, 가

족계획이 중요한 나라에서는 공포를 유발시키게 된다는 점을 이유로 삭제를 요구함. 이에 교황청, 중남미 국가등은 낙태로 인한 여성의 피해가 크며, 관련정보를 알 권리가 있음으로 이에 반대하였으나 사례를 구체적으로 열거하는 대신, 여성의 건강을 위협하는 요인(factors)이라는 표현을 사용키로 합의

○ Para.107(k) : 낙태문제와 관련, ICPD행동계획에 따르기로 하고 관련조항을 그대로 명기.

- 어떤 경우에도 낙태가 가족계획의 수단이 될 수 없음.
- 안전하지 않은 낙태는 여성의 건강을 위협하는 중대한 원인이 되므로, 공공보건상의 주요 관심사로 다루어져야 함.
- 낙태의 합병증 및 계속되는 낙태로 부터 여성의 건강을 보호하기 위하여 시행 전후 서비스·상담·교육등이 실시되어야 함.
- 낙태와 관련된 정책은 각국의 법률적 절차에 따라야 함을 명시하고, "낙태가 법에 위반되지 않는 경우"라는 단서등은 인정할 수 없음.

○ Para.144(c) : 분쟁상황의 해결과정에 "남녀평등의 관점(gender perspective)"을 포함하는 것과 전범 재판소나 국제사법재판소(ICJ) 이외에 분쟁의 평화적 해결과 관련된 여타 기구에서 재판관 및 여타 지위의 임명에 있어 남·녀 균형을 이루는 것에 합의.

○ Para.119 : 대중매체를 통한 여성폭력에 대한 이미지가 현존하는 여성폭력의 주요한 원인이 되고 있고 사회 전반적으로 악영향을 미치고 있다는 서술과 관련, EU 및 미국은 대중매체의 부정적 영향을 직접적으로 기술하는 것에 반대하였으나, G77의견대로 대중매체의 부정적 영향을 직접적으로 기술

○ Para.131(d) : 여성 인신매매와 관련, 관련국 정부 및 지역·국제적 기구들로 하여금 직업훈련, 법률적 구호, 보건치료등 피해자 치료를 위한 포괄적인 계획마련에 필요한 재원을 조달해 주도록 규정하는 부분을 이견없이 채택.

○ Para.139

- 분쟁상황과 과도한 군사비 지출에 의해 빈곤계층이 가장 부정적인 영향을 받고 있음을 합의하였으나 국가의 안보와 평화를 유지하는 것이 경제적 성장과 발전, 여성의 권한강화에 필수적(essential)이라는 표현에는 합의에 이르지 못함.
- 과도한 군사비 지출이 발전에 가장 큰 장애중의 하나라는 표현과 관련, 사회개발정상회의의 실천계획 Para.21을 그대로 인용, 과도한 군사비 지출, 무기거래, 무기생산과 조달에 대한 투자가 개발에 끼치는 부정적인 영향을 고려(address)해야 한다는 내용으로 변경.

○ Para.145(a) : 무기자원 및 유관산업의 평화적 목적으로의 전용과 관련 평화적 목적외에 개발을 포함키로 합의.

○ Para.147(e) 및 (f) : 분쟁지역 내 여성인권침해, 특히 전시 성폭력 행위에 대한 범죄사실 인정 및 책임자 처벌포함 여부관련, 보다 강화된 문안을 컨센서스로 채택.

- Para.147(e) : 전시 여성폭력을 범죄로 규정, 상황에 따라 인류에 대한 범죄 및 집단학살 행위임을 재확인. 전시 여성보호를 위한 모든 필요한 조치와 함께 책임자 처벌 명시
- Para.147(f) : 특히 조직적 강간등 전시 성폭력, 강제매춘 여타 여성을 모독하는 폭행 및 노예화에 대한 철저한 진상규명 시행, 모든책임자 처

벌 및 희생자 보상 이행명시

- Para.147(j) : 국제법에 반하는 일방적 제재는 여성 및 아동에 대하여 부정적 영향을 미치는 바, 특히 식량과 의약품은 정치적 압력수단으로 사용해서는 안됨을 재확인.
- Para.180(a) : EU는 여성 근로자 보호를 위한 준거로 ILO협약을 명시할 것을 제안, G77내 일부국가(인도등)의 반대가 있었으나 포함키로 합의
- Para.180(c) : 고용과 승진등에 있어서 연령 및 남·녀 차별을 배제하는 법률, 정책 시행관련, 노령여성에 대한 특별한 고려를 위해 "연령차별(age discrimination)"을 삽입하자는 G77주장과 이들 노령 여성에 대한 차별역시 성차별에 포함함을 이유로 삭제를 요구하는 EU측 주장이 대립되었으나, "노령여성에 대한 특별고려"라는 문안을 포함키로 절충.
- Para.192(a) : 각국 정부로 하여금 행정부 및 기타 공공기관, 법조계내 남녀평등 실현을 위해 구체적인 목표를 정하고 여성의 참여 비율을 실질적으로 높이는 조치를 취하게 함.
- Para.192(i) : 여성의 사회생활에의 참여 확대를 위해 남녀간 가족 부양의 책임 공유가 필요함을 인식하고 이를 구체적으로 실현하기 위해서는 가정과 사회생활을 조정하는 조치가 취해져야 한다는 것에 대해 각국간 이견없이 채택.
- Para.204 : 국가의 모든 정책과 사업계획에 여성의 입장을 고려(gender perspective)해야 한다는 문안에 합의.
- Para.205(e) : 행동강령의 이행과 관련, 남녀평등 문제를 주류화(mainstreaming)하기 위한 조치사항들을 정기적으로 입법기구에 보고하는 것에 대해 합의.

○ Para.207(e) : 각국 정부내 여성관련 부서간 네트워크 설치 규정에 합의.

○ Para.208(e) : 여성지위향상 담당 국가기관으로 하여금 개발과정에서 능동적인 주체이자 수혜자로서의 여성의 참여를 높이도록 하는 부분을 이견없이 채택.

○ Para.219 : 국내법 제도와 국제법, 인권관련 규약간의 괴리, 사법체계에 있어 인식부족, 여성인권 침해에 대한 부적절한 감시체계 등으로 인한 여성인권의 완전한 향유가 어려움을 서술하는 부분은 존속키로 합의

○ Para.228 : 여성의 인권신장을 위한 NGO등의 역할 인정관련, feminist groups를 포함키로 합의

○ Para.230(a) : 여성인권의 보호와 신장을 위한 인권관련 제반 국제협약의 비준에 대한 고려(consider)는 consider를 제거함으로써 보다 강한 표현이 가능토록 합의(수단, 국가 주권문제를 이유로 유보)

○ Para.232(b) : 남·녀간의 법적 평등을 위한 국내법 검토와 차별적 요소의 철폐고려(consider)관련, 이를 제거함으로써 보다 강한 표현으로 가능토록 합의

○ Para.230(1) : 청원권 도입을 내용으로 하는 여성차별철폐협약의 선택의정서 마련 관련, 직접적인 조치 마련보다는 현재 여성지위위원회에서 동 문제와 관련하여 진행되는 사항을 지지하는 표현으로 완화하는데 합의.

○ Para.233 : 여성의 법률에 대한 legal literacy를 성취하기 위한 행동조치의 주체로서의 NGO역할과 관련, 독립적인 행위주체로서 보다 정부의 역할을 "지원(support)"하는 것으로 한정하는데 합의

○ Para.244(b) : 음란물 관련, EU는 지나친 규제는 표현의 자유를 침해하게 되므로 표현의 자유를 고려해야 한다는 단서추가를 제안하였으며, 이에

이집트 등은 동조항에 있어 표현의 자유를 언급하는 것은 적절치 않다는 이유로 반대하였으나 최종적으로 EU의 의견을 받아들이는 것으로 합의

○ Para.293, 309 : 여성지위향상을 위한 제도적 조치와 관련, UN사무총장을 보좌하는 여성문제를 전담하는 고위직 (high-level post)을 설치하는 것과 각국 뿐만 아니라 국제사회도 구체적인 실천목표를 공약케 하도록 하는 G77의 제안이 최종 채택됨.

○ Para.318~321 : UN기구의 개편과 관련, 총회와 경제사회이사회의 여성지위위원회의 기능강화문제를 검토할 것을 요청하였으며, 이를 위하여 충분한 인적·재정적 자원이 확보되어야 함을 명시

○ Para.358 : 외채문제에 대해서는 사회개발정상회의의 합의내용을 기준으로 하고자 하는 EU측과 여타 국제회의(UN주관 명시 반대)에서 합의된 관련사항도 함께 포함시키고자 하는 G77의 의견대립이 있었으나, 사회개발 정상회의와 여타 UN주관 국제회의의 합의내용을 모두 포함시키는 것으로 절충

○ Para.361 : 재원문제와 관련, UNIFEM과 INSTRAW를 포함한 UN기구의 여성관련 프로그램에 대한 국제사회의 지원은 충분해야 하며 적절한 수준에서 유지되어야 하는 것으로 합의

V. 우리 대표단 활동

1. 명예수석대표 활동

가. 본회의 기조연설(9. 5 오후)

* 연설요지 p.26 참조

나. 세계문맹퇴치의 날 기념 특별연설 및 세종대왕상 시상(9. 8 오전)

* 연설요지 p.45 참조

* 세계문맹퇴치의 날 기념행사 p.45 참조

다. 세계여성지도자 및 중국정상과의 회동

○ 명예수석대표는 세계여성회의 참석외에 세계의 주요 여성지도자(국가원수, 정부수반, 대통령 부인 등 포함)들과 회동, 전세계 여성지위 향상을 위한 협력방안 등에 대하여 토의.

○ 강택민 주석, 이붕 총리 내외, 진모화 주석 등 중국의 정상급 고위인사들과의 개별회담을 통해 양국의 여성발전방안 및 양자관계 강화방안 등 공동관심사에 대하여도 의견을 교환하였음.

라. 정부 및 민간단체 대표, 기자단 격려만찬

○ 또한 세계여성회의 및 NGO포럼에 참가중인 정부와 민간대표, 기자단등과의 만남의 자리를 통해 여성정책을 추진함에 있어 유기적인 협조관계가 중요함을 강조하고 의견을 수렴.

2. 수석대표 활동

○ 베트남 수석대표(국회부의장겸 베트남 여성연맹총재)등 각국 여성담당 장관급 수석대표와 면담, 전세계 여성의 지위향상을 위한 협력방안을 논의하는 한편, 필리핀 수석대표(Ramos-Shahani 상원의원)가 주최한 리셉션장에서 북한의 수석대표인 윤기정 재정부장과도 인사를 교환.

○ 정부간 회의인 세계여성회의와 병행하여 열린 민간단체회의(NGO Forum)에 참가한 우리나라 90여개 여성단체 관계자 700여명의 활동 격려

3. 행동강령중 우리나라가 반영시킨 내용

○ 대표단은 '북경선언문'및 '행동강령' 실무토의에 참가, 우리나라의 입장을 적극 개진함으로써 여성문제에 대한 국제적 합의 도출에 기여하였으며, 특히 G77측의 관심사항인 여자어린이(girl child)의 지위향상을 위한 가족의 역할을 강화하자는 내용을 새로운 전략 목표로 추가할 것을 제안, 이를 모두 포함시킴으로써 사회개발 정상회의에 이어 가정의 사회적 역할과 기여에 대한 국제적 인식 제고에 주도적 역할을 담당.

가. 일반적인 내용

(1) 제1장(임무의 기술)

— 행동강령의 Mission statement를 기술함에 있어 제1차 목적이 1985년에 채택된 나이로비 여성발전 전략의 이행촉진과 함께 여성지위 향상을 가로막는 모든 장애물을 제거함에 있음을 강조함.

(2) 제2장(세계적 구도)

- 사회개발 정상회의 등 유엔 주관 세계회의와 세계여성회의와의 연관성을 강조함에 있어 1990년에 개최된 세계교육회의가 포함될 것을 지적함.
- 여성의 현황과 관련, 지나치게 부정적인 내용에는 In many countries등과 같은 단서를 붙임으로써 내용의 균형을 기할 것을 제안함.

(3) 제4장(주요관심분야별 전략적 목표와 조치)

- 여성지위 향상을 위하여 필요한 조치를 아래와 같이 제안, 채택됨.
  - 정책수립 과정에 여성의 전면적이고 동등한 참여(Full and equal participation)가 확보되어야 함.
  - 여성의 권리 및 관련 법률, 제도에 대한 지식을 제공하기 위한 Legal literacy program을 모든 남녀를 대상으로 실시하여야 함.
  - 교육을 통하여 남녀간의 책임분담, 상호존중, 협동이 중요함을 일깨워 주어야 함.
  - 여성지위향상을 위한 국가 기구의 설립뿐만 아니라 기존 기구의 기능을 강화하는 것이 필요하며, 여성정책을 추진함에 있어 NGO, 매스미디어, 의회, 연구소등과 유기적인 관계를 지속해 가는 것이 중요함.
- 매스컴에 나타난 성의 상품화 및 여성과 어린이에 대한 폭력의 심각함을 언급, 이를 개선하기 위한 조치가 필요함을 지적함.
- 여성의 지위를 향상시키고 인권을 증진하기 위하여 여성차별철폐협약 등 유엔 협약이 갖는 중요성을 강조하고 각국이 협약 이행 보고서를 제출함에 있어 여성의 현황에 관한 내용을 포함시키도록 함.
- 유엔 협약의 가입, 비준에 따른 국내법의 검토와 관련, 성차별적인 법률의 개정이 필요함.

(4) 제5장(제도적 조치)

○ 행동강령의 이행 추진을 위하여 동 이행에 대하여 Monitoring mechanism에 의한 정기적인 검토가 필요함을 제안함.

나. 가족조항

(1) 토의결과

○ 제39차 여성지위위원회에서 여자어린이(girl-child)와 관련하여 가족의 역할을 강조하는 아래 3개항의 「가족조항」을 전략적 목표로 제안하였으나 EU측의 이견으로 조항 전체가 미합의 상태로 세계여성회의에 넘겨졌음.

○ "가족조항"에 관한 토의에서 전통적인 가족의 가치를 존중하는 G77과 사회변천에 따른 다양한 형태의 가족의 존재(동성결혼 등)를 인정하고 가족구성원 개개인의 사생활 보호에 중점을 두는 EU등 선진국간 의견이 첨예하게 대립하여 쟁점화됨에 따라 가족조항에 관한 비공식 실무협상위를 구성, 토의하기로 하였음.

○ 비공식 실무협상위에서는 EU, G77, 미국, 호주, 교황청 등 주요 관심국간에 첨예한 이견 대립이 있었으나, 장시간 토의를 거쳐 ICPD에서 합의한 가족조항을 기초로 재작성한 Para.30의 가족 개념을 받아들이는 것으로 합의, the family, as described in para.30으로 표기하기로 함.

(2) 관련조항

〈전략목표 L.9. 여아의 지위향상을 위한 가족의 역할 강화〉

Para.285. 각국 정부는 NGO와의 협력하에

(a) 가족내 여아에 대한 차별불식에 중점을 두고 가족의 교육, 양육 기능을

지원하는 정책 및 계획을 수립

(b) 여아의 보호·존중·잠재력 촉진 관련, 가족의 역할을 강화하기 위한 환경을 조성

(c) 남아와 여아를 동등하게 대우하고 이들이 가정내에서 동등한 책임을 가지게 하도록 부모에 대한 교육을 권장

4. 기타 활동

가. 기타 대표단 활동

○ 국회의원 일행은 9월 7일 국제의원연맹(IPU)이 주최한 국회의원의 날 기념행사에 참석하여 각국의 국회의원들과 여성의 정치참여 확대방안등에 대해 의견을 교환하였음.

○ 김영정 고문(대한적십자사 부총재)은 9월 8일 유네스코 주최로 열린 여성과 교육에 관한 원탁회의에 참가한데 이어, 9월 9일에는 UNICEF/UNIFEM이 공동주관한 여성차별철폐협약 및 아동권리협약에 관한 패널토의에 참가하여 교육을 통한 여성지위 향상의 필요성을 발언함.

○ 정세화 고문(한국여성개발원 원장)은 9월 5일 말레이지아 총리 부인이 주재한 농촌여성 지위향상을 위한 아·태지역회의에 우리나라 대표로 참가하였음.

나. 국가보고서 배포

○ 「Women : Vision of Korea」제하 나이로비 여성발전전략 이행상황에 관한 국가보고서 1,000부를 회의 참가국에 공식 배포하였음.

다. 세계여성회의 신탁기금 출연

○ 우리나라는 최빈국의 세계여성회의 참가경비 지원 및 행사준비 지원을 위해 유엔측이 설치한 신탁기금에 US$50,000을 출연하였음.

라. 시·도 가정복지국장 참관단 특별활동

○ NGO 포럼 참관

○ 세계여성회의 주최기관인 중화전국부녀연합회 방문

○ 북경시내 모자원등 여성관련 복지시설 방문

○ 농촌여성, 농공단지 프로그램 시찰

마. 리셉션 참석

○ 몽겔라 세계여성회의 사무총장, 샤하니 필리핀 수석대표(G77 의장), EU 의장 등이 주최한 리셉션에 참석

Ⅵ. 평가 및 후속조치

1. 참가의의 및 성과

가. 이번 회의 참가는 유엔 차원의 여성분야 국제적 의사결정과정에 우리정부가 주도적으로 참여한 최초의 세계여성회의임.

나. 특히 정부수립이후 최초로 대통령 부인이 세계적 규모의 여성관련 국제회의에 명예수석대표로 참석, 활동하므로써 대내외적으로 여성의 권익신장과 지위향상에 대한 정부의 적극적 의지를 표명하는 계기가 되었으며, '95년 한국여성의 세계화 원년을 맞아 여성정책의 중요성에 대한 사회적 관심을 높이고 국민적 인식을 새롭게 할 수 있는 계기가 됨.

- 우리나라 취재언론인 50여명이 동 회의에 참가 및 국내 신문·방송 등을 통하여 연일 보도등 여성정책에 대한 대국민 홍보 효과를 거양

다. 북경선언문 및 행동강령 실무토의에 적극적으로 참가하여 우리나라의 입장을 밝힘으로써 여성문제에 대한 국제적 합의도출에 크게 기여하였으며, 특히 G77측의 관심사항인 여자어린이의 지위향상을 위한 가족의 역할을 강화하자는 내용을 새로운 전략목표로 추가할 것을 제안, 제안내용을 모두 포함시키는 성과를 거두었음.

- 가족문제는 G77측과 EU측이 가장 커다란 입장차이를 보이고 있는 쟁점사항으로서 우리나라는 사회개발 정상회의에 이어 이번에 다시 가족사항을 포함시킴으로써 가족문제에 대한 국제적 토의를 주도하는 확고한 위치를 확립하였음.

라. 최근 유엔회의에서 크게 강조되고 있는 NGO의 중요성을 인식, 정부대표단에 수명의 NGO대표들을 참여시키는 한편, 2년에 걸친 민간차원의 준비활동을 적극 지원함으로써 정부정책에 대한 민간의 이해와 신뢰도를 높이고 긴밀한 협력관계를 구축할 수 있었음.

마. 정부대표단에 NGO대표, 지방자치단체 대표, 각계 민간 전문가등을 대폭 참여시켜 여성관련 국제동향 및 여성지위 향상을 위한 유엔차원의 조치 등에 대한 이해를 높이고 이들을 통해 관련내용을 사회의 일반 여성들에게 전파하게 하는데 기여함.

바. 금년 2월 진모화 중화전국부녀연합회 주석이 정무장관(제2) 공식초청으로 방한한데 이어, 이번에 영부인이 방중하여 강택민주석, 이붕총리, 진모화주석 등 중국 정상등과 면담함으로써 한·중 협력관계를 더욱 강화시킬 수 있었음.

- 지난 2월 양국은 5개항의 한중 여성교류협력 증진방안에 합의한 바 있음.

사. 세계여성회의의 후속조치로서 지역간, 국가간 네트워킹의 중요성이 제기되었는 바, 이번 회의기간중 ESCAP(유엔 아·태경제사회이사회)측과 "아태지역 여성담당 국가기구간 회의" 개최에 관하여 구두 합의함으로써 향후 이 지역내 여성담당 국가기구와의 교류를 강화하고 여성관련 국제협력을 증진시킬 수 있는 계기를 마련함.

- '94년부터 임기 4년의 유엔 여성지위위원회 위원국으로 진출하는 등 최근 유엔 무대에서 활발한 활동을 전개하고 있는 여성분야 국제활동을 한단계 강화시킬 수 있을 것으로 예상됨

2. 회의 종합평가

가. 여성권리신장을 위한 공동노력

○ 전세계 각국정부 및 민간단체 대표들이 종교권·문화권별 및 선진국·개도국간의 차이를 극복하고 여성의 인권보호와 권리신장을 위한 공동의 목표를 설정, 국제적·국가별 실천방안을 제시했다는 점이 금번 회의의 가장 큰 성과로 평가됨.

나. 여성인권신장에 실질적으로 기여

○ 금번회의 결과 채택된 행동강령 및 선언문은 남·녀 평등에 기초한 여성의 인권신장 및 모든 폭력으로 인한 강박으로부터의 여성의 자결확보의 측면에서 성과를 가져온 반면, 빈곤·개발문제를 등한시 했다는 지적도 있음.

다. 여성문제를 사회문제의 중요한 부분으로 토의

○ 또한 금번 행동강령은 나이로비 제3차 회의에서 채택된 2000년대 여성발전 전략의 이행을 위한 구체적인 조치들을 규정함으로써, 여성의 문제가 범세계적인 사회문제의 중요한 부분이라는데 대한 국제적인 공감대를 형성함.

라. 여성의 경제권 보장 명시

○ 여성의 상속권을 포함한 제반 경제권이 보장되고, 특히 여성의 무보수 노동에 대한 수치화 및 GDP반영을 위한 방법개발 등에 합의한 것은 여성의 역할에 대한 실질적인 평가 필요성을 반영한 것이라 할 수 있음.

마. 문화권별 대립 노정

○ 금번 회의를 통해 여성문제에 있어서는 개도국간의 차이와 함께, 종교권·문화권별 차이가 국제적인 합의 도출에 큰 장애가 되고 있음을 노정하였으나, 각 잇슈별 NGO들의 적극적인 활동이 이러한 차이를 극복하는데 큰 공헌을 한 것으로 평가됨.

바. 성·보건부분의 여성권리 보장에 한계 노정

○ 반면에 여성인권의 구체적인 측면이라 할 수 있는 보건·성문제와 관련, 여성의 Sexual rights 및 Sexual orientation 선택권 등의 보장이 명시화되지 못하였고, 문화권의 차이를 이유로한 회교권등 다수국가가 여성의 경제권 및 보건·성문제관련 합의사항에 유보를 제기함으로써, 여성의 구체적인 권리인정과 관련한 범세계적인 합의도출에 있어 한계를 보임.

사. 유엔주관 주요국제회의와의 연계성

○ '90년대 유엔주관 주요국제회의(아동정상회의, 리우환경회의, 비엔나 인권회의, 카이로 인구개발회의 및 사회개발 정상회의)에서 제기된 여성관련 주요 잇슈들을 여성의 지위향상에 촛점을 두고 189개국 대표가 실천 지향적인 입장에서 토의했다는 점이 평가됨.

아. 후속조치의 중요성

○ 향후 후속조치 이행을 위한 각국정부의 의지가 가장 중요한 것으로 강조되었으나 금번 행동강령이 남·녀차별, 여성인권침해로 인한 현상의 치유에만 급급하였으며, 근본적인 문제의 원인으로서 남·녀 평등을 저해해온 남성위주의 사회구조에 대한 치유방안 제시에는 미흡했다는 지적도 있음.

3. 건의사항

가. 사회개발정상회의 등 최근 유엔 주관 세계회의에서 여성문제가 핵심의제로 다루어지고 있으며 각국 대표들이 여성지위향상을 위한 강력한 정책의지를 표명하고 있음을 비추어 볼때, 유엔 등 국제무대에서 우리나라가 상대적으로 앞서있는 여성분야를 회의외교의 전략분야로 활용함으로써 우리외교의 지평을 확대하고 국제적 위상을 제고할 수 있을 것임.

나. 아동정상회의, 국제인구개발회의, 사회개발정상회의 등 '90년대 들어 계속된 유엔주관 세계회의가 경제·사회·문화적 제반이슈에 대한 연속성을 가지는 바, 일련의 세계회의의 연계와 후속작업(follow-up)이 요청되며, 정부대표단 임명에도 이러한 사항을 고려하여 참가자의 일관성을 확보하는 것이 바람직함.

다. 이번 세계여성회의에서 부각된 주요 쟁점사항들은 여타의 국제회의에서도 재 논의될 가능성이 많은 바, 동 쟁점사항들에 대한 우리의 대외적 입장을 일관성·통일성 있게 정립하는 한편, 각국의 입장과 지역별·그룹별 시각에 대한 정치적 판단과 분석이 요구됨.

라. 우리나라의 국제적 위상을 강화하기 위한 교두보로서 지역적 거점을 확보하는 것이 중요하며 이를 위하여 아·태지역의 주요 관심분야인 여성의 빈곤퇴치를 위한 국제협력을 강화하는 것이 바람직함. 이와 관련 다음과 같은 조치에 대한 검토가 필요함.

- ESCAP산하 여성관련 기구 및 프로젝트에 대한 자발적 기여금 제공
- 여성분야 무상전문가의 ESCAP 파견

· ESCAP과 공동사업 유치

마. 장기간에 걸쳐 유엔을 중심으로 상시적으로, 비공식적으로 이루어지는 논의과정을 지속적으로 Follow-up할 수 있도록 주유엔 한국대표부내에 여성업무를 전담할 수 있는 인력의 배치가 요망됨.

— 여성업무담당 유엔 주재관 파견 문제 검토 등

바. 우리나라대표단이 최근 국제회의에서 강조하고 있는 가족문제는 G77과 EU가 뚜렷한 입장차이를 보이고 있는 주요 쟁점이므로 가족문제를 국제회의 전략분야로 활용, 양 그룹간의 원만한 타결을 유도함으로써 우리 대표의 협상력을 참가국간 인정받을 수 있는 계기로 활용할 수 있을 것으로 판단됨.

사. 최근 다자간 회의에서는 EU, G77, JAC(일본, 호주, 캐나다)등 그룹별로 의견이 표출되고 조정되는 경향이 강화되고 있는바, OECD가입을 앞두고 우리나라의 다자간회의 대응전략에 대한 입장정리가 필요함.

아. 리우환경회의 이후 특히 국제회의에서 NGO의 역할과 기여가 부각되고 있는바, 국제회의 준비 및 참가, 후속조치에 이르는 일련의 과정에서 NGO의 참여를 확보하는 것이 중요함.

자. 군대위안부문제와 관련, 우리나라의 관련 민간단체들이 국제회의에 참관, 적극적으로 발언하고 로비하고 있는 바, 동 문제가 한·일간 외교현안으로서 일단락 되었다고 하나, 군대위안부 문제가 여성인권의 중대한 침해사례로서 여성문제에 있어 중요하게 다루어지고 있는 바, 이에 대한 관심을 제고할 필요가 있음.

4. 후속조치

가. 행동강령 번역·배포 및 국내이행계획 수립

○ 우리의 여성정책 우선순위에 따라 행동강령의 주요관심분야를 조정, 향후 5~10년간의 국내이행계획 수립, 추진

○ 행동강령에 대한 국민의 이해를 높이기 위해 국문으로 번역하여 배포

나. 여성관련 국제회의 유치

(1) 유엔 전문가 회의

- 시기 : '95. 12. 4~8
- 장소 : 여성공동의 장
- 주최 : 유엔 여성지위향상국과 정무장관(제2)실 공동주최
- 주제 : 가정과 일의 조화-자녀양육과 노인부양문제 등
  ('96년도 제40차 여성지위위원회에서 특별선정주제로 보고, 상정될 예정)
- 참석 : 유엔이 선정한 세계적 전문가 20~30명

(2) 여성개발과 국제협력에 관한 포럼

- 시기 : '95. 11. 2
- 장소 : 여성공동의 장 아·태 회의실
- 주최 : 정무장관(제2)실(주관 : 한국여성개발원)
- 성격 : 한국여성 세계화 원년 및 여성공동의 장 개관 기념사업
- 참석 : 정부, 아·태지역 관련 유엔기구, 학계, NGO등 70~80명

〈'96년〉

(3) 아·태 여성담당 국가기구 회의

- 시기 : '96. 9월경
- 장소 : 여성공동의 장
- 주최 : 유엔 아·태경제사회이사회(ESCAP)와 정무장관(제2)실 공동주최
- 성격 : 세계여성회의 후속이행을 위한 아·태지역회의
- 참석 : 아·태지역 20~30개국

(4) 동아시아 여성포럼

- 시기 : '96. 상반기
- 장소 : 서울
- 주최 : 한국여성NGO위원회
- 성격 : 정무장관(제2)실이 UNDP협력사업으로 추진한 『북경 세계여성대회 한국 NGO지원사업』의 일환

〈부 록〉

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□ 연 설 문

1. 우리나라 대표 연설문(국·영문)

제4차 세계여성회의 기조연설 (9월 5일, 火)

존경하는 부트로스 갈리 사무총장님,
진모화 의장님, 거루트르드 몽겔라 세계여성회의 사무총장님,
그리고 존경하는 각국 정부 대표와
세계여성지도자 여러분!

먼저 제4차 세계여성회의를 준비해오신 부트로스 갈리 유엔 사무총장과 거루트르드 몽겔라 세계여성회의 사무총장, 그리고 특별히 저를 초청해 주신 중국 정부에 충심으로 감사드립니다.

올해는 유엔이 창설된지 50주년이 되는 해이면서 바로 우리나라가 광복을 맞은지 50주년이 되는 해입니다.

이 뜻깊은 해를 맞아 한국의 오랜 이웃인 중국의 수도 북경에서 개최되는 세계여성회의에서 말씀드리게 된 것을 무척 영광스럽게 생각합니다.

지난 반세기 동안 유엔은 인류의 평화와 번영을 위해 끊임없이 노력해 왔으며, 특히 1975년 제1차 세계여성회의 이후 유엔을 중심으

로 세계 여러 나라들은 여성의 발전과 남녀평등 실현을 위해 진력해 왔습니다.

평등, 여성발전, 그리고 화해와 평화없이는 밝은 미래가 없습니다.

오늘날 여성의 지위와 인권은 상당한 발전을 이루었습니다.

그 과정에서 큰 공헌을 해오신 세계의 여성지도자들과 민간여성단체 대표들에게 이 자리를 빌어 경의를 표합니다.

이번 회의는 전세계 여성들의 바램대로 21세기 여성발전을 향한 획기적인 전환점이 될 것이라고 확신합니다.

세계 각국의 대표들은 1985년 나이로비 세계여성회의에서 채택된 「2000년을 향한 미래전략」의 이행을 검토하고, 앞으로의 여성발전을 위한 지침이 될 행동강령을 채택하는 막중한 임무를 가지고 이곳에 모였습니다.

오늘날 세계는 냉전체제의 종식으로 인류전체를 변화시킬 수 있는 새로운 가능성에 직면해 있습니다.

그러나 지금 지구 곳곳에서는 아직도 지역간, 민족간 분쟁과 전쟁, 인권침해, 여성에 대한 억압과 차별, 그리고 자연에 대한 남용이 지속되고 있습니다.

또한 개방된 세계시장 체제 하에서 국가간 경쟁이 심화될 가능성과 그에 따른 불평등과 소외에 대한 우려도 있습니다.

이처럼 이번 세계여성회의는 지구촌의 인류가 새로운 공동 목표를 설정해야 하는 시점에서 개최되는 만큼 인류문명의 발전을 위한 새로운 청사진을 제시해야 한다는 과제도 안고 있습니다.

제4차 세계여성회의가 열리기 전까지 유엔환경개발회의, 세계인권회의, 국제인구개발회의, 사회개발정상회의가 개최되었습니다.

이러한 회의를 통해 우리 여성들은 여성의 눈으로 세계를 볼 때 분명 새로운 발전의 가능성이 있다는 확신을 갖게 되었습니다.

여성들은 불평등과 억압, 파괴가 만연하는 부정적 문화를 극복하고 유기적 협력과 공존, 평화의 문화를 창조하는 작업에 적극 참여하여야 합니다.

그러기 위해서는 여성이 빈곤과 문맹, 폭력으로부터 벗어나야 하며 또한 경제적·정치적으로 힘을 키워야 합니다.

한국은 1948년 정부가 수립된 이래 자유민주주의 헌법에 입각하여 여성에게 참정권, 노동권, 교육권을 보장하였습니다.

한국은 비교적 짧은 기간동안 눈부신 경제성장과 민주화를 실현해 낸 것과 마찬가지로, 여성분야에서도 상당한 발전을 이루어 왔음을 자랑스럽게 생각합니다.

특히 한국 정부는 여성의 실질적 평등권을 확보하기 위한 장기적이며 근본적인 방법이 여성들의 교육기회를 확대하는 것이라는 인식아래 1950년부터 문맹퇴치교육 5개년계획을 수립하여 범정부적인 노력을 기울여 왔습니다.

그 결과 세계적으로 높은 수준의 문자해독률, 여성의 높은 교육수준을 자랑하는 나라가 되었습니다.

이러한 경험을 바탕으로 한국 정부는, 지난 번 사회개발정상회의에서 천명한 바와 같이, 앞으로 저개발국 여성의 교육과 인력훈련을

위한 지원에 특별한 노력을 기울일 것입니다.

각국 대표 여러분!

1980년대 초부터 한국정부는 여성의 능력을 개발하고 사회발전에 여성이 동참할 수 있도록 여성관련 법제와 기구를 정비해 왔습니다.

여성정책을 전담하는 정무장관실을 신설하고 중앙과 지방차원에서 여성정책을 추진하기 위한 행정체계를 수립하였습니다. 또한 가족법을 개정하고 남녀고용평등법과 영유아보육법을 제정하였습니다. 최근에는 여성에 대한 폭력을 근절하기 위해 성폭력특별법을 제정하였습니다.

금년 7월에는 유네스코와 공동으로 성폭력에 관한 국제전문가회의를 개최하여 이번 세계여성회의에 상정된 『서울선언문』을 채택하는 등 여성의 인권을 보호하기 위한 국제적 연대에도 적극 동참하고 있습니다.

아울러 남녀평등에 관한 사회전반의 의식을 변화시켜 실질적 평등을 이루어내고자 학교교육과 대중매체의 성차별적 요소 개선을 위한

노력도 기울이고 있습니다.

최근에는 『삶의 질의 세계화』를 내용으로 하는 복지국가를 지향하면서, 여성의 사회활동을 지원하기 위한 보육시설의 확충, 여성고용기회의 확대, 정치참여 증진 등을 중요한 정책과제로 추진하고 있습니다.

냉전종식이후 오늘날 평화롭고 함께 번영하는 지구촌의 건설을 위해 인류 공동의 문제에 대한 우리 모두의 노력이 그 어느 때보다 더욱 절실하게 요청되고 있습니다. 여성문제도 결코 예외가 아닙니다. 한국은 여성문제 해결을 위한 국제협력의 중요성을 인식하여 곧 개관될 『여성공동의 장』에 국제협력의 창구를 마련하였습니다.

『여성공동의 장』은 아시아·태평양 지역 뿐 아니라 세계의 모든 여성들이 지역간, 국제간 교류를 통해 여성발전을 도모하는 열린 공간으로 활용될 것입니다.

각국 대표 여러분!

인류가 이제까지 애써 키우고 가꾸어 온 오늘날의 문명은 커다란

도전에 직면해 있습니다.

이러한 도전은 물적 가치에 치중한 생산과 소비활동, 환경을 도외시한 개발, 그리고 과학기술의 오용 등에서 나오고 있습니다.

이제 여성들은 21세기를 앞두고 미래지향적인 철학과 이웃을 사랑하고 참된 평화를 추구하는 이상적인 세계관을 가지고 진정한 공동체적 삶을 이룰 수 있도록 건전한 가정과 건강한 사회 그리고 푸른 자연을 지키는 운동을 전개합시다.

중국에는 예로부터 "여성은 하늘의 절반"이라는 말이 있습니다. "하늘의 절반"인 여성의 저력은 오염된 환경과 세상을 건강하게 회복시킬 수 있는 새로운 힘의 원천이 될 것입니다.

지구촌 안에서 모두가 한 자매인 우리 여성은 21세기 미래를 이끄는 새로운 주역이 될 것입니다.

따라서 여성발전을 위한 정부차원의 적극적 지원은 다른 어느 부문에 대한 투자보다 장기적이며 알찬 결실을 맺을 수 있을 것이라고 믿습니다.

유구한 역사속에서 인간과 자연의 조화의 섭리를 체득해 온, 한국을 포함한 동양의 여성들은 세계 여성들과 손에 손을 잡고 지구촌의 행복을 위해 노력해 나갈 것입니다.

마지막으로 활발한 대화와 친교를 통하여 평등·발전·평화를 향한 제4차 세계여성회의가 성공적인 결실을 맺기 바라며 또한 이 회의가 지구촌 한가족의 갈라진 틈을 잇는 가교 역할을 하는 자리가 되기를 기대합니다.

회의가 끝나는 날까지 세계여성지도자 여러분들과 관계하시는 모든 분들에게 행운이 함께 하시기를 기원합니다.

감사합니다.

『세계문맹퇴치의 날』 기념식 축사 (9월 8일, 金)

존경하는 훼테리꼬 마요르 유네스코 사무총장님, 아메드 사야드 유네스코 총회 의장님, 이나야 툴라 유네스코 집행이사회 의장님, 세계 각국의 여성지도자, 그리고 내외 귀빈 여러분!

저는 오늘 이 뜻깊은 『세계문맹퇴치의 날』 기념식에 참석하여, 여러분에게 말씀드릴 수 있게 된 것을 큰 영광으로 생각합니다.

유엔과 유네스코가 창설된 지 50주년이 되는 이 때, 세계문맹퇴치의 날을 기념하고 문맹퇴치가 21세기를 앞둔 우리에게 무엇을 의미하는지 음미해 봄은 큰 의의가 있다고 생각합니다.

유네스코 헌장은 만인을 위한 평등한 교육을 기본사명으로 명기한 바 있습니다. 이에 따라 유네스코는 1967년 『세계문맹퇴치의 날』을 선포한 이래 세계적 규모로 조직적인 문맹퇴치운동을 전개해 왔습니다.

또한 태국에서 개최된 세계교육회의에서 유네스코가 1990년을 『세계문맹퇴치의 해』로 선포한 것은 문맹퇴치 사업에 또다른 의미를

부여하였습니다.

유네스코는 그동안 문맹퇴치를 비롯하여 세계의 교육·문화 발전에 빛나는 성과를 거두었습니다.

저는 이 자리를 빌어 문맹퇴치사업을 성공적으로 이끌어 온 마요르 사무총장을 비롯한 유네스코 관계자들의 노고에 깊이 감사드립니다.

귀빈 여러분,

이번 세계여성회의에서 문맹퇴치의 문제를 여성문제의 맥락에서 새롭게 조명해 보는 것은 문맹퇴치와 여성문제 해결을 위한 또다른 시각을 마련해 주고 있습니다.

오늘날 세계 10억 문맹인구의 절대다수인 2/3가 여성임은 남녀불평등의 문제가 어디에서 시작하고 있는지 암시해 주고 있습니다.

여성의 교육은 한 개인의 교육을 넘어, 한 가정과 사회를 위한 교육이라 할 수 있습니다.

여성들의 역할과 기여는 한없이 요구되고 있으나 여성교육이 암암

리에 거부되고 차별받고 있는 현실은, 사회개발이 어디에서 출발해야 하는지를 말해 주고 있습니다.

문맹퇴치야말로 여성문제, 사회개발문제 등 세계가 안고 있는 구조적 문제를 해결하는 지름길입니다.

문맹퇴치 운동은 여성문제, 사회개발문제에 그치지 않고 평화의 문제에 직결되고 있습니다.

문맹퇴치는 자아의 발견이자 타인의 발견입니다. 이것은 다른세계에 대한 이해와 교류의 첫걸음이며 우호와 평화의 세계를 추구하기 위한 전제조건입니다.

따라서 오늘날 평화의 문화를 확산시키려는 유네스코의 노력은 문맹퇴치 사업의 자연스런 귀결이 아닐 수 없습니다.

귀빈 여러분,

저는 이자리를 빌어 한국역사에 있어 문맹퇴치가 어떻게 사회를 변혁, 발전시켜 왔는지 잠시 소개해 드리겠습니다.

한국에서는 지금으로부터 550년 전 세종대왕에 의해 세계에서 가장 배우기 쉽고 과학적인 한글이 창제되었습니다.

한글창제 서문에서, 세종대왕은 "일반 백성이 글을 몰라 자기 생각을 나타내지 못함을 안타깝게 여겨 만인이 알기 쉬운 글을 창제한다"고 밝혔습니다.

한국 국민은 한글과 더불어 독창적인 민족문화를 발전시켜 왔으며, 학문의 숭상에 따른 평화애호 정신을 배양해 왔습니다.

또한 높은 교육열은 한국 국민이 오랜 역사속에서 수많은 역경을 슬기롭게 헤쳐올 수 있는 힘을 제공하였습니다.

한국이 분단과 전쟁 등 온갖 역경속에서도 성공적인 산업화와 민주화를 이룩한 것은 한글정신을 바탕으로한 국민교육의 성공에서 비롯되었다고 말할 수 있습니다.

그동안 한국의 교육발전을 위해 유네스코도 크게 기여하였습니다.

특히 많은 한국인들이 한국전쟁 직후 유네스코의 교과서 지원을 기억하고 있습니다.

이러한 우리의 경험을 세계인들과 공유하기 위해 1990년부터 한국 정부는 유네스코 세종대왕상을 제정·시상하고 해마다 문맹퇴치의 날을 기념하고 있습니다.

오늘 세종대왕상을 비롯, 세계문맹퇴치상이 문맹퇴치의 날 기념행사의 일환으로 시상됨은 더욱 뜻깊은 일이며, 제가 세종대왕상을 시상하게 된것을 영광스럽게 생각합니다.

귀빈 여러분,

유네스코의 문맹퇴치사업이 시작된 지 한 세대가 지난 오늘날 문맹인은 세계인구의 1/3에서 1/5로 크게 줄었습니다.

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Address by Sohn Myoung Soon First Lady of the Republic of Korea at the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women

September 5, 1995

The Honorable U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, President Chen Muhua of the All-China Women's Federation, Secretary-General of the Conference Gertrude Mongella, distinguished delegates from the governments here and abroad, distinguished women leaders of the world,

First of all, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali and Secretary-General Gertrude Mongella of the Conference for their efforts in preparing the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the Chinese Government for the special invitation extended to me to attend this meeting.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. It also marks the 50th anniversary of Korea's liberation and restoration of independence. I feel greatly honored to speak at this conference being held in Beijing, the capital city of Korea's longtime good neighbor China, in this profoundly meaningful year.

During the past half century, the United Nations has made unceasing efforts to promote the peace and prosperity of humanity. Especially since the First World Conference on Women was held in 1975, many countries of the world have vigorously endeavored to enhance the development of women and to realize true gender equality. Without gender equality, the development of women and reconciliation and peace, there will be no bright future.

As of today a great deal of progress has been made in enhancing the status and human rights of women. I would like to take this opportunity to pay my respect to the female leaders and the representatives of all of the private women organizations of the world for their remarkable contributions to that cause. I am very sure that this conference will prove to be an epochal turning point in the further development of women toward the forthcoming 21st century as desired and sought by women all over the world.

Delegates from across the world are gathered here today with the momentous task of reviewing the Forward-Looking Strategies toward the

Year 2000 for the Advancement of Women taken up at the 1985 World Conference on Women in Nairobi and adopting action guidelines for the future development of women.

Today, the end of the Cold War regime has brought the world all new possibilities for changing human civilization as we know it. Nevertheless, regional and ethnic disputes and conflicts, human rights violations, the repression of and discrimination against women and the abuse of natural resources still persist in many parts of the world. Moreover, the increasingly open world market system may possibly intensify competition among countries, which many fear will result in further inequality and alienation.

This World Conference on Women, being held at this crucial juncture when the members of the global village must set up new common goals, is called upon to present a new blueprint for the development of human civilization.

Prior to this Fourth World Conference on Women, several major international meetings including the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development, the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, and the World Summit for Social Development have been held. All these meetings have convinced us that when the world situation is viewed from the perspective of women, possibilities for new development clearly exist.

Women should actively participate in all endeavors to overcome inequality and repression, as well as negative cultural traits that are destructive. We need to promote close-knit cooperation and co-existence and to create a peace-oriented culture. To do so, women must free themselves from poverty, illiteracy and violence. Women must also strengthen their economic and political capabilities.

In Korea, women's suffrage, labor rights, and the right to education became guaranteed with the promulgation of the Constitution and the founding of the Korean Government in 1948. I am proud of the fact that the Republic of Korea has not only achieved remarkable economic growth

and democratization, but also made substantial progress in the field of women.

Especially, in the belief that the expansion of education opportunities for women is a fundamental, long-term method to guarantee women their substantive equal rights, the Korean Government vigorously pushed a five-year pan-governmental campaign beginning in 1950 to eradicate illiteracy. As a result, the Republic of Korea now boasts one of the highest literacy rates in the world and a relatively high educational level among its female population.

On the basis of this experience, the Korean Government, as it announced at the World Summit for Social Development, will exert special efforts to support the education and training of women in less developed countries. Starting in the early 1980s, the Korean Government revised women-related legislation and institutions in order to spur the development of women's capabilities and expand female participation in social development.

The Office of the Second Minister of State for Political Affairs was created to be exclusively responsible for policies concerning women, while central and local administrative systems were also established to implement policies regarding women. In addition, the Family Act was revised, and an Gender Equality in Employment Act and an Infant and Child Care Act were newly enacted. More recently, a new law prohibiting the sexual harassment of women has been enacted to help eliminate violence against women. Just last July, our Republic and UNESCO jointly held an expert meeting on sexual violence against women, and thereby adopted the "Seoul Declaration" which is to be presented at this conference. Thus, our Republic is actively taking part in joint international endeavors to enhance the human rights of women.

Since all these legislative and institutional measures for gender equality are only the first step toward realizing genuine equality, the Korean is also making increased efforts to remove gender discriminatory elements from school education and the mass media in order to change societal attitudes and uphold gender equality. Recently, our Government,

in line with its *segyehwa*, or globalization, policy designed to raise the quality of life in Korea to that of an advanced nation enjoying a high level of welfare, has been placing emphasis on expanding child-care facilities to encourage women's participation in society, broadening employment opportunities for women and promoting female participation in political activities.

After the end of the Cold War, the need for all of us to make joint efforts to address the common problems of humanity in order to build a global village of peace and prosperity is more urgent than ever before. Women's issues are no exception. The Republic of Korea, aware of the importance of international cooperation in dealing with the problems involving women, has set up a channel of international collaboration to be operated through the soon-to-be-established "Common Forum for Women." This Forum will be utilized as an open conduit through which women of not only the Asia-Pacific region, but also all regions of the world can work together to promote the development of women through regional and international cooperation.

Delegates from all the participating countries,

Today, the civilization that humanity has developed so arduously is facing a crucial challenge. This challenge stems from a pattern of production and consumption that lopsidedly emphasizes material values and a pattern of development that disregards environmental protection and misuses the knowledge of science and technology.

As we face the advent of the 21st century, women should join hands and launch a movement to preserve the sound family system, build a healthy society and protect the natural environment. By doing so, let us build a genuine community where we, based on a future-oriented philosophy and an ideal world view embracing neighborly love and genuine peace, can all enjoy our lives.

In China, there is an old saying that women comprise half the gift of heaven. As such, women have the potential to be the new source of power needed to restore the health of the world's polluted environment.

We women of the world, who are all sisters within the global village, will be a leading force in building the future in the upcoming 21st century.

I believe that positive support on the part of governments for the development of women will produce more substantial and lasting fruit than investment in any other sector.

The women of Asia, including Korea, whose ages-old histories have taught them the wisdom of harmony between humanity and nature, will work hand in hand with women in all other regions of the world to build a happy global village.

I hope that the Fourth World Conference on Women, devoted to the promotion of equality, development and peace through vigorous dialogue and the exchange of friendship, will prove to be a great success. I also hope that this conference will serve as a principal catalyst for bridging any remaining rifts that divide the families of the global village.

I wish all of you, the leaders of the women of the world, good luck throughout this conference and in the future.

Thank you.



Congratulatory Address by Sohn Myoung Soon, First Lady of the Republic of Korea, on International Literacy Day

September 8, 1995

The Honorable Federico Mayor, Director-General of UNESCO; the Honorable Ahmed Sayyad, President of the General Conference of UNESCO; the Honorable Attiya Imayatulla, Chairperson of the UNESCO Executive Committee; women leaders from around the world, distinguished guests,

It is a great honor to be able to speak to you today at this ceremony to celebrate this meaningful International Literacy Day.

As this year marks the 50th anniversary of the creation of the United Nations and UNESCO, I believe it is particularly important to commemorate International Literacy Day at this time and to examine closely what eradicating illiteracy means to us all on the eve of the 21st century.

The UNESCO charter clearly states that its fundamental mission is education for all people without discrimination. Accordingly, ever since proclaiming International Literacy Day in 1967, UNESCO has been conducting a systematic campaign to eradicate illiteracy on a worldwide scale. In addition, at the World Conference on Education for All held in Thailand, UNESCO proclaimed 1990 as International Literacy Year, thus adding even greater weight to the movement against illiteracy.

UNESCO has reaped brilliant success in the development of education and culture around the world, including the eradication of illiteracy. I would like to take advantage of this gathering to wholeheartedly thank Director-General Mayor and other UNESCO officials for their hard work in successfully leading the fight against illiteracy.

Distinguished guests,

This World Conference on Women is shedding new light on how the problem of eradicating illiteracy and the problems faced by women are interlinked, which provides a new perspective on solving both of these problems. The fact that two-thirds of the world's one billion illiterates are women clearly indicates where the origin of the problem of gender

inequality lies.

The education of women is not just the education of individuals, but the education of families and society. Limitless demands are being placed on women to play a greater role and participate more in society. However, the fact that women are tacitly denied the opportunity for education or face discrimination indicates where social development should start. The eradication of illiteracy is the shortest and most expedient path to solving the structural problems now facing the world, including the problems of women and social development.

The campaign to eradicate illiteracy does not stop at the problems of women and social development, but is also directly linked to the problem of peace. The eradication of illiteracy is the discovery of self, and at the same time the discovery of other people. It is the first step towards promoting an understanding of whole new worlds and realizing exchanges with these new acquaintances, which is a precondition for realizing a world marked by friendship and peace. Therefore, UNESCO's efforts to ensure peace is the natural result of the effort to eradicate illiteracy.

Distinguished guests,

I would like to take this opportunity to briefly explain how the elimination of illiteracy has changed Korean history and social development. Five hundred and fifty years ago, King Sejong the Great invented the Korean alphabet, *Han-gŭl*, considered among the most scientific and easiest to learn in the world. In the preface to the explanation of the new alphabet, King Sejong wrote that he was creating a new, easily learnable alphabet out of compassion for the common people, who were unable to express their thoughts in writing.

The Korean people have developed a unique national culture based on *Han-gŭl* and fostered a peace-loving spirit based on a respect for learning. At the same time, a high enthusiasm for education has provided the Korean people with the strength to sagaciously overcome numerous adverse situations in their long history.

UNESCO has greatly contributed to Korea's educational development. In particular, we have not forgotten that UNESCO provided us textbooks immediately after the end of the Korean War.

To share our experiences with the people of the world, the Republic of Korea Government established the King Sejong Literacy Prize in 1990 and awards it annually on International Literacy Day. It is thus especially meaningful that the King Sejong Literacy Prize is being awarded today as a part of the International Literacy Day ceremonies, and I consider it a great honor to award the prize.

Distinguished guests,

One generation has passed since UNESCO started its literacy campaign, and today the illiteracy rate has greatly decreased from one-third of the world population to one-fifth. The success of the literacy campaign contains a greater significance, however, than the mere disappearance of illiteracy. The solution to a host of new problems challenging us--the gap between rich and poor, environmental degradation, violence, drugs and others--depends on the success of the literacy campaign.

The literacy campaign is the cornerstone of the 50-year history of UNESCO which has devoted itself to peace and development through intellectual activities.

I pay my deep respects to UNESCO for its efforts to realize a peaceful, egalitarian, and affluent global village for the 21st century, and to all those countries which unsparingly supported and participated in these efforts. I would also like to applaud the recipients of the Prize, who have done their utmost in fighting illiteracy, and hope that all of you here will continue to actively participate in this noble endeavor.

Thank you.

2. 유엔 사무총장 및 세계여성회의 사무총장 연설문

Boutros Boutros-Ghali

ADDRESS TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Beijing, 4 September 1995

Madam President,

Mrs. Mongella,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My first words are words of welcome: welcome to all of you. I wish you every success in your deliberations and in your work.

Secondly, words of thanks: on behalf of the international community, and of all of us present today, I thank the Chinese Government and people for their generous and gracious hospitality.

It is both fitting, and significant, that China is host to this historic global Conference.

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China is, of course, a permanent member of the Security Council. China takes part, therefore, in the work of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security. By welcoming us all here this week, China is making clear its intention to play its full part in the international community across the entire range of its most important work. I see this Conference, therefore, as cementing a new era in the relationship between China and the United Nations.

This is an important milestone on the road to the future. China has the resources, natural and human, to contribute significantly to global progress. China has the ability to take an active and enthusiastic part in the Organization's work toward sustainable development, particularly in Africa.

Without the full and active support and participation of China, the United Nations cannot act as a truly universal forum. China's decision to be the host for this major event in modern life is a symbol of its future place in the world, and that of all the

nations of Asia within the international community.

Madame President, I ask you to convey to all the Chinese people our message of thanks and appreciation.

Thanks are also due to the delegations of Member States. This Conference is the product of many years of hard preparatory work. I know what a great effort you have undertaken to make this Conference a success.

And thanks are due to the organizers of this Conference. In particular, we thank the Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Gertrude Mongella, and her team.

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This global conference is unique.

It brings a new universality, and therefore a new legitimacy, to the deliberations of the international community. Gathered here is a deep and rich representation of governments, of women's groups, of the organizations of civil society.

There is evident here, in all its diversity and vibrancy, the new partnership in international life which has been forged between governmental and non-governmental organizations. We see here the new legitimacy of the organizations of civil society as actors on the international scene.

The effectiveness of our work -- both here, and in the future -- will depend to a considerable extent on our willingness to be open and receptive to ideas and suggestions coming from those organizations.

This is an historic gathering: not only because of its membership and participation, but also because of the subject of our discussions.

Securing the equality of women and men, in law and in fact, is the great political project of the twentieth century. A crucial role in the realization of that project has been entrusted to the United Nations. We are meeting to take that great enterprise forward into the twenty-first century and beyond: to consolidate the legal advances, to build on the political understandings, and to commit ourselves to action.

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As the millennium approaches, we look back over a century of unprecedented social and political change on our planet. No country, no people, has been untouched by its great upheavals. Some have already concluded that the twentieth century was a dark age in the history of humanity. No-one can deny that its wars, its struggles, were characterized by great violence and enormous human suffering. But out of that suffering came also a new spirit: a spirit of hope, and a resolve that there should be change.

The founding of the United Nations, fifty years ago, was one achievement of that new spirit. Then, the world looked back: to seek the lessons to be learned, and the mistakes to be avoided, after the cataclysm of world war. And the world looked forward -- not simply to re-construct a shattered international community, but to build a new and better one.

The recognition of the dignity and worth of women, and of the essential contribution of women, on an equal basis with men, to life in all its aspects, was to be an essential element of that better world.

Thus States made, in the United Nations Charter, a clear commitment to the rights of women:

" ... to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights,
in the dignity and worth of the human person,
in the equal rights of men and women ... "

This was more than a statement of high ideals about the world of the future. It was a commitment to ensure that men and women have and enjoy the same rights. And -- unlike any other commitment made in the Charter -- this was a commitment which could be measured.

And it pointed the way forward in other ways, too. That commitment was inserted in the Charter because women's non-governmental organizations worked with government representatives to put it there.

The then First Lady -- Eleanor Roosevelt -- of the United States was instrumental in that process.

Since its very founding, the United Nations has actively encouraged Member States to honour their commitment.

In the early years, from 1945 to 1962, the United Nations concentrated on securing equality for women under the law.

In 1946, the General Assembly established the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted in 1948. In these ways, the United Nations sought to build on the legal basis for the equality of women set forth in the Charter.

In a second phase, from 1963 to 1975, the international community began to recognize the importance of development in achieving the advancement of women. The focus of the Organization's work included the economic and social realities of women's daily lives. In 1967, the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women was adopted.

In 1975 the first global conference on the status of women was convened in Mexico City. It proclaimed 1975 as International Women's Year. The Conference led to the elucidation of a three-part theme -- equality, development and peace. This became the basis of the Organization's work in the upcoming years, and of our work today.

Between 1976 and 1985, the United Nations observed the Decade for Women. The Decade was the third phase of United Nations work for women. This period brought the crucial new recognition of women as active agents of, and contributors to, the development process.

1979 was a landmark year. The United Nations General Assembly adopted, that year, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. It was the first international legal instrument to define discrimination against women. It was, in other words, an international bill of human rights for women. But it also stressed the importance of action, including action in the fields of employment and education, to ensure women's progress in fact as well as in law.

The Decade for Women's major conferences -- Copenhagen in 1980, Nairobi in 1985 -- offered a forum in which women's organizations had a voice in shaping the work of the

United Nations. The Decade also brought agreement on the need for practical measures to improve women's lives.

The adoption of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000 was another milestone in the advancement of women. They included guidelines for national measures to promote women's participation in efforts to promote peace, and education for peace. They singled out for special attention the need for measures to help women in special situations of distress.

Over the past decade, we have seen a fourth phase of United Nations activity for women. A continuum of global conferences has worked to define the new global agenda. These conferences have made it clear that no progress is possible without the full and equal participation of women and men: in promoting peace, in safeguarding the environment, in securing sustainable development, in human rights, in population, in health, in education, in government, in the home, and in civil society.

The 1990 World Summit for Children established goals for health, education and nutrition for women and children.

The role of women in safeguarding the environment, and in promoting sustainable development, was recognized at the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Sustainable Development, held at Rio de Janeiro. Women were seen as having a central role in implementing Agenda 21.

The Vienna World Conference on Human Rights reaffirmed the universality of human rights. It was understood that women should exercise the same rights as men on the basis of equality.

The Cairo International Conference on Population and Development recognized the central role of women in population and development. Its consensus language reflected a concept of reproductive rights that is firmly based on human rights instruments. It also set forth the linkage between women's empowerment and development.

The World Summit for Social Development, meeting at Copenhagen in 1995, adopted a Declaration and Programme of Action. One of its central principles was the full integration and participation of women in spurring social development and eradicating poverty.

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Today, we celebrate fifty years of unceasing effort, spearheaded by the United Nations, to advance the cause of women.

One of the themes of our conference is <u>equality</u>. Equality before the law is being achieved in many countries. But equality in fact remains an elusive goal in all countries. Equality of dignity is far from being achieved, with discrimination on the basis of gender still widespread. Real and concrete steps are still required -- to ensure equality of opportunity in education, and equality of access to health systems, to jobs, and to political power.

Women work longer hours, for less pay and in lower status jobs, than men in almost every country. Seventy per cent of the 1.3 billion people living in poverty in the world are women. Women and their dependent children form the majority of the 23 million refugees and 26 million internally displaced persons in the world.

When the Charter was signed, no State had elected a woman as head of state or government. Since then, a total of twenty-four women have been elected to head states or governments. But there is far to go before we have equality between women and men in senior government posts.

In 1994, there were no women ministers in twenty-five States. Overall, only 5.7 per cent of the world's cabinet ministers were women. In no country were women in the majority as elected members of parliament.

There were exceptions: in Sweden there was parity between men and women in ministerial posts. The Caribbean is the only region where more than 20 per cent of senior government officials are women.

In the United Nations itself, progress is being made. As Secretary-General, I have appointed women to head several UN programmes, bringing the total number of women executive heads to five.

The General Assembly took an historic step recently when it elected the first woman judge to the International Court of Justice.

I have given clear instructions that the goals of the Charter for gender equality in the United Nations itself should be strictly followed. I have approved action plans within the Organization to foster a gender-sensitive working environment and to ensure that the Organization addresses the gender aspects in all of its work.

The role of women in peace is another theme of this conference. In United Nations peace missions, women remain a largely untapped resource. Missions should be designed to take account of the extraordinary potential of women in crisis situations.

Violence against women seems to be increasing. It should receive the unanimous and firm condemnation of the entire international community.

National studies in ten countries estimate that between seventeen per cent and thirty-eight per cent of women have been physically assaulted by a partner. An estimated 100 million girls suffer genital mutilation.

More women are today suffering directly from the effects of war and conflict than ever before in history. There is a deplorable trend towards the organized humiliation of women, including the crime of mass rape.

We will press for international legal action against those who perpetrate organized violence against women in time of conflict.

* * * * *

And another theme of this conference is development. The international community has recognized the great potential of women as agents of consensus and peaceful change. The challenge is to harness the energy, ideas and skills of women, not only in the re-building of formerly war-torn societies, but also in promoting conditions of economic and social development generally.

The burden of rural women in developing countries is well-known. The United Nations, in Geneva in 1992 convened the first international conference on rural women and development. We should be able to say of our development efforts, that not only is development necessary for rural women, but what is good for rural women is good for development.

This perception has grown and become widely understood. Women -- their lives, their roles, their aspirations -- are the key to development in every dimension. Equality, peace and development must reach every woman on earth. When the rights and hopes of women in all these fields are advanced, so will all human society come to benefit.

* * * * * *

This Conference is a milestone in the history of United Nations work for women. It is the culmination of a chain of global conferences. It embraces the issues covered by all of them.

This Conference is a call to <u>action</u>.

The Platform is comprehensive, and challenging. It takes an integrated approach to a wide range of issues. It cuts across all of the concerns -- economic, social, cultural, and political -- of the United Nations system.

As we go forward, the partnership between government and civil society will be crucial. But the Platform will not become reality unless that partnership now extends into the implementation stage.

Neither government decrees nor the isolated acts of small groups of citizens will be enough to make the Platform work. Both must work hand in hand. The partnership must be mobilized at all levels: the family, the local community, and the State.

Government can garner resources. Civil society can reach down to engage all members of society. The movement's theme -- "think globally, act locally" -- is more relevant than ever.

There is a growing awareness that attitudes as well as behaviour -- both of individuals and of institutions -- must change to take account of the real rights and real needs of women.

Let us not forget ; the progress we make is measurable and it will be measured. Future generations will hold us accountable. They will look for concrete signs that Beijing, in 1995, was followed by real action.

Let us not disappoint them. Let us not disappoint ourselves. Together we must follow our words with our deeds.

We must take up the cause of the world's women.

Thank you.

Address by the Secretary-General of the 4th World Conference on Women at the formal opening of the Plenary Session

4th September 1995

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

At long long last, we are here in Beijing participating in the Fourth World Conference on Women - a Conference which is phenomenal in several aspects. It has generated much interest and debate globally, among men and women, old and young, from country to country. It has brought together the largest gathering of persons ever to attend any other previous United Nations Conference on any subject. All the indications point to a social revolution in the making!

This Conference is characterized by intensive preparatory process which involved national, regional and international debates and consultations involving governments and non-governmental bodies. At every stage, ladies and gentlemen, a step towards consensus building was reached. We are now faced with a final test of our commitment for action, that is our Platform for Action.

This Platform is a global tapestry woven by women, men and youth with strands from all nations, races and religions alike. Its needlecraft has been carefully, objectively and caringly

embroidered through the various consultations, conferences and meetings which had been organized at the national, regional and international levels. The Platform is a document for the world; but for women, it is their document since it embodies the aspirations, hopes and actions which will guide us all into the twenty-first century. In fact, the Platform is for everyone. There can be no spectators, no side-liners, no abstainers for this is a crucial social agenda which affects all humanity.

It is for this reason that I wish to appeal to each woman participating in this Conference and in the NGO Forum not only to serve as representatives of their governments and NGOs but also to become committed crusaders in the struggle in which we have been engaged for many, many years. As I noted at the opening of the NGO Forum 1995, "millions have placed their trust in us. We must not fail them."

I would like to highlight a few salient features which became obvious during the process towards Beijing:

First, there is the need to look at women's issues in a holistic manner and to address them as part of overall societal and developmental concerns. It will not be possible to attain sustainable development without cementing the partnership of women and men in all aspects of life. Women have all along struggled with their men-folk for the abolition of slavery, the liberation of countries from colonialism, the dismantling of apartheid and the struggle for peace. It is now the turn of men to join women in their struggle for equality.

Second, because of the cross-cutting nature of women's issues, it is imperative that each issue is given due weight and consideration;

Third, there is the need to recognize the inter-generational link which is unique to women, as well as the cumulative effect since unresolved problems tend to deteriotate in subsequent phases.

Finally, since Mexico (1975), some twenty years ago, women have learnt that achieving equality depends on themselves. Necessary actions will not be taken for them based on some theoretical principle of equality. Women have researched and they have been the subject of research. The statistics are much too gloomy in several key sectors such as poverty, education and illiteracy, health, violence against women, governance and politics, and human rights. With the statistics and facts now well documented, there is no denying that women fare badly relative to men. Only last month, the 1995 edition of The World's Women, 1990-1995 Trends and Statistics further showed irrefutably, both the changes that had occurred and the remaining obstacles.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are at the crucial last decade of the twentieth century and the solidarity which today binds us in our common experiences, irrespective of race, colour and religion should now become the instrument to propel us all into the twenty-first century armed with vision, imagination and actions which can make the difference to our own lives and to those of our children and our grand-children. We have been saying all along that women and men must work together if we are to bring this world safely and

successfully into the coming century - so too, must we ensure the participation of the youth. They are our hope and future and society can only be the beneficiary.

Our agenda must address eraditation of illiteracy, ill-health, poverty, unemployment, violence and promotion of decision making and empowerment. It must focus on actions that will eliminate discrimination, maginalization and social exclusion.

The basis for change is here; what is lacking is the commitment which will ensure actions which could bring about that change. When the facts and statistics are disaggregated, the undeniable fact is that action is required to change the status quo. Action is the only way forward. There is no substitute.

Excellencies, the Fourth World Conference on Women must elicit commitments to action coupled with commitment of resources, national and internationally. This is the mission of Beijing. Each government must now set priorities, specify the resources it will contribute and declare what steps it will take to hold itself accountable to the world's women. This Conference must preserve achievements and agreements reached in earlier Conferences and move beyond the rethoric to work toward genuine change.

I must conclude now with an issue that is close to my heart and to many women - by posing the following questions:

- How long will women toil to contribute to the purchase of arms?
- How long will women continue to give life just to see it taken away by the use of arms?

- And how long will the world continue to ignore women's tears during arm conflicts?

This Platform will not see light as long as the issue of peace is not properly addressed.

I thank you for your attention.

3. 주요국 정상급대표 연설문

(Translation)

Speech

by

His Excellency Jiang Zemin
President of the People's Republic of China

at

Welcoming Ceremony for
the Fourth World Conference on Women

Beijing, 4 September 1995

Distinguished Guests and Friends,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, the Fourth World Conference on Women will have its grand opening in Beijing. Such a propitious assembly of outstanding women and distinguished guests from around the world has added luster to the city that radiates with the colors of the golden autumn. I would like to extend, on behalf of the Chinese Government and people and in my own name, our hearty felicitations to the Conference and warm welcome to all the honoured guests and participants of the Conference.

This Conference is a major event for women as well as all the people around the world. Its convocation here at this very moment, which coincides with the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, is of great importance in that it enables us to review the UN's progress in the advancement of women, accelerate the achievement of the goals of **Equality, Development and Peace** as set forth in the *Nairobi Strategy*, and further enhance the status and role of women.

Women hold up "half the sky" in human society. Both men and women are promoters of social development and progress and share the creation of human civilization, material and cultural. What is more, women have made a special contribution to the reproduction of human race. It is they who have nurtured generation upon generation of new lives, among them millions of heroes, scholars and poets. However, over a long period of time in the development of human society, women were not treated as equals with men. Prejudices against women, like an invisible chain, fettered the hearts and minds of millions. Such outworn mentality should have long been discarded and such irrational situation changed.

Since the founding of the United Nations, the world has undergone profound changes and the global women's cause has taken an extraordinary course. The international community has made strenuous efforts to promote gender equality and made certain progress to this end. However, one finds that the phenomena of subjecting women to discrimination, oppression and even physical abuse have not vanished from the face of the earth. And obstacles that hinder the improvement of women's status are far from being removed. In today's world where the commanding themes of the times -- peace and development -- have become ever more pronounced, the call for respect for and protection of women, and a complete change in the fate of women has become increasingly vocal. The theme of this Women's Conference -- **Action for Equality, Development and Peace** -- has undoubtedly instilled fresh vitality

into the global women's cause. We are glad to see that women in all countries have come to share the desire for world peace, national stability, economic prosperity, social progress, liberation of women and gender equality. This, too, represents an irresistible trend of history.

At this important moment of the turn of the century, we have upon our shoulders the historical task of building on the past and opening a path to the future. It behooves us, therefore, to carefully study ways to advance the global women's cause and properly handle the relations between equality on the one hand and development and peace on the other.

History tells us that the fate of women is linked with that of the whole mankind. The liberation of women is part and parcel of national independence and people's liberation. A higher status of women is associated with the overall development of society and the progress of the times.

A full and equal participation by women is indispensable to the fulfillment of the two major tasks facing the present-day world, namely, peace and development. Only by actively involving themselves in maintaining peace and promoting development can women reach the goal of improving their status.

Maintaining peace is the primary prerequisite for the improvement of women's status. The two world wars brought horrible scourge to mankind with women and children, the most vulnerable of all, bearing the brunt. Without world peace and stability, any talk about improving women's status and guaranteeing their rights and interests would be out of the question. Since the end of the Cold War, the international situation has, on the whole, moved towards relaxation, but regional conflicts and local wars have raged on without letup and the world is not yet tranquil. It remains an important mission for the people, including women, of all countries to endeavor for the maintenance of world peace and stability and the removal of all factors that may lead to war.

Eradicating poverty is the essential condition for the improvement of women's status. A sound economy is the basis for the well-being of human society. Poverty and underdevelopment have deprived many women of employment, health care and educational opportunities. For them, the right to equal participation in the political and economic life of the state can only be an elusive luxury. To become true masters of their life and control their own destiny, women need to enjoy equal status not only politically, but also economically. As China's great writer and thinker Lu Xun put it, "I believe that if women cannot enjoy equal economic rights with men, all high-sounding remarks made about them are nothing but idle talks." At present, poverty remains a serious obstacle to the improvement of women's status in many countries, developing countries in particular. This is due to the prolonged colonialist domination and the existing irrational and inequitable world

economic order. The developed countries and the international community at large have an unshirkable responsibility to help the people in the developing world to achieve economic growth, eradicate poverty and improve living standards.

The Chinese Government has always regarded gender equality as an important measurement of civility. The Chinese women have become masters of the state and society since the founding of the People's Republic. Attaching great importance to the development and advancement of women, we in China have made gender equality a basic state policy in promoting social development. We are resolutely against any forms of discrimination against women and have taken concrete steps to maintain and protect the equal status and rights of women in the country's political, economic and social life. As a populous country, China has taken upon itself the heavy responsibility of improving the status of a quarter of the world's women. We will continue to work hard and make further contribution to the advancement of the global women's cause.

The question of women is an important issue of common concern in the international community. The women's cause is a lofty undertaking for mankind. Not only efforts by governments and peoples at the national level, but also extensive cooperation at the international level are required to advance women's status and role. I believe that so long as we abide by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, respect each other, seek common ground while putting aside differences and enhance our coordination, we will be able to advance the global women's cause steadily. The eyes of the world's men and women are on this Conference. They have placed high hopes on a positive outcome. The Chinese Government and people are ready to make great efforts and cooperate closely with the UN and its agencies to ensure a success of the Conference. I sincerely hope that UN Fourth World Conference on Women will become an important milestone in realizing gender equality and promoting peace and development.

In conclusion, I wish the Conference a complete success and wish all of you a pleasant stay in Beijing.

Thank you.

Address
by

Madam Vigdís FINNBOGADÓTTIR

President of Iceland

FOURTH UNITED NATIONS WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Beijing 1995

Delivered September 4th 1995

Madam Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am honoured and indeed deeply grateful to have the opportunity to address this singularly important conference. History, I suspect, will judge this conference as important in many ways, and not least for simply taking place. Irrespective of how concrete or immediate its effect proves to be, it is some encouragement to us to know that the work being done here would have been dismissed as "unthinkable" only a few years ago, but will eventually seem in retrospect a natural step towards the progress of civilization.

The Fourth World Conference on Women is taking place in a jubilee year, as we commemorate the founding of the United Nations fifty years ago. In our venue here it is perhaps appropriate to recall that the ancient Chinese used the phrase "May you live in interesting times" not to wish people well, but as a curse. At the same time as we celebrate this anniversary, our sense of triumph at what the global community has achieved in unison is strangely muted. We cannot ignore the tragic human conflicts that still rage on in various parts of the world.

Obviously, the march of history does not yield itself to the whims of the almanac. Nevertheless, the timing of our conference inevitably merges its theme with the wider question of the kind of vision we want to set out for the United Nations in the next half century.

It is certainly a mark of how far we have come in the past twenty years that the pairing together of women's advancement and issues of human survival is no longer questioned. Instead, it is accepted as legitimate and timely and even necessary.

Needless to say, it was not always so. In the earliest work of Western political thought, Plato's Republic. Socrates attempts to sketch the best political order according to nature. But he is interrupted by his friends who blame him for omitting the role of women. It turns out that Socrates has been reluctant at first to admit women as equal partners in his scheme of things, for fear of earning himself the ridicule of his fellow men. He then reminds himself that the chores that will be expected of women under the new scheme were at one time shocking and ridiculous for men as well. But then, in his words, "the appearance of absurdity ebbed away under the influence of reason's judgement about the best".

This is of course the viewpoint of a male in a male-dominated society, praiseworthy as its acknowledgement of notional female equality may be. But for women today, the opposite is closer to the truth: the idea of not being able to enjoy equality strikes us as absurd, as well as irrational. I happen to know that very many men agree with us too.

Unlike Socrates, perhaps, today's architects of a better future will hardly need to be reminded to take due account of women if only because many of them are women anyway, and their number is steadily increasing. Today, most states in the world are legally committed to protecting and promoting women's human rights. And beyond the possibilities offered by legal frameworks, the need to secure

women´s full and equal participation in all spheres of private and public life is increasingly recognized.

Women´s rights have ceased to be a peripheral, "progressive" cause and have instead acquired a universality, not least through efforts made at a global level by organizations such as the United Nations.

At a time when the United Nations is frequently faulted for not being equipped to deal with pressing challenges, we do well to recall the pivotal role of our world organization and its agencies in spearheading efforts to secure equal access for women in all aspects of political, economic and social development. With due regard also to the contribution made by numerous non-governmental organizations, I would therefore like to take this opportunity to pay special tribute to the United Nations for their leadership in this field.

But we must not bathe ourselves in the glory of self-congratulation. We need the courage to qualify all that we have accomplished with a frank admission of our most glaring deficiencies. Paradoxically, the number of women living in poverty has increased disproportionately to men; now, women constitute the majority of the world´s poor. This is reflected at all levels: health, education and physical security, as well as political and economic power and influence. Girls and women frequently do not enjoy the same access to nourishment and medical attention as men. Two-thirds of the world´s illiterate adults are women and so are most of the world´s refugees and victims of violence. Moreover, there are many countries where women, if included at all, are deliberately kept on the margins of public life.

It will be the task of this conference to tackle those shortcomings: not just admit to them, but try to explain where they originate and how they can be eliminated. In the

coming days the conference will review the critical areas of concern to women and, hopefully, adopt a Platform for Action containing concrete proposals.
But we must not rest satisfied with words alone. Needless to say that much depends on the political will of governments to ensure their proper implementation. New resources may be required in order to do so, but they are not a prerequisite, and their lack must not be used as an excuse for failing to act at all. It is well within the means of many national governments to prevent some of the adversities which particularly affect women. Indeed, it is their responsibility to do so.

Together, we now have a unique opportunity, because, in a sense, we are revisiting the United Nations Charter.

Mistakenly or not, the birth of the United Nations was seen by many people as the fulfilment of an ageless quest for lasting peace. The foremost goal of the United Nations Charter was to eliminate war. But underlying the charter was a no less ambitious ideal: the commitment to address the sources of human conflict through the promotion of human rights, justice and social progress. It was certainly not the fault of the United Nations that international political manoeuvring overshadowed this second ideal. The onset of the Cold War and the outbreak of East-West rivalry induced the leading powers of the world to try to impose durable peace by the paradoxical means of establishing military superiority over each other. In a word, the United Nations were never given the chance to work as intended. The experiment was never completed.

In recent years we have witnessed the United Nations adapt themselves quickly to the new demands of the post-Cold War environment. The series of conferences, starting with the World Summit for Children in New York and continuing with the "Earth Summit" in Rio, the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, the International

Conference on Population and Development in Cairo and the Social Summit in Copenhagen, have set a new agenda whereby the organization has broken free from the narrow conception of security as something largely measured in military terms. Instead, we are charting a new path to peace, based on the recognition that the security of individuals is in the long run not to be separated from the security of states.

It is in this sense that we are revisiting the United Nations Charter. In so doing we are rediscovering the neglected relationship, embedded in the Charter, between the maintenance of peace and the equal rights of men and women. The drafters of the Charter did not add "equal rights of men and women" as an afterthought. They enshrined it up front in the second paragraph of the Preamble to the Charter. And as we carry the torch for women to Beijing now and the "City Summit" in Istanbul next year, we are also demonstrating to the world that urgent global concerns, including the environment, population growth and social development, involve women just as much as men.

All rights are matched by obligations, and in demanding equal rights to control their lives, women are also declaring their willingness to undertake the obligation of tackling these global concerns, in league with men, for the benefit of everyone on the planet. If we can state the cause of equality in such terms, we have truly universalized it and begun to look far into the future towards a very different quality of society. But curiously enough, such a vision strikes me as far less "unthinkable" than the notion of women's equality would have seemed a hundred years ago. In this sense we can justifiably say that we have come a very long way indeed.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have come to Beijing to advance the cause of women. But even more importantly, we have come here as responsible citizens of the human race committed to creating a better world for succeeding generations.
In the Chinese language, there is a sign for peace showing a man and a woman under one roof. As I conclude this address by thanking the Chinese government for their generosity in providing the venue for such a large conference of men and women from all over the world, I should like to express the sincere wish that, before we depart from under this roof, we may come to make a relevant, substantial and lasting contribution to world peace.



Address by

Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto

Prime Minister

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

at

the Fourth World Conference on Women

Beijing
September 4, 1995

Madam Chairperson,

Mr. Secretary General,
Distinguished Delegates,

Sisters!

Pakistan is grateful to the Government and the people of China for hosting this Conference. We have been deeply touched by the warm welcome and gracious hospitality.

I pay a special tribute to the Secretary General of the United Nations and Mrs. Gertrude Mongella, the Secretary General of the Conference for their tireless efforts in organizing this meeting.

My dear sisters, ladies and gentlemen!

There is a moral crisis engulfing the world as we speak, a crisis of injustice and inaction, a crisis of silence and acquiescence.

The crisis is caused by centuries and generations of oppression and repression.

This conference, therefore, transcends politics and economics. We are dealing with a fundamental moral issue.

This is a truly historic occasion. Some 40,000 women have assembled here to demand their rights; to secure a better future for their daughters; to put an end to the prejudices which still deny so many of us our rightful place in society.

On this solemn occasion I stand before you not only as a Prime Minister but as a woman and a mother—A woman proud of her cultural and religious heritage, a woman sensitive to the obstacles to justice and full participation that still stand before women in almost every society on earth.

As the first woman ever elected to head an Islamic nation, I feel a special responsibility towards women's issues and towards all women.

And as a Muslim woman, I feel a special responsibility to counter the propaganda of a handful that Islam gives women a second class status.

This is not true. Today the Muslim world boasts three women Prime Ministers, elected by male and female voters on our abilities as people, as persons, not as women.

Our election has destroyed the myth built by social taboo that a woman's place is in the house, that it is shameful or dishonourable or socially unacceptable for a Muslim woman to work.

Our election has given women all over the Muslim world moral strength to declare that it is socially correct for a woman to work and to follow in our footsteps as working women and working mothers.

Muslim women have a special responsibility to help distinguish between Islamic teachings and social taboos spun by the traditions of a patriarchal society.

This is a distinction that obscurantists would not like to see. For obscurantists believe in discrimination. Discrimination is the first step to dictatorship and the usurpation of power.

A month ago, Pakistan hosted the first ever conference of Women Parliamentarians of Muslim world.

Never in the history of Islam had so many working women and elected representatives gathered together at one place to speak in one voice.

As over a 100 delegates from 35 Muslim countries gathered together, I felt an enormous sense of pride that we women had each other for strength and support, across the globe and across the continents to face and oppose those who would not allow the empowerment of women.

And, today, I feel that same sense of pride, that we women have gathered together at Beijing, at this ancient capital of an ancient civilization to declare: we are not alone in our search for empowerment, that women across continents are together in the search for self-esteem, self-worth, self-respect and respect in society itself. In distinguishing between Islamic teachings and social taboos, we must remember that Islam forbids injustice;

Injustice against people, against nations, against women.

It shuns race, colour, and gender as a basis of distinction amongst fellowmen.

It enshrines piety as the sole criteria for judging humankind.

It treats women as human beings in their own right, not as chattels. A woman can inherit, divorce, receive alimony and child custody. Women were intellectuals, poets, jurists and even took part in war.

The Holy Book of the Muslims refers to the rule of a woman, the Queen of Sabah. The Holy Book alludes to her wisdom and to her country being a land of plenty.

The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) himself married a working woman. And the first convert to Islam was a woman, Bibi Khadija.

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) emphatically condemned and put an end to the practice of female infanticide in pre-Islamic Arabia. The Holy Quran reads:

> When news is brought to one of them, of the birth of a female (child),
> his face darkens and he is filled with inward grief
> what shame does he hide himself from his people because of the bad news he has had.
> Shall he retain it on sufferance and contempt,
> or bury it in the dust.
> Ah! what an evil choice they decide on (Surah Al-Nahl, Ayat-57, 58, 59)

Ladies and gentlemen!

How true these words ring even today.

How many women are still "retained" in their families "on sufferance and contempt" growing up with emotional scars and burdens.

How tragic it is that the pre-Islamic practice of female infanticide still haunts a world we regard as modern and civilized.

Girl children are often abandoned or aborted.

Statistics show that men now increasingly outnumber women in more than 15 Asian nations.

Boys are wanted. Boys are wanted because their worth is considered more than that of the girl.

Boys are wanted to satisfy the ego: they carry on the father's name in this world.

Yet too often we forget that for Muslims on the Day of Judgement, each person will be called not by their father's name but by the mother's name.

To please her husband, a woman wants a son. To keep her husband from abandoning her, a woman wants a son.

And, too often, when a woman expects a girl, she abets her husband in abandoning or aborting that innocent, perfectly formed child.

As we gather here today, the cries of the girl child reach out to us.

This conference need to chart a course that can create a climate where the girl child is as welcomed and valued as a boy child, that the girl child is considered as worthy as a boy child.

When I was chairperson of the South Asian Association of Regional Countries, SAARC declared 1989 as the Year of the Girl Child.

Six years later, the girl child's vulnerability continues.

And it continues, not because of religion in the case of Pakistan, but because of social prejudice.

The rights Islam gave Muslim women have too often been denied.

And women are denied rights all over the world, whether developed or developing.

All over the world women are subjected to domestic violence.

Often a woman does not walk out for she has nowhere to go. Or she stays and puts up with the domestic violence for the sake of her children.

We in Pakistan have started a public awareness campaign against domestic violence through the mass media to inform women that domestic violence is a crime and to alert men that they can be punished for it.

Often women, in many a society are tortured, not only by men, but by women in-laws too, for financial benefits from the woman's family.

Sometime a wife is killed by her husband or in-laws so that they can gain another wife and more dowry.

Dowry system is a social ill against which we must raise our voices and create greater awareness.

Women are not only victims of physical abuse, women are victims of verbal abuse.

Often men, in anger and frustration, indulge in the uncivilized behaviour of rude and vulgar language against women.

Unfortunately, women at times also use vulgar language to denigrate another woman.

So we have to work together to change not only the attitudes of men but the attitudes of men and women.

Women have become the victims of a culture of exclusion and male dominance. Today more women than men suffer from poverty, deprivation, and discrimination. Half a billion women are illiterate. Seventy per cent of the children who are denied elementary education are girls.

In Pakistan we are concentrating on primary education for girls to rectify this imbalance.

We are concentrating on training women teachers and opening up employment avenues for women.

It is my firm conviction that a woman cannot ultimately control her own life and make her own choices unless she has financial independence.

A woman cannot have financial independence if she cannot work.

The discrimination against women can only begin to erode when women are educated and women are employed.

If my Father had not educated me or left me with independent financial means, I would not have been able to sustain myself or to struggle against tyranny or to stand here before you today as a special guest speaker.

If the girl child is to be valued, if the wife is to say "No" to domestic violence then we owe a special obligation to creating jobs for women.

That is why we in Pakistan, set up in 1989 the Women's Bank.

A Bank run by women for women to aid and assist women in setting up their own enterprises to gain financial independence and with it the freedom to make one's own choices.

Today 23 branches of the Women's Bank in Pakistan help working women.

Our major cities are marked by enterprises set up by women: bakeries, restaurants, boutiques, interior decoration.

We have lifted the ban on Pakistani women taking part in international sporting events.

In 1997 we host the Second Muslim Women's Olympics. Special sporting facilities are being set up to encourage participation by Pakistani women in sports.

And Pakistani women are playing a significant role in defusing the population bomb in Pakistan.

One hundred thousand women are to be trained to reduce Pakistan's population growth levels and its infant mortality levels.

When I visit poverty stricken villages with no access to clean drinking water, it gladdens my heart to see a lady health visitor, to see a working woman amidst the unfortunate surroundings.

For it is my conviction that we can only conquer poverty, squalor, illiteracy and superstition when we invest in our women and when our women begin working. Begin working in our far flung villages where time seems to have stood still and where the Bullock not the tractor is still used for cultivation;

Where women are too weak from bearing too many children.

Where the daughters are more malnourished than the sons for the daughters get to eat the left overs.

Where villagers work night and day with their women and children, to eke out an existence;

Where floods and rain wash out crops and destroy homes;

Where poverty stalks the land with an appetite that cannot be controlled until we wake up to the twin reality of population control and women's empowerment.

And it is here that the United Nations and its Secretary General have played a critical role.

Distinguished Delegates!

Some cynics argue about the utility of holding this conference.

Let me disagree with them.

The holding of this conference demonstrates that women are not forgotten, that the world cares.

The holding of this conference demonstrates solidarity with women.

The holding of this conference makes us determined to contribute each in our own way, in any manner we can, to lessen the oppression, repression and discrimination against women.

And while much needs to be done, each decade has brought with it its own small improvement.

When I was growing up, women in my extended family remained behind closed walls in village homes. Now we all travel to cities or abroad.

When I was growing up, women in my extended family all covered ourselves with the *Burqa,* or veil from head to foot when we visited each others for weddings or funerals—the only two items for which we were allowed out. Now most women restrict themselves to the *Duppatta* or *Chadar* and are free to leave the house.

When I was growing up, no girl in my extended family was allowed to marry if a boy cousin was not available for fear of the property leaving the family. Now girls do marry outside the family.

When I was growing up, the boy cousin inevitably took a second wife. Now girls do not expect their husbands to marry again. From the norm, it has become the exception to the norm.

When I was growing up, women were not educated. I was the first girl in my family to go to university and to go abroad for my studies. Now it has become the norm for girls to be educated at university and abroad when the families can afford it.

I have seen a lot of changes in my lifetime.

But I hope to see many more changes.

And some of these changes I hope will flow from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights calling for the elimination of discrimination against women.

I hope some of these changes will flow from the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination which Pakistan signed last month.

Of course there was resistance from many quarters.

But we are determined to move forward in fulfilling our dream of a Pakistan where women contribute their full potential.

Distinguished Delegates!

As women, we draw satisfaction from Beijing Platform of Action which encompasses a comprehensive approach towards the empowerment of women.

But women cannot be expected to struggle alone against the forces of discrimination and exploitation. I recall the words of Dante who reminded us that:

> "The hottest place in Hell is reserved for those who remain neutral in times of moral crisis."

Today in this world, in the fight for the liberation of women, there can be no neutrality.

But my dear sisters, we have learned that democracy alone is not enough.

Freedom of choice alone does not guarantee justice.

Equal rights are not defined only by political values.

Social justice is a triad of freedom, of equality, of liberty:

> Justice is political liberty.
> Justice is economic independence.
> Justice is social equality.

Delegates, Sisters!

Empowerment is not only a right to have political freedom. Empowerment is the right to be independent; to be educated; to have choices in life.

Empowerment is the right to have the opportunity to select a productive career; to own property; to participate in business; to flourish in the market place.

Pakistan is satisfied that the draft Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women negotiated so far focuses on the critical areas of concern for women and outlines an action-oriented strategy for the solution of their problems.

However, we believe that the Platform needs to address the questions of new and additional resources, external debt, structural adjustment programmes, human rights of women, protection of women entrapped in armed conflicts and the realization of the right to self-determination of the territories still under foreign occupation and alien domination.

It must also seek to strengthen the role of the traditional family as the bedrock of the society. Disintegration of the family generates moral decay. This must be arrested.

The Platform is disturbingly weak on the role of the traditional family. This weakness can lead to misinterpretation, and even distortion by opponents of the women's agenda.

We have seen much progress. The very fact that we convene in Beijing today is a giant step forward.

But new clouds darken the horizon.

The end of the cold war should have ushered in peace and an era of progress of women. Regrettably, the proliferation of regional tensions and conflicts have belied our aspirations. As in the past, women and girls have again been the most direct victims of these conflicts—the most helpless, and thus the most abused.

The use of rape as a weapon of war and an instrument of "ethnic cleansing" is as depraved as it is reprehensible. The unfolding of this saga in different parts of the world, including Jammu and Kashmir and Bosnia Herzegovina has shaken the conscience of the entire international community.

The enormity of the tragedy dwarfs our other issues—urgent though they are. This conference must, therefore, express its complete solidarity with our sisters and daughters who are victims of armed conflict, oppression, and brutality. Their misfortunes must be our first priority.

Madam Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen!

I come before you to speak of the forces that must shape the new decade, the new century, the new millennium.

We must shape a world free from exploitation and maltreatment of women.

A world in which women have opportunities to rise to the highest level in politics, business, diplomacy, and other spheres of life.

Where there are no battered women. Where honour and dignity is protected in war and conflict.

Where we have economic freedom and independence.

Where we are equal partners in peace and development.

A world equally committed to economic development and political development.

A world as committed to free markets as to women's emancipation.

And even as we catalogue, organize, and reach our goals, step by step by step, let us be ever vigilant. Repressive forces always will stand ready to exploit the moment and push us back into the past.

Let us remember the words of the German writer, Goethe:

> "Freedom has to be re-made and re-earned in every generation."

We must do much more than decry the past. We must change the future.

Remembering the words of a sister parliamentarian Senator, Barbara Mikulski, that "demography is destiny", I believe time, justice and the forces of history are on our side. We are here in Beijing to proclaim a new vision of equality and partnership.

Let us translate this vision into reality in the shortest possible time.

Thank you Madam Chairperson.

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FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

STATEMENT OF
THE HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
BEGUM KHALEDA ZIA

BEIJING
04 SEPTEMBER 1995

Bismillahim Rahmanir Rahim

Madam Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have gathered here in Beijing for a common purpose, to renew our commitment to the advancement of women. As I stand here in this seat of ancient civilization, I feel inspired by a sense of optimism that the age-old prejudices against women are finally giving way and we are drawing closer to our cherished goal of equality, development and peace.

I have no doubt that this World Conference in Beijing will be a landmark in the history of women's struggle towards equality and freedom that began with the holding of the First World Conference on Women 20 years ago in Mexico. I feel privileged to be present here at this historic moment to express Bangladesh's solidarity with you. I would like to express our deep appreciation to the Government of the People's Republic of China for their warm welcome, hospitality and excellent arrangements for this Conference. I congratulate you, Madam, on your election and feel confident that under your able guidance, this Conference will proceed smoothly and complete its heavy agenda.

Madam Chairperson,

The journey from Mexico to Beijing has been a long one. It was an odyssey that lasted two decades. It was a movement that was marked by a sense of deep commitment and perseverance. But the obstacles and barriers that stood in the way were formidable-foremost being the psychological barriers. But the sense of determination of women the world over was unshakable.

A series of conferences sharpened global focus on our concerns. There was progress, though in varying degrees, in every country of the world. The Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies was the beacon that guided our paths. Gender gaps in education and health narrowed. Female life expectancy increased appreciably. Maternal mortality rates were halved. Differences in literacy between sexes diminished vastly.

This record of progress however cannot hide the fact that women still live in an unequal world. While educational and health care opportunities have increased rapidly for women, the doors to economic and political opportunities are not yet fully open to them in many parts of the world. This is clearly evident from the fact that 70 percent of the poor are still women. They are disadvantaged in matters of employment, wages, access to credit and representation in administrative and political levels.

Violence and discrimination against women in many societies also remain high. The barbaric atrocities being committed against women in Bosnia is a painful reminder that even in Europe to-day the veneer of civilization and enlightenment is thin indeed.

The previous three Women's Conferences succeeded in raising the international community's awareness about these issues. They were instrumental in persuading governments to accelerate their investment in the education and health of their women and in upholding women's rights. The main challenge for the Beijing Conference is to widen the economic and political opportunities which remain constricted uptil now. In Beijing our political will to advance the cause of women must find true and meaningful expression.

In this context, this Conference must reiterate three factors that are crucial to the advancement of women :

First :

That improving the condition of women is a vital investment in the future of humankind. The spin-offs are many. Women are a fundamental force in eradicating poverty, charting a sustainable future and attaining regional and global peace.

Second :

We must affirm the need for new relationship and harmonious partnership between men and women, governments and citizens, indeed, all those who can contribute solutions to complex social problems. Democracy has fostered a larger civil society and value system. I believe this must be buttressed with a responsible society in which the suportive role of government is indispensable.

Finally :

We must do everything possible to create, promote and sustain awareness of the role and contribution of women by all means possible.

Madam Chairperson,

Perhaps it would be appropriate for me to share my country's experience with you. It is well known that in Bangladesh our constraints are numerous and diverse. Yet our commitment remains unflinching. We have made every effort in the last few years to enhance the status of women. We have sought to empower them to enable them to contribute their best to societal progress. We have several significant achievements to our credit. Let me enumerate some of these.

Our Constitution guarantees gender equality in all spheres of national life. Legislations are in place to protect the rights of women. We have set up an independent Ministry of Women's Affairs. Government policies are directed towards the mainstreaming of women in our socio-economic development programs. A national Council for Women's Development under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister has been formed to provide policy guidelines and to oversee the activities of all the Ministries in this area.

As is apparent, women in our society have begun to play a key role in politics. They freely participate in national and local elections. To ensure minimal involvement in legislative matters, 10 percent of parliamentary seats are also reserved for women. There are specific quotas for them at all levels of government services.

Education for girl students is highly encouraged. Our government has launched innovative schemes to increase their enrolment in schools. Food for Education program is one such novel idea that has paid dividends. Another programme is providing stipends for girl students up to grade ten. Today, in many parts of our country girl students outnumber boys.

Impartial observers have lauded our progress in health sector as well. Health-care services are now far more readily available. The life expectancy of women has increased from 54 in 1985 to 57 years in 1994. Infant mortality rates have been reduced. Women have gained from the decrease in population growth from 2.35 percent in 1985 to 1.9 percent in 1994.

One of the most significant transformations that is taking place in Bangladesh today has been the substantial increase in female employment, both in the urban as well as in the rural areas. Close to a million women are employed today in the production of ready-made garments alone. Our policy of providing credit without collateral is paying rich dividends. It is estimated that there are well over six million self-employed women engaged mainly in small-scale productive ventures and related activities in the rural areas.

While the government itself has made efforts in devising a large number of innovative programs for empowerment, emancipation and employment of women, I would also like to stress that the government's efforts have been supplemented by private and non-governmental initiatives. The achievement of many of them, specially the Grameen Bank have been remarkable.

The seven countries of South Asia which have come together under the umbrella of South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation have given the highest priority to women. In this connection, I would refer to the SAARC declaration of 1991-2000 as the Decade for the Girl Child and the SAARC target for the

elimination of absolute poverty, preferably by the Year 2002. Our efforts have certainly been given an added meaning and significance by virtue of the fact that three out of seven SAARC countries today are headed by women who have been placed at the helm of affairs through the ballot box.

In Bangladesh we are also poised to undertake appropriate strategic measures and massive programs for empowerment of women during the 15-Year Perspective Plan beginning from this year.

Bangladesh has thus stood stead-fast to the goals and objectives of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies. Our achievements may not have been very spectacular but they are clearly indicative of our determination to realise those goals.

Last year in December, a common position paper of the SAARC countries containing five important recommendations was forwarded to the Conference Secretariat.

More recently in July this Year, a SAARC Ministerial Meeting on Women was held in Dhaka. The Dhaka Resolution adopted at this meeting stressed the following :

- eradication of poverty among women ;
- survival, protection and development of the girl child ;
- measures to counter violence against women including trafficking in women and children ;
- equal access to educational opportunities for women ; and
- equal access to health-care services and nutrition for women.

I believe that this very significant work done under the framework of SAARC has a much wider relevance. We hope that these recommendations will be reflected in the platform of Action to be adopted in Beijing.

Similarly, we should draw upon the results of other such regional and international meetings held in the recent past. We can profit enormously from their outcome.

The Platform of Action should uphold the religious, cultural and social values which are instrumental in strengthening family ties, social peace and stability. I would take this opportunity to mention here that the teachings and tenets of Islam could positively contribute to the realization of our common goal of equality, development and peace.

Madam Chairperson,

Our vision for the future world is not for one that is ideal, but for one that is just; not for one that is unattainable, but for one that is achievable. This vision can be transformed into reality, not by mere commitment, but by matching action. The initiatives taken here in Beijing can be rendered far more meaningful by complementary action elsewhere. There must be a free flow of resources to achieve our goals. There must be commensurate new and additional resources in the form of finance, technical know-how and technology transfer from the developed to the developing world.

There must be a more vigorous application of development policies by the United Nations System and other international fora. There must also be special attention paid to the plight of the women of the Least Developed Countries. The structural nature of their constraints make their problems more acute. The global community must be called upon to augment national efforts by international action. This is an opportunity to display the universality of human fraternity. Let the world seize upon it.

The Platform of Action adopted in Beijing will, no doubt, have a far-reaching impact on the lives of women for decades to come. However, I believe, what will be of crucial significance is to ensure that there is a good, effective, visible and credible follow-up mechanism in position. In Copenhagen at the Social Summit, I had

put forward three specific proposals. One of these proposals related to calling upon the Secretary-General to making the entire UN System more responsive to this new agenda for international cooperation, which we established through a series of landmark conferences in Rio, Cairo, Copenhagen and now here in Beijing.

In the case of the follow-up action to the World Conference in Beijing, I would like to submit the following three proposals:

First :

At the United Nations General Assembly this year priority should be given to the creation of a new post of Deputy Secretary-General in charge of Women's Affairs. Needless to say, this post must be occupied by a woman of proven ability who would be given responsibility for co-ordination of all women's activities and women's programs throughout the UN System. She would also have specific responsibility for the implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action.

Second :

A high level UN Commission made up entirely of women of great eminence should be established. The members of this Commission would serve in their personal capacities. They could be drawn from different walks of life. The Commission would put forward specific proposals and suggest programs to facilitate the implementation of the Platform of Action. Above all, it would monitor and evaluate the performance of all UN bodies and agencies on issues relating to women. The several eminent and distinguished women who are holding top positions in the UN System may also be invited to serve in their individual capacity on the Commission.

Third :

I would like to suggest that the UN Secretary-General takes the lead in instituting an annual award to be given to a woman, whose achievements during the year would earn her the title of : **Woman of the Year.** The person should be selected by an

international jury of great eminence. Perhaps the Secretary-General could invite the distinguished Chairperson of this Conference, to serve as the first Chairperson of the International Jury.

Madam Chairperson,

My three proposals relate primarily to the international community and specifically to women of great eminence who have a global vision. While considering these proposals, we must not forget the millions of women in our own countries, who struggle day and night to improve the quality of their lives and contribute in their own modest way to female emancipation, enlightenment and empowerment. National awards can be instituted for these women, who have contributed in their own modest way to the uplift of women in their respective countries. In doing so, we shall endeavour to remember the significance of the World Conference on Women in Beijing. In so doing, we shall pay tribute to the sacrifice and contribution made by countless generations of women. In so doing, we hope we shall also inspire our youth and future generations of girls to look ahead with a sense of confidence in their true worth, dignity and capability.

Madam Chairperson,

I came to Beijing with a sense of great hope and expectation. I shall not leave disappointed. On the contrary, my sense of determination to continue to work for the women of Bangladesh, for their betterment, for their happiness and well-being has been fortified and strengthened. True, the task is enormous but I know that today the world stands behind us. We shall support, sustain and encourage each other in facing the challenges ahead. We must succeed and indeed we will.

Thank you.

EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERED
TEXT AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS FOR
THE UNITED NATIONS FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN
BEIJING, CHINA

SEPTEMBER 5, 1995

Mrs. Mongella, distinguished delegates and guests:

I would like to thank the Secretary General of the United Nations for inviting me to be part of the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women. This is truly a celebration -- a celebration of the contributions women make in every aspect of life: in the home, on the job, in their communities, as mothers, wives, sisters, daughters, learners, workers, citizens and leaders.

It is also a coming together, much the way women come together every day in every country.

We come together in fields and in factories. In village markets and supermarkets. In living rooms and board rooms.

Whether it is while playing with our children in the park, or washing clothes in a river, or taking a break at the office water cooler, we come together and talk about our aspirations and concerns. And time and again, our talk turns to our children and our families.

However different we may be, there is far more that unites us than divides us. We share a common future. And we are here to find common ground so that we may help bring new dignity and respect to women and girls all over the world -- and in so doing, bring new strength and stability to families as well.

By gathering in Beijing, we are focusing world attention on issues that matter most in the lives of women and their families: access to education, health care, jobs, and credit, the chance to enjoy basic legal and human rights and participate fully in the political life of their countries.

There are some who question the reason for this conference. Let them listen to the voices of women in their homes, neighborhoods, and workplaces.

There are some who wonder whether the lives of women and girls matter to economic and political progress around the globe. . . . Let them look at the women gathered here and at Hairou. . .

the homemakers, nurses, teachers, lawyers, policymakers, and women who run their own businesses.

It is conferences like this that compel governments and peoples everywhere to listen, look and face the world's most pressing problems.

Wasn't it after the women's conference in Nairobi ten years ago that the world focused for the first time on the crisis of domestic violence?

Earlier today, I participated in a World Health Organization forum, where government officials, NGOs, and individual citizens are working on ways to address the health problems of women and girls.

Tomorrow, I will attend a gathering of the United Nations Development Fund for Women. There, the discussion will focus on local -- and highly successful -- programs that give hard-working women access to credit so they can improve their own lives and the lives of their families.

What we are learning around the world is that, if women are healthy and educated, their families will flourish. If women are free from violence, their families will flourish. If women have a chance to work and earn as full and equal partners in society, their families will flourish.

And when families flourish, communities and nations will flourish.

That is why every woman, every man, every child, every family, and every nation on our planet has a stake in the discussion that takes place here.

Over the past 25 years, I have worked persistently on issues relating to women, children and families. Over the past two-and-a-half years, I have had the opportunity to learn more about the challenges facing women in my own country and around the world.

I have met new mothers in Jojakarta, Indonesia, who come together regularly in their village to discuss nutrition, family planning, and baby care.

I have met working parents in Denmark who talk about the comfort they feel in knowing that their children can be cared for in creative, safe, and nurturing after-school centers.

I have met women in South Africa who helped lead the struggle to end apartheid and are now helping build a new democracy.

I have met with the leading women of the Western Hemisphere who are working every day to promote literacy and better health care for the children of their countries.

I have met women in India and Bangladesh who are taking out small loans to buy milk cows, rickshaws, thread and other materials to create a livelihood for themselves and their families.

I have met doctors and nurses in Belarus and Ukraine who are trying to keep children alive in the aftermath of Chernobyl.

The great challenge of this conference is to give voice to women everywhere whose experiences go unnoticed, whose words go unheard.

Women comprise more than half the world's population. Women are 70% percent of the world's poor, and two-thirds of those who are not taught to read and write.

Women are the primary caretakers for most of the world's children and elderly. Yet much of the work we do is not valued -- not by economists, not by historians, not by popular culture, not by government leaders.

At this very moment, as we sit here, women around the world are giving birth, raising children, cooking meals, washing clothes, cleaning houses, planting crops, working on assembly lines, running companies, and running countries.

Women also are dying from diseases that should have been prevented or treated; they are watching their children succumb to malnutrition caused by poverty and economic deprivation; they are being denied the right to go to school by their own fathers and brothers; they are being forced into prostitution, and they are being barred from the ballot box and the bank lending office.

Those of us who have the opportunity to be here have the responsibility to speak for those who could not.

As an American, I want to speak up for women in my own country -- women who are raising children on the minimum wage, women who can't afford health care or child care, women whose lives are threatened by violence, including violence in their own homes.

I want to speak up for mothers who are fighting for good schools, safe neighborhoods, clean air and clean airwaves. . . for older women, some of them widows, who have raised their families and now find that their skills and life experiences are not valued in the workplace. . . for women who are working all night as nurses, hotel clerks, and fast food chefs so that they

can be at home during the day with their kids. . . . and for women everywhere who simply don't have time to do everything they are called upon to do each day.

Speaking to you today, I speak for them, just as each of us speaks for women around the world who are denied the chance to go to school, or see a doctor, or own property, or have a say about the direction of their lives, simply because they are women.

The truth is that most women around the world work both inside and outside the home, usually by necessity.

We need to understand that there is no formula for how women should lead their lives. That is why we must respect the choices that each woman makes for herself and her family. Every woman deserves the chance to realize her God-given potential.

We also must recognize that women will never gain full dignity until their human rights are respected and protected.

Our goals for this conference, to strengthen families and societies by empowering women to take greater control over their own destinies, cannot be fully achieved unless all governments -- here and around the world -- accept their responsibility to protect and promote internationally recognized human rights.

The international community has long acknowledged -- and recently affirmed at Vienna -- that both women and men are entitled to a range of protections and personal freedoms, from the right of personal security to the right to determine freely the number and spacing of the children they bear.

No one should be forced to remain silent for fear of religious or political persecution, arrest, abuse or torture.

Tragically, women are most often the ones whose human rights are violated. Even in the late 20th century, the rape of women continues to be used as an instrument of armed conflict. Women and children make up a large majority of the world's refugees. And when women are excluded from the political process, they become even more vulnerable to abuse.

I believe that, on the eve of a new millennium, it is time to break our silence. It is time for us to say here in Beijing, and the world to hear, that it is no longer acceptable to discuss women's rights as separate from human rights.

These abuses have continued because, for too long, the history of women has been a history of silence. Even today, there are those who are trying to silence our words.

The voices of this conference and of the women at Hairou

must be heard loud and clear:

It is a violation of human rights when babies are denied food, or drowned, or suffocated, or their spines broken, simply because they are born girls.

It is a violation of human rights when women and girls are sold into the slavery of prostitution.

It is a violation of human rights when women are doused with gasoline, set on fire and burned to death because their marriage dowries are deemed too small.

It is a violation of human rights when individual women are raped in their own communities and when thousands of women are subjected to rape as a tactic or prize of war.

It is a violation of human rights when a leading cause of death worldwide among women ages 14 to 44 is the violence they are subjected to in their own homes.

It is a violation of human rights when young girls are brutalized by the painful and degrading practice of genital mutilation.

It is a violation of human rights when women are denied the right to plan their own families, and that includes being forced to have abortions or being sterilized against their will.

If there is one message that echoes forth from this conference, it is that human rights are women's rights. . . . And women's rights are human rights.

Let us not forget that among those rights are the right to speak freely. And the right to be heard.

Women must enjoy the right to participate fully in the social and political lives of their countries if we want freedom and democracy to thrive and endure.

It is indefensible that many women in non-governmental organizations who wished to participate in this conference have not been able to attend -- or have been prohibited from fully taking part.

Let me be clear. Freedom means the right of people to assemble, organize, and debate openly. It means respecting the views of those who may disagree with the views of their governments. It means not taking citizens away from their loved ones and jailing them, mistreating them, or denying them their freedom or dignity because of the peaceful expression of their ideas and opinions.

In my country, we recently celebrated the 75th anniversary of women's suffrage. It took 150 years after the signing of our Declaration of Independence for women to win the right to vote. It took 72 years of organized struggle on the part of many courageous women and men.

It was one of America's most divisive philosophical wars. But it was also a bloodless war. Suffrage was achieved without a shot fired.

We have also been reminded, in V-J Day observances last weekend, of the good that comes when men and women join together to combat the forces of tyranny and build a better world.

We have seen peace prevail in most places for a half century. We have avoided another world war.

But we have not solved older, deeply-rooted problems that continue to diminish the potential of half the world's population.

Now it is time to act on behalf of women everywhere.

If we take bold steps to better the lives of women, we will be taking bold steps to better the lives of children and families too. Families rely on mothers and wives for emotional support and care; families rely on women for labor in the home; and increasingly, families rely on women for income needed to raise healthy children and care for other relatives.

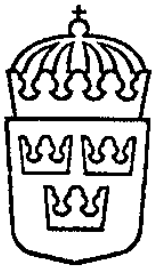
As long as discrimination and inequities remain so commonplace around the world -- as long as girls and women are valued less, fed less, fed last, overworked, underpaid, not schooled and subjected to violence in and out of their homes -- the potential of the human family to create a peaceful, prosperous world will not be realized.

Let this conference be our -- and the world's -- call to action.

And let us heed the call so that we can create a world in which every woman is treated with respect and dignity, every boy and girl is loved and cared for equally, and every family has the hope of a strong and stable future.

Thank you very much.

God's blessings on you, your work and all who will benefit from it.



SWEDEN

STATEMENT

by

Ms Mona Sahlin

Deputy Prime Minister

and

Minister for Equality Affairs

6 September 1995,

United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women

Beijing, 4-15 September

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Madame Chairperson, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Equality, development and peace depend on women just as much as on men. Women do not only hold up half the sky but also half the earth. For the great majority of women worldwide, life is a struggle, for survival, for improving not only their own situation but also that of their children, daughters and sons.

I would in this statement like to focus mainly on three issues; women´s power, human rights and sexual and reproductive health.

Women's lack of power in all the world's societies is structural - and not an issue of equality which only concerns women. The imbalances of power between women and men is based on deep-rooted perceptions. Of boys' higher and girls' lesser value.

Women and girls of the world live under very different conditions, both in material and cultural terms. But most women and girls have one thing in common; the subordination to men in all societies, classes and cultures.

I am proud to represent the Swedish Government - the only government in the world which consists of an equal number of women and men Ministers. My Government is fully committed to equality and to the importance of integrating a gender perspective - mainstreaming - in all policies and programmes. We try to develop, and set in action, methods and proposals to this end. This process was a dream when my mother was young, but it is a reality for me and my daughters.

In Sweden there has been considerable political consensus

in placing issues of equality between women and men high on the political agenda. Today, Swedish women do not have to choose between professional life and children. They can choose both. But, this did not happen overnight. It was rather the result of a long-term development, of strong political will and commitment, in combination with strong pressure at grassroot level - in particular from individual women, women's organisations and feminist groups. Now, I am sure, there is no going back.

Sweden is ranked as number one in the gender development and gender empowerment indexes by the UNDP in its Human Development Report 1995. However, this does not mean that Swedish women have reached full equality with Swedish men. We have made considerable progress - but we still have a long way to go.

Equality, just like democracy, must always be conquered and reconquered, in all areas of our societies. And democracy is not complete if the doors to power are not opened for women.

Neither can democracy be reached without a true and active participation by all members of society. This goes for all nations - developed, developing and countries in transition. In addition women living in poverty have an extra barrier. This is why we, all countries, must show a special solidarity to these women. As long as one single woman is not a free woman, it is all women's concern.

Without a strategic investment in women and equality, sustainable development cannot be reached. Equality between women and men is fundamental in order to overcome poverty and to reach economic and social development. Against this background, we in Sweden are integrating a gender perspective in our international development cooperation.

Madame Chairperson,

Human rights and fundamental freedoms are universal. The protection of these rights and freedoms is the duty of all states, regardless of their political economic and cultural systems. Only action counts. To ensure the full and equal enjoyment of human rights by women and the girlchild is the urgent task before us.

Today, we are far from this goal. Also at this very moment, women and girls are subjected to horrible atrocities and violations of their human rights and of humanitarian law in many parts of the world.

Sweden will continue and increase its efforts to visualize violent crimes committed against women in warfare and to strengthen and enforce international humanitarian law in this area. At the up-coming Red Cross Conference and in other fora we will contribute actively to this cause. The international community must show that it does not tolerate war crimes, including rape. All breaches of international humanitarian law and violations of human rights must be condemned, wherever and whenever they occur. It is urgent that a permanent international war crimes tribunal be established - and the perpetrators - in most cases men - must be brought before justice.

But human rights violations occur not only in times of war and conflict. Summary executions, torture, sexual violence, grave forms of economic degradation and discriminatory practises form part of the violations women are subjected to. Genital mutilation of women and girls is a particularly abhorrent practice which must be stopped.

These and other gender-based crimes and violence against women constitute the ultimate expression of the lack of equality between women and men. The Rapporteur on

violence against women demonstrates in her report the nature of the problem and points to measures that need to be taken. Sweden is prepared to give financial assistance to the Centre for Human Rights and the Rapporteur in order to realize concrete projects of an advisory and educative nature aimed to combat violence against women.

Madame Chairperson,

My Government also believes that this Conference must proceed where the Cairo Conference left off and address the issue of sexual rights. We must commit ourselves to promote individual's and couples' right to decide freely the number, spacing and timing of their children. Every year, half a million women die in pregnancy or unsafe abortions. 25 per cent of these women are teenagers. We must deal with the devastating health impact of unsafe abortions and to promote mutually respectful and equal gender relations. Women must have the right to control their own bodies. This right constitutes a crucial basis for equality.

We are also here to show our concern with the world's children. They need to know that they have a future in which their best is a primary consideration. That they will be protected against all forms of discrimination, violence and inhuman treatment. Sexual exploitation of children is unacceptable and the girlchild is particularly exposed. My Government, together with UNICEF, non-governmental organisations and others will take effective steps to make this exploitation cease, wherever it occurs. Sweden will be hosting, in Stockholm in August next year, an International Congress against sexual exploitation of children.

Madame Chairperson,

We meet now to tell all women, that we are committed to

make special efforts to advance their participation in society and to ensure their economic independence in the wake of the year 2 000. That we will pay special attention to those women who often suffer double discrimination or disadvantages; refugee and displaced women, immigrant women, indigeneous women, lesbian women and not the least, women with disabilities.

The UN has a special role of advocating and put into action equality and human rights of women. An important follow-up of this Conference would be the appointment of an Under-Secretary General on gender issues and more resources to issues of particular relevance to women.

Finally, Madame Chairperson, I do wish we could start an international discussion on the role of men.That is why a Swedish contribution to this Conference is an anthology where Swedish men present their views on the life and conditions of men. My experience from Sweden is that equality cannot be achieved without the support and participation of men.

I would like underline all the NGO:s fruitful cooperation and support in the preparations for this Conference. It is my - and certainly also their - sincere hope that this Conference will reach consensus on a Platform for Action. But the process must not stop here. The work awaiting us when returning from this Conference is much harder. It is then that our commitment will be put to its real test; if we are capable of fulfilling the expectations and dreams of women and girls worldwide. What we do here and now will have an impact on coming generations of women. Let us not disappoint them!

Thank you, Madame Chairperson.

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION
FROM SPANISH ORIGINAL

SPEECH GIVEN BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PERU, H.E. ALBERTO FUJIMORI, BEFORE THE IV WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN SEPTEMBER 15, 1995 BEIJING, CHINA

Madam Secretary General of the IV World Conference on Women, Mrs. Gertrude Mongella:

Ladies and gentlemen:

Deciding to come here, to the Conference on Women, has its advantages and disadvantages. A disadvantage might be that you may only see me as a male President - somehow representing the traditional male power structure. I believe that an advantage is that I am before a non-traditional audience. Here, I can communicate clearly in a candid, non-biased, straight-forward way like I ordinarily do.

In principle, I am not a suit-and-tie statesman working from the Government Palace in Lima, but a President who wears tennis shoes and blue jeans, committed to facing problems wherever they arise.

Basically, this is one of the reasons why I am here in Beijing against the opinion of my advisers. They thought, very conservatively, that male presidents have no place here. I believe, however, that this is not a simple assembly of women, but a forum of fighters that deserve respect and attention from all states and governments.

I know a great deal about the problems of women -especially poor women. Not just from statistics, but through my direct contact with the predicaments women of my country have gone through, and are still going through. The kinds of plights which arise in almost all developing countries, many of whom have sent courageous representatives here.

Poverty has a female's face

Poverty in our countries hits women twice as hard in times of crisis. However, women have proven that they know how to organize to fight against adverse conditions. This is no secret here.

I routinely travel four times a week, this is my style, to marginal urban areas in the larger cities of Peru, as well as to rural areas where I see the same picture: a woman carrying a baby wrapped in a blanket on her back, surrounded by an additional three or four more children. And even more unbelievably, she often carries one more human being in her womb. Many of these women are single mothers or estranged from their spouses, or the sole support of their families. These women have a daily double work load: managing the household and working outside as well.

Women as Main Agents for Change

The world is swiftly changing and luckily, new and more humane concepts are being adopted for programs and goals in order to advance economic development. Daily, modern information technology is revolutioning the relationship between people and all kinds of organizations. This seems predestined to create the foundation for a new world order. Any social, cultural or economic transformation can be sustained only if it involves women, who make up half of the world's population, and if it also eliminates the injustices endured by millions and millions of poor women around the planet.

I am convinced that in Latin America, and other parts of the world, the time has come to abandon, once and for all, the antiquated mental schemes which hinder the full development of women and, therefore, of humankind. This does not mean that we create alliances to attack any institution, but instead we must promote a debate of the highest ethical and humane standards.

We should not be afraid of confronting any subject that affects human beings because this is the only way societies have made progress throughout history. That is why this Fourth World Conference on Women, scarcely five years away from the next millennium, constitutes a historical opportunity to advance in the right direction and lay the ground for full citizenship for women, with the same rights and opportunities that already exist for men. No more, no less.

Outlawing Violence Against Women

Peru has taken some steps on behalf of women but we still have a long way to go. Peru, for example, is one of the few countries in Latin America that has enacted a law

outlawing all forms of violence against women. I am here to reaffirm that we will vigorously enforce this law.

From the "Economic Miracle" to the "Peruvian Social Miracle"

Peruvian women have played a central role in the fight my government launched against hyperinflation, which hovered around 7,000 percent in 1990, and against insane terrorism which plagued my country when I assumed office for the first time as the President of Peru. With courage and a formidable survival spirit, Peruvian women mobilized, working actively with security forces to fight ruthless terrorist violence. Women created singular mechanisms to solve the problem of hunger and unemployment by promoting popular kitchens, "glass of milk committees", arranging for day care centers (called "wawa wasi"), creating close-knitted solidarity networks which benefitted entire communities. That experience showed me how important it is for women to achieve the social and economic development that we all long for.

Now that in Peru we have achieved stability and peace, and we have built the foundations for a civilized society, we can tackle social challenges and shape our own future.

Last year my country had the greatest economic growth in the world, with a rate of 13 percent. Some people believe that the benefits of rapid economic growth do not trickle down to reach the less favored sectors of society, mainly children and women. This is correct. That is why our goal is to bring together these two main objectives: economic growth and social development.

The challenge we now face is to consolidate this process and gradually turn this "economic miracle" into a "social miracle". This strategy requires the decisive participation of women.

Women are the Architects of the "Peruvian Miracle"

This is another reason for my presence. Over a month ago, during my inauguration address to the Peruvian people, I pledged to work for the women of my country. Women have been the force of solidarity and struggle for life during one of the worst economic crisis in the century to hit Peru. They are the true architects of the so-called "Peruvian economic miracle".

The reality of this imposes upon me a moral mandate of the first order: active participation of women in all segments of the State and civil society. I believe that when designing state policies women must be included as a main agent of development.

We agree with trustworthy studies that state that investing in women is the most rational and profitable way to reduce poverty and improve social conditions.

Women as the Link Between the Market and the Social Fabric

Women can become the greatest link between the market place and the fabric of society. That is, if we empower this social agent, and allow women to leap from economic survival to productive development. Linking macro-economies to family micro economies is the key to giving social content to a market economy.

Half of Social Expenditures to be Assigned to Women's Programs

For the year 2000, my government has set as its goal to reduce extreme poverty to 50 percent. Obviously, this effort requires budgetary resources. To that end, my government proposes to progressively increase the resources allocated to women to 50 percent of social expenditures of the national budget. Let me stress this: we are putting into action what we are saying.

Integral strategy of family planning

Secondly, my government has decided to carry out, as part of a policy of social development and the fight against poverty, an integral strategy of family planning that confronts, openly -for the first time in the history of our country- the serious lack of information and services available on this matter. Thus, women can have at their disposal with full autonomy and freedom, the tools necessary to make decisions about their own lives.

I am sure that to you these concepts will not seem like we are opposing life and health, but the opposite. Unfortunately, in Peru, while people, and particularly poor women are receptive to this approach, the hierarchy of the Catholic Church is reacting, in my view, in a disproportionate manner.

The Church is trying to prevent the Peruvian State from carrying out a modern and rational policy of family planning. We have been accused of trying to impose

"mutilations" and "killing poor people" after a recent law was passed by Congress allowing voluntary vasectomies and fallopian tubes ligation as part as contraceptive methods.

By trying to give information to the poorest sectors of our population the hierarchy of the Peruvian Catholic Church has labeled this government's decision an expression of the "power of darkness". Obviously, this is a controversial subject in Peru, as well as in the rest of Latin America. There are institutions and forces that resist open and rational discussions on this issue. Of course, this is not a call to create blocs of nations or States to rise against the Vatican. In this time and age, an open debate cannot be interpreted as a declaration of war. The broad consensus reached in this Conference is a great example of fruitfull debate, much to the credit of the delegations that came to Beijing and to the remarkable skills of Mrs. Mongella.

Peruvian women are not going to remain confined or constrained by the intransigence of ultraconservative mentalities that pretend to turn into a dogma their incapacity to accept social change, and deny a truth so simple like the need of both boys and girls who come to this world to enjoy a dignified condition given by the Creator of human life.

These family planning methods are now legally available in Peru within the reach of women, men, and families of all social classes -so that they can use them, I underline this, free and responsibly or not use them, if they opt for a different solution according to their personal or family beliefs.

Hence, we are not going to stop our effort to carry out a vast national campaign to actively make public all these family planning methods that modern science has placed at our disposal. This is not going to be done to instate some kind of sinister power, but to light torches of hope to advance in to a new millennium that must highlight a new era of dignity for all human beings. As proof of this commitment, in the national budget we have included a special allocation for family planning.

If there is something sinister and diabolic it may be the indifference of certain institutions to this painful everyday reality. We cannot ignore the situation of extreme poverty endured by millions of women which creates conditions ripe for prostitution, even of children, and other scourges.

An Educational Crusade

In this crusade, my Government is making efforts to improve the quality of education and the eradication of illiteracy plays an important role, as it especially affects peasant women. This is the third element of our strategy.

The Importance of the Platform of Action

The platform to be adopted in this international U.N. sponsored conference needs the commitment from all member states of this organization. I am confident that the documents to be approved in this conference will contribute to the achievement of significant social advancement in Peru.

During the next five years of my constitutional mandate I have an important task in my country: to continue, even more vigorously, with determination and political will, the struggle against poverty and secular backwardness. This is the ultimate war against poverty declared by Peru and its people.

I am leaving Beijing and this Conference, full of ideas and proposals that bring forward an authentic revolution. Whatever our differences, we are seeking the same objective: to build a free, just and equal society.

I hope that the Platform of Beijing may secure that women may be the masters of their destiny in Twenty-first century! This is my deepest wish.

Thank you for your attention.

PRIME MINISTER GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND

Closing Address, Fourth World Conference for Women

Beijing, 15 September 1995

We came here to answer the call of billions of women who have lived, - and of billions of women who will live. We now need a tidal change, - Women will no longer accept the role as second-rate citizens.

Our generation must answer that call. Undoubtedly, we have moved forward. But the measure of our success cannot be fully assessed today. It will depend on the will of us all to fulfill what we have promised.

The views expressed here, - and the news which escaped from here, - will irrevocably shape world opinion. The story of Beijing cannot be untold.

What will be remembered? Zealous security? The palms of policemen? Visas not granted? Yes, but such practices cannot, and will not, long endure. Let us today count our strategic victories, not the tactical defeats. What we have achieved is to unbracket the lives of girls and women.

Now we must move on. All history of liberation struggles tells us that life, freedom, equality and opportunity have never been given. They have always been taken.

We cannot maintain the illusion, that someone else is going to do the job and establish equality with men. Women, and men working with us, men who understand, we all must fight for that freedom.

Today we know that women's contribution to the economy are decisive for growth and social development. We know that countries will continue to live in poverty if women remain under the heel of oppression. We know the costs of a continuing genderized apartheid.

Today, there isn't a single country in the world - not one - where men and women enjoy equal opportunities. So we must go back from Beijing,
- go back to the shantytowns of Third World megacities,
- go back to the croplands at the desert's edge in Africa,
- to the indigenous communities of Latin-American rain forests

- go home to change values and attitudes.

But not only there.
- no, we must go the boardrooms,
- to the suburbia of Europe and North America.
- to all of our local communities.
- to our governments

and to the United Nations' headquarters.

This is where change is required. Both in the North and in the South. What must be done to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of generations living and yet unborn?

Not only must women become free and equal to make choices about their own lives.

Not only must women have the right, the formal and protected right, to take part in the shaping of society.

No, far more, women must make use of that right. Women power is a formidable force. Women's values have a lot to give.

We need women at all levels of management and government - local as well as national government. We all agree that women must have education, not only experience - but we still are far from a world that makes use of it.

To take one example from the political field; There are cabinets and parliaments in the world with few or even no women. This situation cannot and will not last. And if the transition towards more real political representation is sluggish, affirmative action will work. It did, in Scandinavia.

When I first became prime minister 15 years ago, it was a cultural shock to many Norwegians. Today, four years olds ask their mommies:"but can a man be prime minister?"

We are adopting a comprehensive Platform for Action. All of its elements are important in this Agenda for change. Let me focus on some of its most compelling thrusts:

We agree that women's education is essential. This year's Human Development Report makes its emphatically clear: The economic returns on investing in women's education are fully comparable to those for men. But the social returns from educating women far exceed those of educating men. Schooling of girls is one of the unlocking keys to development.

There has been a difficult debate on how Beijing should define the human rights of women.

As if there could be one set of human rights for men and another, more restricted one, for women.

I even have heard the following allegation from a country not to be named: "The West, to be frank, is attempting to impose its cultural pattern as an international model".

Wrong, most countries are today strongly defending their own cultures. And there is more respect and mutual understanding of the value of other cultures and religions than ever before.

But the point is a different one: There are limits to the practices that countries can expect the international community to accept, or condone, even when such practices have deep cultural roots. This is where human rights enter the picture.

Violence against women , also domestic violence, can be said to be part of a "cultural pattern", in most countries including my own. We receive too many appalling reports of plain wife beating.

And clearly, freedom from violence and coercion must apply also in the sexual sphere of life. This conference has rightly made clear what the existing human rights must mean in practice.

The state becomes an accomplice if violence against women is seen as a separate cultural category of behavior extraneous to the realm of justice and law enforcement.

There are stains on the world map of girl-child maltreatement. Genital mutilation of girls is just that. It does not become sacrosanct or elevated beyond the realm of politics, just because that practice can be said to be part of a "cultural pattern".

We are familiar with the terrible discrimination against girls, even before birth. What has obscurely been described as "pre-natal sex selection", and the fatal neglect of infant girls, are tragic testimonies.

There are often ancient root causes of such practices. But they are committed by people who live today. Why are there astonishingly more boys than girls in certain countries? The question may be unpleasant for governments, who do not encourage these crimes. But we will all be found guilty if we close our eyes.

Why are girl children given less and poorer food than their brothers? Why do they receive less health care and less education? Why, are they subjected to the horrible tradition of sexual exploitation?

Ingrained, centuries-old attitudes are not easily changed, but these which I have mentioned must be. The task requires vigorous action on the part of governments, religious groups and private, non-governmental organizations.

Greater equality in the family is to the good for men, women and children. The allegation that this Conference is against motherhood and family is plainly absurd.

Today, we recognize that poverty has a gender bias. Increasingly, poverty discriminates between men and women.

The myth that men are the economic providers and women, mainly, are mothers and care-givers in the family has now been thoroughly refuted.

This family pattern has never been the norm, except in a narrow middle-class segment.

Women have always worked, in all societies - and at all times. As a rule they have worked harder than men, and - as a rule,- without pay and acknowledgement. Their contribution has been essential for national economies as well as to their families, where women have been the breadwinners, often quite superior to men.

As defined by statistics, societies have often kept women at arm's length.

Women who work 10-12 hours a day in subsistence agriculture may be registered as "housewives" in the national censuses.

But overlooking women's contribution to the economy has had more severe damaging effects. Often women cannot even obtain a modest loan to become more independent and productive. In many countries, women own nothing, they inherit nothing and are unable to offer security. On top of that laws often work against them.

No, women will not become more empowered merely because we want them to be, but through change of legislation, increased information and by redirecting resources.

Ministers of finance and planning may rue their former practice faced with what Beijing says about the economic role of women. Unleashing women from the chains of poverty is not only a question of justice. It is a question of sound economic growth and improved welfare for everyone. It is high time that we genderize development plans and government budgets.

The 20/20 concept is a promising path forward. It requires mutual commitment, the solidarity of the international community and the responsibility of each national government to provide basic social services. It is not possible to meet the aspirations of our people, nor to fulfill our commitments without allocating at least 20 per cent of national budgets to basic social services. And - those 20 per cent need to be genderized.

We learned a lesson at the Population Conference in Cairo last year. Improving the status of women and sound family planning is the key to lower fertility rates. The risky pattern of "too many, too soon, too late and too close" is also strongly detrimental to the survival of infants and children. There is no morality in condemning women to a life of perpetual childbearing and fatigue. Where appeals for justice for women have not been listened to, perhaps the necessity of a sounder economy and sounder population trends may.

Fortunately, we managed to erect a dyke against the stormy waves threatening the Cairo consensus. But here in Beijing we managed more than just a defence of past achievements. When I said at the Cairo conference that, at the very least, we should decriminalize women who had seen no other solution than to go through an abortion, it caused an

uproar. And I fail to understand, why also here in Beijing - why those who most vocally speak for what many of us favour, a caring society where all women can safely have their children, why they have held so strongly that these most dramatically difficult decisions should be cause for public prosecution.

We should focus on human suffering, not on recrimination against the weakest and most vulnerable.

Every second a baby boy and baby girl are born into this world of diversity and inequality. They all deserve love and care, a future and opportunities. There is nothing so thoroughly, - so unconditionally trusting as the look in the eyes of a newborn girl or boy child. From that privilege, we must depart, and make ourselves worthy of the look in those eyes -

4. 주요국 대표 연설문

(Translation)

Speech by Madame Peng Peiyun
Deputy Head of the Chinese Delegation and State Councilor
at Fourth World Conference on Women

Madame President,
Fellow Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to express, on behalf of the Chinese Government and people, our warm welcome to friends who have come to Beijing from all corners of the land for discussion of issues vital to women all around the world. I would also like to congratulate you, Madame President, and members of the Bureau on your election and wish the Conference a crowning success.

The issue of women is among the major social issues to the concern of the international community. Since the convocation of the Third World Conference on Women in 1985, equality, development and peace, which is set forth by the Nairobi Strategies, has become the common objective of the governments and international community. Liberation of women and gender equality have become the irreversible trend of the times. At the same time, we cannot lose sight of the fact that the implementation of the *Nairobi Strategies* is far from even in the world and women are still faced with difficulties that hinder their advancement. Many women are still under the threat of poverty, hunger, diseases and war. Long-term and arduous efforts must be made before further enhancement of women's status and genuine gender equality can be achieved.

Madame President,

The great importance of this Conference goes beyond this century. The Platform of Action and Beijing Declaration to be formulated by the current Conference will be of far-reaching significance to women's cause throughout the world. The Chinese Government wishes to put forward the following proposals on women's development for discussions with all of you:

-- **Women play a great role in creating human civilization and achieving social progress.** Since women and men are both driving forces in the progress of mankind and creators of material and spiritual civilization in the human society, they should enjoy the same human dignity and respect, and the same rights and status. Therefore, respect for women, protection of their fundamental human rights and providing conditions that give full play to their talent and potential is an important indication of social progress and should be included in the legal framework and ethics of a civilized society.

-- **The development of women's cause is always closely linked with the progress of the whole society.** The realization of gender equality and the advancement of women's status are closely related to the improvement of the political, economic and social environment to which women owe their survival. Only when economic prosperity is energetically pursued in peace with a view to eradicating poverty and promoting overall social progress can women have access to opportunities for extensive participation in development and enjoyment of equal rights. The progress of the whole society, on the other hand, cannot be achieved without the development and advancement of women. Women should work together with men to promote social progress, share the accomplishment thereof and achieve their own liberation while participating in social development.

-- **National Governments are duty-bound to achieve the goals set forth in the *Nairobi Strategies* by the end of the this century.** They should make new political commitment to this end, formulate policies and measures suited to their national conditions and put them into practice. Women, on their part, should also endeavor vigorously to achieve their liberation.

-- **The development of women's cause calls for enhanced international cooperation.** International cooperation must be based on mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, and must be consistent with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. The developed countries have the obligation to assist the developing countries, and the United Nations and its specialized agencies should make new contributions in this regard.

Madame President,

The founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 made Chinese women masters of their country and enabled them to achieve a higher status by actively participating in economic and social development. The development of Chinese women's cause has entered a new stage since the country embarked on reform and opening up in 1979. After the Third World Conference on Women, the Chinese Government has continued to attach great importance to women's cause in earnest implementation of the *Nairobi Strategies*. A series of laws and decrees aimed at protecting women's rights and interests have been promulgated, including the Law on the Safeguard of the Rights and Interests of Women. A large number of women have become leaders at various levels. Women workforce has increased by 114 million, up 25% than that of 1985. Tens of millions of women have shaken off poverty and become prosperous. The number of illiterate women has gone down by over 30 million, and over 96% of girls of school age are in school. Marrying the partner of one's choice, maintaining family harmony, respecting the elderly and caring for the young have become the order of the day. The average life expectancy of women has reached 72. In short, Chinese women are now enjoying the equal rights which were denied to them for thousands of years in old China and got the present-day developed countries hundreds of years to recognize. In the spirit of self-respect, self-confidence, self-reliance and self-improvement, Chinese women have made important contributions in the development of economy, science, culture, education, public health, and sports and the promotion of the country's material and cultural progress.

Madame President,

China has scored remarkable achievements in the advancement of women. However, as a developing country constrained by inadequate social and economic development and outdated mentality, China is still faced with many problems in this regard. Therefore, we must continue making efforts. Not long ago, my Government, proceeding from China's national conditions, formulated and published the *Programme for the Development of Chinese Women 1995-2000*. This is a programme of action guiding and promoting the advancement and development of Chinese women, whose objective by the end of the century is to ensure a marked improvement of the overall status of women by further materializing the equal rights women are legally entitled to in the political, economic, cultural, social and family life through their full participation in the economic and social development and in the administration of state and

society. To this end, we will take, in the main, the following practical steps:

1. **Ensuring women's full participation in economic development.** The state will formulate a programme for the development of human resources among women which features wider areas of women employment, more jobs for women, extensive vocational training and equitable remuneration for women, labour protection and social security, as well as higher level of socialization of housework. Special support will be given to women in poor areas and special women groups in great difficulties so as to help lift them out of poverty as soon as possible.

2. **Vigorously developing women education.** The state will give priority to education. By the end of the century, we will basically wipe out illiteracy among the young and middle-aged women and universalize the nine-year compulsory education. We will further reduce the drop-out rate among school-age girls and gradually increase the proportion of women receiving secondary and higher education.

3. Improving the health of women. The state will provide support and assistance to the health-care institutions for women and children to improve their services so as to enable both rural and urban women to enjoy health-care, including good maternal and child-bearing services.

4. Taking concrete steps to protect the rights and interests of women. The state will further improve laws and regulations for the protection of the rights and interests of women, educate people to become more law-abiding and punish according to law all kinds of violations of the rights and interests of women.

5. Further increasing the participation of women in political affairs. The state will formulate plans to train and select more female officials and actively create conditions to improve the quality of women officials with a view to enabling more women to assume important posts at various levels of government institutions.

6. Further improving women's institutions. The state will further improve women's institutions at all levels, establish a monitoring system on women's condition and attach more importance to the role of NGOs.

Madame President,

It is a long-term and arduous task to achieve gender equality. We will join hands with all other national governments to make unremitting efforts for the advancement of women worldwide. The UN Fourth World Conference on Women bears a glorious mission. We are ready to work whole-heartedly with foreign delegates on the basis of mutual respect, friendly cooperation, consensus through consultations and seeking common ground while putting aside differences so as to make the Conference a success.

Let women all over the world unite under the banner of *Equality, Development and Peace* to jointly create a splendid future.

Thank you.

(prepared for delivery)

"REMARKS TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN"

AMBASSADOR MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT
U.S. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS
BEIJING, CHINA
SEPTEMBER 6, 1995

Honored guests, fellow delegates and observers, I am pleased and proud to address this historic conference on behalf of the United States of America.

My government congratulates the thousands who have helped to organize the conference, to draft the Platform for Action, to inform the world about the subjects under discussion here and to encourage wide participation both by governments and NGO's.

We have come here from all over the world to carry forward an age-old struggle: the pursuit of economic and social progress for all people, based on respect for the dignity and value of each.

We are here to promote and protect human rights and to stress that women's rights are neither separable nor different from those of men.

We are here to stop sexual crimes and other violence against women; to protect refugees, so many of whom are women; and to end the despicable notion--in this era of conflicts--that rape is just another tactic of war.

We are here to empower women by enlarging their role in making economic and political decisions, an idea some find radical, but which my government believes is essential to economic and social progress around the world; because no country can develop if half its human resources are de-valued or repressed.

We are here because we want to strengthen families, the heart and soul of any society. We believe that girls must be valued to the same degree as boys. We believe, with Pope John Paul II, in the "equality of spouses with respect to family rights". We think women and men should be able to make informed judgments as they plan their families. And we want to see forces that weaken families--including pornography, domestic violence and the sexual exploitation of children--condemned and curtailed.

Finally, we have come to this conference to assure for women equal access to education and health care, to help women protect against infection by HIV, to recognize the special needs and strengths of women with disabilities, and to attack the root causes of poverty, in which so many women, children and men are entrapped.

We have come to Beijing to make further progress towards each of these goals. But real progress will depend not on what we say here, but on what we do after we leave here. The Fourth World Conference for Women is not about conversations; it is about commitments.

For decades, my nation has led efforts to promote equal rights for women. Women in their varied roles--as mothers, farm laborers, factory workers, organizers and community leaders helped build America. My government is based on principles that recognize the right of every person to equal rights and equal opportunity. Our laws forbid discrimination on the basis of sex and we work hard to enforce those laws. A rich network of nongovernmental organizations has blossomed within our borders, reaching out to women and girls from all segments of society, educating, counseling and advocating change.

The United States is a leader, but leaders cannot stand still. Barriers to the equal participation of women persist in my country. The Clinton Administration is determined to bring those barriers down.

Today, in the spirit of this conference, and in the knowledge that concrete steps to advance the status of women are required in every nation, I am pleased to announce the new commitments my government will undertake:

First, President Clinton will establish a White House Council on Women to plan for the effective implementation within the United States of the Platform for Action. That Council will build on the commitments made today and will work every day with the nongovernmental community.

Second, in accordance with recently-approved law, the Department of Justice will launch a six-year, $1.6 billion initiative to fight domestic violence and other crimes against women. Funds will be used for specialized police and prosecution units and to train police, prosecutors and judicial personnel.

Third, our Department of Health and Human Services will lead a comprehensive assault on threats to the health and security of women--promoting healthy behavior, increasing awareness about AIDS, discouraging the use of cigarettes, and striving to win the battle against breast cancer.

And, as Mrs. Clinton made clear yesterday, the United States remains firmly committed to the reproductive health rights gains made in Cairo.

Fourth, our Department of Labor will conduct a grassroots campaign to improve conditions for women in the workplace. The campaign will work with employers to develop more equitable pay and promotion policies and to help employees balance the twin responsibilities of family and work.

Fifth, our Department of the Treasury will take new steps to promote access to financial credit for women. Outstanding U.S. microenterprise lending organizations will be honored through special Presidential awards; and we will improve coordination of federal efforts to encourage growth in this field of central importance to the economic empowerment of women.

Sixth, the Agency for International Development will continue to lead in promoting and recognizing the vital role of women in development. Today, we announce important initiatives to increase women's participation in political processes and to promote the enforcement of women's legal rights.

There is a seventh and final commitment my country is making today. We, the people and government of the United States of America, will continue to speak out openly and without hesitation on behalf of the human rights of all people.

My country is proud that, nearly a half century ago, Eleanor Roosevelt, a former First Lady of the United States, helped draft the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We are proud that, yesterday afternoon, in this very hall, our current First Lady--Hillary Rodham Clinton--re-stated with memorable eloquence our national commitment to that Declaration.

The Universal Declaration reflects spiritual and moral tenets which are central to all cultures, encompassing both the wondrous diversity that defines us and the common humanity that binds us. It obliges each government to strive in law and practice to protect the rights of those under its jurisdiction. Whether a government fulfills that obligation is a matter not simply of domestic, but of universal, concern. For it is a founding principle of the United Nations that no government can hide its human rights record from the world.

At the heart of the Universal Declaration is a fundamental distinction between coercion and choice.

No woman--whether in Birmingham, Bombay, Beirut or Beijing--should be forcibly sterilized or forced to have an abortion.

No mother should feel compelled to abandon her daughter because of a societal preference for males.

No woman should be forced to undergo genital mutilation, or to become a prostitute, or to enter into marriage or to have sex.

No one should be forced to remain silent for fear of religious or political persecution, arrest, abuse or torture.

All of us should be able to exercise control over the course of our own lives and be able to help shape the destiny of our communities and countries.

Let us be clear. Freedom to participate in the political process of our countries is the inalienable right of every woman and man. Deny that right, and you deny everything.

It is unconscionable, therefore, that the right to free expression has been called into question right here, at a conference conducted under the auspices of the UN and whose very purpose is the free and open discussion of women's rights.

And it is a challenge to us all that so many countries in so many parts of the world--north, south, west and east--fall far short of the noble objectives outlined in the Platform for Action.

Every nation, including my own, must do better and do more--to make equal rights a fundamental principle of law; to enforce those rights and to remove barriers to the exercise of those rights.

That is why President Clinton has made favorable action on the Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women a top priority. The United States should be a party to that Convention.

And it is why we will continue to seek a dialogue with governments--here and elsewhere--that deny to their citizens the rights enumerated in the Universal Declaration.

In preparing for this conference, I came across an old Chinese poem that is worth recalling, especially today, as we observe the Day of the Girl-Child. In the poem, a father says to his daughter:

We keep a dog to watch the house,
A pig is useful, too,
We keep a cat to catch a mouse,
But what can we do
With a girl like you?

Fellow delegates, let us make sure that question never needs to be asked again--in China or anywhere else around the world.

Let us strive for the day when every young girl, in every village and metropolis, can look ahead with confidence that their lives will be valued, their individuality recognized, their rights protected and their futures determined by their own abilities and character.

Let us reject outright the forces of repression and ignorance that have held us back; and act with the strength and optimism unity can provide.

Let us honor the legacy of the heroines, famous and unknown, who struggled in years past to build the platform upon which we now stand.

And let us heed the instruction of our own lives. Look around this hall, and you will see women who have reached positions of power and authority. Go to Huairou, and you will see an explosion of energy and intelligence devoted to every phase of this struggle. Enter any community in any country, and you will find women insisting--often at great risk--on their right to an equal voice and equal access to the levers of power.

This past week, on video at the NGO Forum, Aung San Suu Kyi, said that "it is time to apply in the arena of the world the wisdom and experience" women have gained.

Let us all agree; it is time.

It is time to turn bold talk into concrete action.

It is time to unleash the full capacity for production, accomplishment and the enrichment of life that is inherent in us--the women of the world.

Thank you very much.

Japan THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

Press Release

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. KOKEN NOSAKA,
HEAD OF DELEGATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN
AT THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN:
EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

5 SEPTEMBER 1995
BEIJING

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. KOKEN NOSAKA,
HEAD OF DELEGATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN
AT THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN:
EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Madam President,

First of all, on behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to you on the assumption of your important role at this historic Conference.

I also would like to express my most sincere appreciation to the Government and people of the People's Republic of China, the host country, for all their efforts to ensure the success of this Conference. It is indeed significant and opportune that the Fourth World Conference on Women should be held in China, a country that has achieved remarkable economic progress, and a country where "women hold up half the sky." I also would like to pay special tribute to the Secretary-General, H. E. Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and the Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Mrs. Gertrude Mongella.

Madam President,

Last month, I was appointed Minister for Women's Affairs. It is the goal of Japan to create a society in which there is an equal partnership between women and men, and it was to realize this important goal that the post of Minister for Women's Affairs, to be held concurrently by the Chief Cabinet Secretary, was created three years ago. While I may be one of the few male representatives attending this Conference, I believe that a society in which there is an equal partnership between women and men can be realized only if serious efforts are made by men in cooperation with women. This Conference has drawn great attention in both the private and public sectors in Japan. In addition to six thousand participants in the NGO Forum, twenty four Diet members, including four male members, are attending this Conference.

Since the First World Conference on Women, the international community, with the United Nations playing a central role, has been making continuous efforts for the advancement of women; considerable progress has been made. However, when witnessing the feminization of poverty, civil wars and regional conflicts in which the human rights of women are violated, I am profoundly aware of the enormity of the problems facing the international community.

At this Conference, we must identify the problems to be overcome, and show the world the course of action it must take to achieve international peace and prosperity.

Japan has always regarded the activities of the United Nations, such as the convening of the World Conferences on Women and the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as providing valuable opportunities for the further

promotion of national domestic policies concerning women. I think it is imperative that individual countries and the international community take actions for the advancement of the status of women, in accordance with the course of action that is to be devised at this Conference.

Madam President,

In the view of Japan, the course of action should comprise three principal pillars: first, empowerment of women, second, respect for the human rights of women, and third, partnership between women and men, partnership between NGOs and governments, and partnership across international borders.

Madam President,

The goal of actions undertaken under the first pillar, empowerment of women, is to fully develop the potential of women and enable them to choose from various possibilities.

One key to the empowerment of women is education. As a result of the efforts that have been made in Japan to create a better educational environment, the enrolment of women in higher secondary education has been higher than that of men since 1989. Nevertheless, further measures must be taken to enhance educational opportunities for women throughout their lives.

Participation in the work place and in decision-making processes is another key to empowerment. Although Japan, having passed the Equal Employment Opportunity Law, has certainly made progress in ensuring equality in employment, many women still find a thick "wall" in front of them. The Government of Japan therefore intends to promote an environment in which women can fully realize their potential abilities. It will do so by making greater efforts to employ and promote women in public service; by encouraging private enterprises, political parties, and other organizations to do the same; by supporting entrepreneurial activity by women; and by promoting the participation of women in decision-making in agricultural communities and in management.

In the global context as well, it is essential that women participate in economic and social development on equal terms with men and thus fully benefit from the process in order to ensure that balanced, sustainable development is achieved. To that end, in implementing development assistance, donors need to enhance cooperation in order to empower women and remove gender inequality in all aspects of women's lives.

In this regard, I would like to take this opportunity to announce that my country will pursue the "Initiative on Women In Development(WID)." This initiative attaches special importance to the three priority areas of improving educational standards, women's health, and economic and social participation for women. Japan intends to promote this initiative through a comprehensive approach, bearing in mind the interconnections between these three areas. I would like to call

upon the inter-relatedness of community and its citizens to work together to realize the goals agreed upon in these three areas. While assistance my Government provides in the field of women in development already substantially exceeds the level of $600 million a year, I will make efforts to expand the development assistance in this field for the implementation of this "Initiative on Women In Development."

Madam President,

The second important pillar of the Conference is ensuring the human rights of women.

It has been reaffirmed in international forums that the human rights of women are universal and must not be violated. Japan, for its part, has made constructive efforts to enhance respect for the human rights of women. Moreover, Japan highly evaluates the fact that there is now agreement on the importance of reproductive health and reproductive rights, and on the need for generic approaches to ensure these rights.

On the other hand, problems such as domestic violence, sexual abuse, and sexual harassment remain serious. The human rights of women and their fundamental freedoms must not be violated; my Government accordingly intends to take strong action so that women will no longer be victims of prostitution, sexual crimes, or sexual exploitation.

Moreover, many women in different parts of the world are still facing, threats to their honor and dignity, such as violence and inhuman treatment. The Government of Japan regards these problems as matters of grave concern and will therefore vigorously launch new initiatives to tackle them.

For example, in cooperation with the "Asian Women's Fund", which was established in July, the Government will support activities in a thoughtful and effective manner for the protection of women's human rights, conducted at the grass-roots level by Japanese and foreign NGOs. These include activities to care for women who have suffered violence, research on the prevention of violence against women, and activities to raise public awareness.

Furthermore, with a view to supporting efforts undertaken in various parts of world to eliminate such problems, the Government of Japan welcomes the strengthening of the UN activities in this field and is determined to actively cooperate with them.

In addition to tackling these contemporary problems relating to women's human rights, the aforementioned "Asian Women's Fund" is also meant to express Japanese people's atonement to former wartime "comfort women", reflecting Japan's sincere remorse for its past history. The Government of Japan intends to extend the greatest possible cooperation to this Fund, so that its objectives may be fully attained.

Madam President,

The third pillar of this conference is the enhancement of partnership. I think it is important to establish not only equal partnership between women and men, but also partnership between NGOs and Government, and partnership across international borders.

Last summer, in an effort to further strengthen the national machinery, my Government set up the "Headquarters for Gender Equality" whose president is the Prime Minister and whose members are members of the cabinet. I serve as vice president. This Headquarters is at the center of efforts to promote comprehensive measures, suggesting the blueprint of gender equality in the twenty-first century.

Looking ahead to the twenty-first century, the first fundamental principle is the equal partnership between women and men. Japan has made efforts to promote measures, including the enactment of a law concerning nursing care for the aged and child-care leave and the enhancement of day-care services, in order to make working life compatible with the family life. This year the Government of Japan has ratified ILO Convention No. 156. It is also considering a review of the legal system pertaining to marriage, for example by introducing a legal measure that permits a couple to retain their respective surnames after their marriage. Further constructive measures are also necessary in various fields particularly education to promote de facto equality between women and men, mutual understanding and cooperation.

Second, my Government attaches importance to partnership between NGOs and the Government. It intends to involve all the people in the effort to accomplish gender equality, reinforcing the cooperative relationship between NGOs and the Government that was established in the cause of preparing for this Conference.

Third, partnership across international borders is also necessary. The connections among the fifty thousand people who are gathered in Beijing for this Conference will open the door to the twenty-first century. My Government suggests that information on women's issues be transmitted all over the world, for example through the Internet. In addition, it proposes that opportunities be created to strengthen Japan's relations with other national machineries, especially in the neighboring Asian region, in order to exchange views on policies for resolving women's issues.

Madam President,

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the realization of women's suffrage in Japan. Ms. Fusae Ichihara, who was a leading advocate of women's suffrage, stressed that without peace, there can be no equality, and that without equality there can be no peace. Each is indispensable for the realization of the other.

Having learned the lessons from the past, Japan has made the objective of securing world peace and prosperity the foundation of its foreign policy. As the only country to have experienced the horror of nuclear weapons, Japan finds nuclear tests by some nuclear weapon

countries extremely regrettable. Japan strongly urges those countries to exercise self-restraint, and sincerely hopes that all nuclear weapon countries will earnestly strive for nuclear disarmament and the elimination of nuclear weapons. In wars, it is always women and children who suffer first. It is for this reason that the World Conferences on Women have consistently expressed a strong wish for peace. Women must no longer remain helpless victims of war; it is time they became active participants in the creation of a peaceful world.

It is our responsibility to the girls of today, who will be tomorrow's women, to ensure the success of this Conference. Let all of us gathered here strive to make this a successful Conference, one that future generations will look back upon as a genuine milestone on the path to gender equality.

Thank you.

(CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY)

TOWARDS THE 21ST CENTURY OF WOMEN: FROM COMMITMENT TO ACTION

Statement of
Senator Leticia Ramos-Shahani
Head of the Philippine Delegation
to the
Fourth UN World Conference on Women, 04-15 September 1995
Beijing, People's Republic of China

We bring to you the warm greetings of our President Fidel V. Ramos and the Filipino people. They are one with us in spirit at this momentous and historic meeting as we renew our commitment to the women's cause and as we celebrate and rejoice over the gains that have been won during this decade.

In the second part of my statement, I shall speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, which aggrupation the Philippines has the honor to chair at this Conference.

We wish to thank the great people of the People's Republic of China and their leaders for successfully organizing this Conference of gigantic proportions. China is a neighboring country with whom we share centuries-old ties and with whom we want to live in peace and friendship. The Philippine delegation, for its part, has worked hard for the success of this Conference and has walked that extra mile, knowing that the success of China will also be the success of the Asia-Pacific region, and that the victory of our Chinese sisters will also be the victory of women all over the world.

We salute the President of the Conference, Madame Chen Muhua, who, we are certain, will bring her stateswoman-like qualities of wisdom, courage and generosity to the proceedings of this Conference.

A CONFERENCE OF COMMITMENT

This is a defining moment for all of us, positioned as we are at the threshold of the 21st Century, which in the view of the Philippine delegation should become the Women's Century.

Women of the world: behold, our time has come!

We are gathered here to participate in a Conference of Commitment, a conference that should go beyond empty rhetoric, a conference where delegates should have their feet firmly planted on the ground yet have their eyes sharply focused on the beckoning stars -- a global consensus which could empower women to widen their choices throughout the various stages of their lives.

The 1995 Human Development Report, a most important document on gender, produced by the UNDP, makes the startling revelation that the undervalued and unpaid work of women totals US$11 trillion annually. This staggering amount is unaccounted for because so much of women's work is not part of the national system of accounts. Experience has shown us that poor women are reliable borrowers, yet they have inadequate access to credit. Violence against women continues to destroy women's lives, but too few women are in positions of power and authority to do anything about it. And regretably, there are few societies in the world today where women enjoy the same social, economic and political opportunities as men.

ENOUGH OF INEQUALITY

To these and other forms of inequality and marginalization which continue to be inflicted on women, we say: Enough is enough! We said this loud and clear in Nairobi, 10 years ago, when we adopted the Forward Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000, which demonstrated the inseparability of equality, development and peace. These strategies have shaped and influenced the world's agenda on concerns and challenges confronting women. But progress has been slow because the world is still dominated by man-made structures.

THE PHILIPPINES AND WOMEN'S CONCERNS

Yet, we have gone a long way since Nairobi where the Third World Conference on Women was held in 1985, and of which I was very much a part of in my capacity as Secretary-General of that Conference. Permit me to say that my country has always been at the forefront of world action for women. In fact, the Philippine delegation at this Conference includes three women members who served as chairs of the Commission on the Status of Women in eventful years: former Senator Helena Benitez, who chaired the Commission, in the 60's, and which Commission finally approved the draft Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; myself in the 70's, specifically during the First International Women's Year (1975); and Ambassador Rosario Manalo, in the 80's, during the preparations and actual holding of the Nairobi Conference that produced the Forward Looking Strategies. The present chair of the Commission is another Filipina, Dr. Patricia Licuanan.

This continuity of service and commitment of Filipino women illustrates the degree of seriousness we, in the Philippines, attach to educating and empowering women, and in allowing them to assume their rightful place in society. In 1986, a year after Nairobi, my country showed the world that a non-violent revolution was possible and that change can-- and does-- come from the people themselves. This peaceful, home-grown revolution, made possible not by use of military might but by people power, was led by a woman, a courageous and determined housewife, who became our first woman President, Corazon C. Aquino. She restored democracy and respect for human rights in our country after years of authoritarian rule and economic pillage and mismanagement by Government.

Within the democratic space thus provided, Filipino women consciously resumed our journey towards true equality, development and peace.

STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE PHILIPPINES

The principle of the fundamental equality between women and men is enshrined in the Philippine Constitution. This is the basis for the adoption of legislation, policies and other types of affirmative action that seek to raise the status of Filipino women.

To illustrate, a landmark legislation is the Philippine law on Women in Development and Nation Building. This law mandates Government to ensure that women benefit and participate, on an equal basis with men, in all government programs; and to allocate a portion of official development assistance it receives from donor countries for women projects. Another precedent-shattering piece of legislation adopted is the anti-sexual harassment law, which protects women from sexual harassment in the workplace and in learning institutions, and punishes offenders.

The implementation of laws, policies and programs that would close the gender gap is a serious commitment of both our Government and our dynamic and articulate NGO community. This seriousness is reflected in the 1995 Human Development Report which ranks the Philippines as 28th out of 116 countries in its Gender Empowerment Measure. This indicator examines the extent to which women are able to actively participate in the economic and political life in their countries.

Women's presence is gradually being felt in our government bureaucracy. Thirty-two per cent of administrative and managerial positions in this sector are presently occupied by women. By the year 2000, women's share of these positions is anticipated to increase to 40 per cent.

The same Report ranks our country 64th out of 130 countries in its Gender Development Index, which gauges the will and capability of how countries to address gender inequality in terms of life expectancy, educational attainment and real income.

These are modest yet significant gains for Filipino women, but we hope to maintain our focus on the quality of life for the human being to attain sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

ENGENDERING THE PHILIPPINE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

We fully believe that for the Filipino nation to move forward, the full and equal partnership between women and men must be achieved: without equality, there can be no development. Accordingly, in 1989 we formulated and implemented the Philippine Development Plan for Women (1989-1992), an integral companion document of our national development plan for the medium-term (1987-1992). We have just finalized the Perspective Plan for Gender-Responsive Development, a 30-year plan that identifies gender concerns which the government must address in the long-term. Gender analysis is now a regular feature of the annual work plans and budgets of all departments of Government. Plans have been approved by President Fidel V. Ramos to engender the major programs of Government with the assistance of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women.

We take pride in announcing that our national machinery for women, the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, has recently been authorized by President Fidel V. Ramos to strengthen and expand its mandate to engender the Philippine development process as widely as possible. The Philippines' success in this pioneering and complex task of engendering development has been acknowledged by the United Nations' agencies and international organizations, as well as by our neighbors in the region, as a model to strengthen other national machineries for women.

To sustain our initiatives toward gender mainstreaming, we have instituted the Women's Budget Statement in our `1995 national budget. This will continue annually thereafter. This document instructs all government offices to allocate a portion of their annual budget to women-specific and gender-oriented programs. Already, we have allocated more than 35 percent of our national budget to social programs and services since these are central to women's concerns, particularly in their traditional role of caring for their children and their families.

In all these activities, the Philippine Government fully acknowledges the catalytic role of our NGOs, without whose commitment and organizing skills our country would not enjoy the many advances we have made on women. We fully support the multi-faceted mega NGO Forum at Huairou.

NEW AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND PROGRAMS

In the view of the Philippine delegation, without budgetary resources, the objectives in the Beijing Platform of Action, will again remain unimplemented, dead on official paper.

As a symbolic gesture of our international commitment to this Platform of Action, the Philippine Government will increase its annual contribution to UNIFEM by 700 percent. We hope that other countries will likewise increase support for UNIFEM, which will play a crucial role in the post-Beijing period. We hope that UNIFEM's current capacity of US$16 million can be doubled by 1996.

SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

Our government also commits itself to forge stronger collaboration with the developing countries in the area of women under the existing technical assistance program of the Philippines on South-South cooperation. Developing countries can and should assist each other in women's concerns: we believe that it pays to invest in women.

Specifically, under this continuing program of the Philippine government, we are committed to strengthen training and technical assistance to our neighbors in Asia and the Pacific, as well as to countries in economic transition. We have engaged to expand and systematize this service to demonstrate that developing countries can and should assist each other in women's concerns.

But, side by side with our gains and advances are deep problems and contradictions that have held us back from fully reaching our goals and aspirations.

THREE MAJOR PHILIPPINE CONCERNS

Let me therefore turn to three key issues, which the Philippine Government gives highest priority. These major concerns are: the plight of our rural women, our women overseas workers, and women and children who are victims of trafficking.

Our rural women, both peasants and fisherfolk, comprise 80 per cent of our female population. They are marginalized and neglected. Yet, it is the rural women, with the men, who produce our food and provide food security. Indeed, they are the unsung heroines of the good earth.

My government will intensify the training of rural women and give them more access to credit as we enter into the unequal playing field of the agriculture sector of the global economy due to our membership in the World Trade Organization.

Obstacles continue to hinder women's ability to achieve economic autonomy. These barriers deny them access to sustainable livelihood for their families and themselves, and limit their control over resources such as land, credit, technology, training and information.

Furthermore, the effective linkage between rural women's access to income and productive resources with the protection and improvement of food security is not only a key element to the welfare of the basic unit of society, the family, but it is also crucial in the development of the community, and ultimately the nation.

There is every good reason for this Conference to pay close attention to the situation of our rural sisters.

While we take full responsibility for the plight of women migrant workers, and while we endeavor to respond to their concerns, permit me to make an appeal to the international community on their behalf. Just as our women migrant workers keep our economy afloat, so do they contribute directly and indirectly to the economy of the receiving countries. Our migrant workers, the majority of whom are women, are among the best of our country's globally shared resources.

We call on other countries, especially the receiving countries, to forge bilateral agreements with the Philippine Government and to ratify all relevant international instruments such as the International Convention on the Protection of All Migrant Workers and their Families. We reiterate our willingness to host an International Conference on Migration and Development so that sending and receiving countries can achieve meaningful cooperation in the area of migrant workers, the majority of whom are women.

The other area of major concern of our country relates to women and children victims of trafficking. The Philippine Government is committed to impose more stringent penalties for those who engage in trafficking.

Concerns of the Group of 77 and China

May I now turn to the concerns of the Group of 77 and China.

Although composed of 132 nations with diverse cultures and priorities, the Group of 77 and China are united in the aspiration to advance the rights and welfare of women. Women are important agents of healing, reform and change; their education and empowerment could provide the cutting edge in the kind of development we want to see in the 21st Century.

Hereunder is a brief summary of the concerns of the Group:

1. Poverty is the single continuing heaviest burden on women. Truly, poverty has a woman's face. Among the world's 1.6 billion poor people, 70% are women, a cruel condition which should not be tolerated.

2. Acts of violence against women destroy the dignity and human worth of women. The world should not sanction, much less condone, this depraved behavior still so wide-spread.

3. All countries have the right to development, particularly to human development which enables people to lead long and happy lives, to acquire knowledge, and to have access to, and to use resources responsibly.

   Human development means people-centered development and this necessarily entails investing in people, which demands and exacts financial costs. While most of the funding in support of human development will have to come mainly from national budgets, the reality is that many of the states in the developing world will require supplementary resources to help their people help themselves. We call on the industrialized countries to be forthcoming and lead in giving women what has long been due them.

4. As called for in the Copenhagen Programme of Action, the Member States of the United Nations should set up an International Fund for Social Development for education and other programs which will empower women. We also call for a reaffirmation on the part of developed and developing countries to allocate the 20/20 formula in their national budgets directed to social growth and progress, to include gender-related programs.

5. The Group of 77 and China reminds the industrialized countries to stand by their pledge to allocate 0.7 of their GNP to development assistance, with 0.15% directed to the least developed countries. There must be sharing of resources: the world cannot survive three-fourth poor and one-fourth rich.

6. The call made in Copenhagen is reiterated for durable and effective and solutions to the external debt problem of many Member States. This demand can be concretized through the immediate implementation of

the various debt forgiveness schemes agreed upon in 1994 in the Paris Club. The possibility of coming up with schemes as debt swaps for women's programs and other innovative measures must be explored.

7. Women in developing countries are disproportionately subjected to the adverse and hostile effects of the world's economic crisis. It is imperative that international cooperation and assistance be directed at correcting these economic imbalances, including the burdens arising from external debts.

In resolving the macro-economic problems of the world, models and programmes of structural adjustments are applied with a complete disregard of the negative impact they have on social programs and people-oriented services. These solutions have, ironically, aggravated poverty.

We believe that developing and donor countries should include as principal components of their social development plans, the following: the eradication of poverty; the generation of productive employment and the enhancement of social integration.

Such multilateral and bilateral cooperation should be particularly directed to Africa, and the least developed countries in Asia and the Pacific, and in Latin America and the Caribbean.

8. The Group of 77 and China gives highest priority to the mobilization of new and additional resources on the part of international financial institutions and other bilateral and multilateral development agencies in order to support economic and social programs specifically linked with the strategies in the Platform for Action.

9. The existing institutions for women at the national, regional and international levels should be strengthened in terms of budget and mandate. In the United Nations system, the agencies concerned with the advancement on women - the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women, UNIFEM and INSTRAW - should be given the necessary financial and human resources that will strengthen their roles in implementing the provisions of the Beijing Platform of Action.

10. United Nations system and other international organizations, male-dominated as they are, should

take necessary measures to eliminate barriers to the advancement of women within their organizations.

In conclusion, the Group of 77 and China calls upon all Governments and civil society, men and women, to create in partnership, sustained economic growth and sustainable development within a culture of peace and with respect for human rights. In this environment, every state should engage itself to:

a) Provide basic needs without distinction as to race, national origin, gender, age and disability such as access to universal quality education, the attainment of the highest standard of physican and mental health, and access by all to primary health care;

b) Strengthen the teaching of human rights at all levels of society;

c) Recognize the true worth of the unwaged and undervalued work of women;

d) Promote and protect the rights and interests of vulnerable and disadvantaged women.

Conclusion

May I now conclude. Let the Beijing Platform of Action be the launching pad for women to enter, in partnership with men, into the 21st Century, the Century of Women. But we, women, must first transform ourselves if we want to transform the world into a better world. Empowerment must come from within and without. We must lead, not only follow. We must heal and cure, and not be just the patient. We must be catalysts and initiators of change, and not just be seekers of the status quo. Then, there will be hope and happiness for our daughters and sons and future generations for they will be able to live, because of women, in a more humane, a more caring and less violent society, and can become part of a more just and a more democratic world order.

Thank you.

UNION EUROPEA
EL CONSEJO

SN 3382/95 (SOC)



INTERVENCIÓN DE
Dª CRISTINA ALBERDI, MINISTRA DE ASUNTOS SOCIALES DE ESPAÑA,
EN NOMBRE DE LA UNIÓN EUROPEA

CUARTA CONFERENCIA MUNDIAL DE LAS MUJERES

Beijing, 5 de Septiembre de 1995

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY
Ms CRISTINA ALBERDI, MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS OF SPAIN,
ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Beijing, 5 September 1995

DECLARATION DE
Mme CRISTINA ALBERDI, MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES SOCIALES DE L'ESPAGNE,
AU NOM DE L'UNION EUROPEENNE

QUATRIEME CONFERENCE MONDIALE SUR LES FEMMES

Beijing, le 5 septembre 1995

Madam Chairperson, Secretary-General, distinguished delegates and representatives of international and non-governmental organizations,

I have the honour to address this Conference on behalf of the European Union, and should like to begin by conveying our most sincere gratitude to all those who have made it possible to hold this Fourth World Conference on Women, and in particular to its Secretary-General, Ms Gertrude Mongella, and to the People's Republic of China, our host country, for the efforts made in the organization of this Conference.

The Conference has given rise to high expectation and we trust that it will establish a new landmark in women's struggle for equality the world over.

We stand at a crucial moment of historical significance for women: it has been internationally acknowledged that equality between women and men is essential to the advancement of society and both a matter of justice and a condition for development. To quote the 1995 United Nations Development Programme report on Human Development: "Investing in women's capabilities and empowering them to exercise their choices is not only valuable in itself but is also the surest way to contribute to economic growth and overall development."

The European Union, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, wishes to pay a deserved tribute to the first international organization to have wholeheartedly come out in support of the advancement of women.

In its constitutional Charter, the United Nations expressed its faith in the equal rights of men and women, these being essential to the advancement of all people.

Since 1975, which was declared International Women's Year, the United Nations has been performing a central role in advancing women's status throughout the world.

Mexico, Copenhagen and Nairobi were meetings of enormous importance, marking as they did much-needed advances in the cause of women and weaving a fabric of solidarity among all women in the world who, despite differences in situation and circumstances, share common problems, views and solutions. Nevertheless, the national reports show that we will not reach the objectives set in Nairobi for the year 2000 if we do not accelerate the implementation of the Forward-Looking Strategies.

The International Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro stressed the role of women in development, as well as in the management of the environment in the context of sustainable development.

The World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna explicitly reaffirmed that the human rights of women and of the girl-child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of human rights.

The International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo strongly underlined that the promotion of women's autonomy and rights is a key element in social development and recognized that the future of humanity will depend on women's new place in society. Furthermore, the recent World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen agreed on the need to achieve equality between women and men, encouraging women's participation and leadership in political, civil, economic and social life as well as in the process of development.

It is essential for us to reiterate yet again the need for the entire international community to give strong support to the existing agreements and achievements of previous major United Nations Summits and Conferences, which should be regarded as a *continuum* providing a global, integrated and coordinated framework for the various dimensions of development, both as regards the framing of measures for action as well as in monitoring and evaluating their level of enforcement. The European Union considers that all these agreements and achievements should constitute a point of departure from which we must move forward, with no going back.

To that end, we encourage all States which have not already done so to accede to, ratify and implement the international instruments for the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women. In doing so, States should, as far as possible, avoid resorting to reservations, but should otherwise take into account that any reservation they lodge should be formulated as precisely and narrowly as possible, so as to ensure that none is incompatible with the object and purpose of the relevant treaty. They also should keep any reservation under regular review with a view to withdrawing it.

In addition, they should take steps to support the drafting of an optional protocol to the Convention, and to establish a right of petition and an inquiry procedure that can enter into force as soon as possible and at the latest before the year 2000.

Madam Chairperson,

This Conference is our next challenge, and we should be able to find solutions to the various problems women are facing in all parts of the world, especially in the developing countries.

The feminization of poverty and unemployment, the imbalance of power between women and men in all fields of society, violence against women and discriminatory laws and practices highlight the need for a constant striving for equality, development and peace, for the enhancement of human rights and democracy and for solutions to guarantee people-centred sustainable development.

To that end, the European Union believes that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action provide the international community with a solid basis for making important progress in protecting and promoting the equal status and human rights of women and for the elimination of gender discrimination.

Education is a major factor in ensuring equality and together with health constitutes an essential means of achieving the empowerment of women. Investment in women's and girls' education and health is a highly important aim and is critical for the achievement of human sustainable development.

The European Union wishes to express its firm belief in the importance of promoting sexual and reproductive health for women and men and would very much welcome an agreement on a reference to sexual rights in the Platform for Action.

The European Union reaffirms its commitment to ensure the full enjoyment by women and the girl-child of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including their sexual and reproductive rights, and to take effective action against violations of these rights and freedoms.

We strongly condemn the use of sexual abuse and violence against women in all its forms, in public and private life and especially when used as an instrument of war in armed conflict. We call for prevention and punishment of these practices, as well as for suitable policies to support and give aid to the victims. The principles of international humanitarian law, where applicable, and human rights; including the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, should serve as a clear reference point in such cases.

As far as poverty is concerned, we draw attention to the growing number of women who face poverty, particularly as heads of families with elderly and minor dependants, in developing and developed countries alike, and to the restrictions on their rights to property, land, credit and other productive resources. Special consideration should also be given to the situation of women in rural areas, women with disabilities and migrant and refugee women, who are at an economic disadvantage and who have fewer health and educational opportunities.

Women must be assured equal access to economic opportunities and resources and equal treatment in employment and entrepreneurship.

The European Union stresses the importance of women's active role and growing leadership and participation in all areas of life. In order to continue to encourage and consolidate this active role, women all over the world must be able to secure autonomy and economic empowerment.

To achieve this, it remains necessary to attain structural change, based on a new gender contract and a new kind of mutual understanding at public and private level between women and men, including by consolidating women's integration in economic and public life and encouraging the assumption by men of an equal share of domestic and family responsibilities. A partnership between women and men based on equal rights, responsibilities and power, in both the public and private spheres is fundamental in this regard.

With respect to participation in decision-making, the political potential of women must be enhanced: the achievement of equality in political decision-making is essential for strengthening democracy, and will enable us to bolster the legitimacy of decisions and move us towards a more just, democratic and participatory society.

Governments must make a strong commitment to implementing specific policies designed to achieve equality between women and men as well as to mainstreaming the gender perspective in all social, economic, political and cultural fields.

It is essential that the United Nations advocate and take concrete action to promote the status of women and that a gender perspective be fully integrated into all areas of competence of the United Nations machinery, including within the Secretariat.

The European Union has long been committed to equality. However, this Conference provides the *impetus* to re-state and strengthen that commitment. A new action programme on equal opportunities should be adopted after this Conference, the results of which will feed into and enrich our discussions on its content. We have recently launched an initiative to ensure the integration of a gender perspective in all policies and programmes for development cooperation and we will pursue and develop this objective.

Madam Chairperson,

On behalf of the European Union I should like to stress that, in order to guarantee the credibility and effectiveness of the measures that we approve under the Platform for Action, institutional and financial issues must receive special attention.

Only by devoting sufficient budgetary resources and giving institutional machinery the power to implement and monitor gender equality policies will we be able to reach our stated objectives.

As the largest donor of official development aid in the world, the European Union feels that gender-sensitive development cooperation is a key strategy, which must be pursued with the utmost resolve. We are committed to solidarity with and support to women throughout the world, particularly women struggling under poverty or the consequences of armed conflict, and women who face obstacles to the full enjoyment of their human rights.

The European Union likewise wishes to acknowledge the fundamental role that the women's movement and non-governmental organizations play in the design and implementation of equality policies. The importance of their contribution could be clearly perceived during the preparatory work for this Conference and in the Non-Governmental Organizations Forum.

The long process which has led to this Conference has proved to be effective for women, but our work is not yet finished. In not a single country in the world are women offered the same opportunities as men and in some countries discrimination is still enshrined in legislation.

There are many objectives outstanding in the context of the empowerment of women, which are the keys to equality and development. The European Union, from a position of solidarity with all the world's women, is wholly committed to this task, because we are convinced that the future of humanity will depend largely on women attaining leadership and a new role in society.

This is the only way we can create a fairer and more participatory society for men and women alike.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

STATEMENT

BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE (STATUS OF WOMEN AND MULTICULTURALISM) OF CANADA,

THE HONOURABLE SHEILA FINESTONE

AT THE FOURTH UNITED NATIONS WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

BEIJING, SEPTEMBER 6, 1995

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Madame President, Madame Secretary General, Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates. It is my great privilege to be here today, representing Canada at this historic event.

Fifty years ago, at the founding of this Organization, the nations of the world adopted a Charter affirming the equal rights of women and men. With this commitment, the United Nations pledged to end centuries of discrimination against women.

The 1995 Human Development Report calls the long walk toward our equality "the defining movement of the 20th Century"

Twenty years ago, at the United Nations' first World Conference on Women, an international effort was launched to fulfil the UN Charter commitment--the attainment of a global "culture of equality." Yet, in 1995 there is no country where women are completely equal--not in pay, nor in status, nor opportunity or power.

And that, Madame President, is why we're here--to claim our equal rights.

The task ahead is both difficult and daunting. We have committed ourselves to adopting a global Platform for Action accelerating progress towards equality for women worldwide.

There have been predictions that we may fail in our task. That differing perspectives over the rightful place of women in society will divide us. That a backlash against equality will hinder our ability to move forward, or to hold on to past gains. This must not happen. We must not fail.

In Canada, there was a time when the idea that women should vote was considered unthinkable. When the notion that women should attend university was unacceptable. When the possibility of a woman becoming a doctor or a judge was beyond reach.

Today almost no-one would question the right of women to vote, pursue higher education, become a doctor or a judge. For now we know that equality benefits not only women, but all of society.

In Canada, as around the world, women have been a driving force in transforming the lives of women. Women have placed a high priority on this World Conference as an important milestone on the road to equality.

Three years ago, Canada embarked on its preparations for this Conference. We did so in the spirit of inclusiveness and collaboration with women's organizations and the many sectors in Canadian society--human rights groups, academics, labour--who are partners in the movement towards equality. We provided support to facilitate consultation and information exchange among women's organizations. We established mechanisms to assist us in setting priorities and in addressing our areas of critical concern.

For while we are proud of our record on women's equality, we recognize there is still much to do.

As part of our contribution to this World Conference, the Government of Canada recently adopted a Plan for Gender Equality. The Plan acknowledges that discrimination against women has a cost. And it sets out concrete measures aimed at eliminating gender discrimination. One of the key elements of the Plan is a gender-based approach to government policy development. This means that we will ensure that future legislation and policies include an analysis of the potential for different impacts on women and men.

Canadian Priorities

Madame President, let me set out Canada's priorities for the Platform for Action:

We must respect women's rights as human rights. It's the very foundation of this Platform. We must reaffirm the principle that the human rights of women and girls are a universal, inalienable, integral and indivisible part of human rights, as adopted at the 1993 Vienna Conference on Human Rights. Human rights are not a boutique to which you can go to pick and choose.

In my country, women's rights were enshrined in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms ten years ago.

In every nation around the world, women face violence on the streets and, more often, within their own homes. In Canada, we have fought for the recognition that violence against women and girls is a violation of their human rights. We've taken action--strengthened laws, undertaken public education campaigns, built shelters. We have conducted the world's first national survey on violence against women.

Two years ago, the General Assembly adopted a Canadian-initiated Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women. We must ensure that the Platform includes strong measures to implement and build on the Declaration.

We must empower women and expand their choices. We must respect and value the diversity of women. We must recognize that some women face additional barriers to equality because of their race, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation. Because they are refugees, migrant or displaced women, because of their age, disability, family or socio-economic status, or because they are indigenous women.

Madame President, Canada has worked to ensure that the Platform for Action is based on an understanding that social and economic policies go hand-in-hand. This Platform must respond to the face of poverty that is increasingly female--a dire reflection of persistent economic inequality.

Worldwide, women's autonomy and control over economic resources are essential to their own and their families' survival--it is especially critical for their children.

Worldwide, we need protection of women's rights as workers and the promotion of equality in education, training, employment and other forms of work. We need policies that enable women to earn their livelihoods on an equal basis with men, and to fulfil their family responsibilities.

We need a better understanding of the relationship between paid work and the unpaid work that sustains our families, our institutions, our societies and economies.

We need to pay more attention to the impact of socio-economic factors on women's health. These include economic policies and structural adjustment.

Canada is committed to the agreements reached on women's reproductive health and rights at the International Conference on Population and Development. We will work to ensure that they are reaffirmed in the Platform for Action. Nothing less.

Women in Canada and around the world are deeply concerned about peace and security issues. The Platform must set out measures to enhance women's important role in peace and conflict resolution. War is not just a peace and security issue. It is a health issue.

Women and children often suffer disproportionately in situations of armed conflict. We must recognize and address this fact. Canada has introduced wording to the Platform related to rape as a war crime and a crime against humanity.

In our own country, we have adopted guidelines for establishing gender-based persecution as eligible grounds for women seeking refugee status. We have worked to reach agreement in the Platform on the recognition of sexual violence and other gender-related persecution as grounds for consideration for refugee status.

Consolidation of Gains

At recent world conferences and summits we, the member states of the United Nations, made significant commitments affecting the lives of girls and women. We must reaffirm these commitments here in Beijing. We must act upon them.

Madame President, over the past 50 years Canada has been a firm and committed supporter of the United Nations. We shall continue to do so. Today, we are here to support the UN in its quest for a global plan for women's equality.

I am here to pledge Canada's unflagging commitment to work towards this goal in a spirit of co-operation and goodwill with all nations.

Thank you Madame President.

Fourth UN Conference on Women
Beijing 4 - 15 September 1995

Delegation of the Netherlands

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Address by H.E. Ad Melkert
Minister of Social Affairs and Employment
Head of Delegation

8 September 1995

Madam Chairperson,

I am honoured to address this Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. It is attended by more government delegates, more NGO's and more journalists than any other previous UN conference. This great interest shows that the fight for the rights of women is in the heart of what moves the world today.

More and more people are no longer prepared to tolerate that women are treated as second-class citizens. They realize that our children's future is at stake unless women are given the rights, opportunities, resources and respect needed to enable them to participate fully and at all levels in society. Therefore, this conference is not only about the rights of women. It is also about the responsibility of men. The role of women is already extensively discussed, but is is high time that we also update the role of fathers.

Ten years ago we set our goals in the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies and we declared our firm intent to end all forms of discrimination against women by the year 2000. Our words were sincere but the actions that followed were not sufficiently convincing. The facts show that inequalities between men and women persist. Some progress has been made. But at the same time we must recognize that in other areas we are at a stand-still, while in some respects the position of women is worsening.

In many parts of the world the violence of war, often initiated by men, is destroying the lives and the futures of numerous women. Recent reports of, for example, Amnesty International show that in many parts of the world women are maltreated, humiliated, sexually abused and arrested, simply because they stand up for their rights.
Whether it is domestic violence, forced abortion or genital mutilation, this is still the real world we live in. These facts are light years removed from the principles on which the United Nations was founded fifty years ago. Therefore, twenty years after the first world

conference in Mexico, we have no reason to be complacent.

Words have to be translated into actions, actions which empower women to fight injustice. The recent UN World Conferences on Human Rights, and on Population and Development have already contributed to this goal.
I believe that the United Nations can further strengthen the position of women by establishing a right of petition and an inquiry procedure under the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

In 1994 the UN already took an important step by appointing a special rapporteur on violence against women. Her first report was very valuable and her appointment has also encouraged women to speak up louder and clearer than ever before. A clear example of this was the Tribunal on Violence against Women held in Huairou. Let us not forget that for many of the women in Huairou it was not easy and not without risks to speak up.
Women have certainly made effective use of this conference as a forum to voice their concerns, to publicize their ideas and to launch a call for solidarity.

The question whether women's rights are human rights is no longer open for discussion. At the Vienna conference women's rights were recognized clearly and fully as an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. We as Member States must hold each other accountable for safeguarding these rights. Monitoring is needed to know whether our words really produce effects.

How important the use of gender statistics is, is shown by the 1995 Human Development Report of UNDP. The Netherlands reached fourth place in the overall ranking for human development. But when gender statistics were applied we tumbled down to twentieth place. This is mainly due to wage disparities and the relatively low labour market participation of Dutch women. This clearly shows the world of difference which still exists between male and female reality, between statistics and gender statistics.

Madam Chairperson, I believe that an important key to equality between women and men lies in the distribution of paid employment and domestic responsibilities. Women must be enabled to be economically independent. Employment for women is not only a question of justice. It is a social necessity and an investment in national economic development.

In spite of twenty years of emancipation policy, women in the Netherlands still spend twice as much time on domestic care as men. Statistics show that more women than ever before are gainfully employed, but still earn less and have lower positions than men. As reported by ILO more women than ever before are bread winners for their families, and often they are single parents. Moreover, due to inadequate education and training many of them have a limited earning capacity and thus the risk of feminization of poverty is real.

Madam Chairperson, what have we learned from our experience with policies to advance the status of women? In the Netherlands we have focused on three areas of concern.

- The first one is the stimulation of the redistribution of paid and unpaid work while encouraging men to take greater responsibility for caring tasks. Although both parttime work and parental leave are becoming more common, they are still

mainly utilized by women. However, we have learned that a government can only play a facilitating role. Employers and workers organizations themselves should be encouraged to include issues such as the shortening of working time and parental leave in their negotiations so that both men and women can combine professional work and caring tasks.

- The second area relates to the participation of women in decision-making. Efforts to encourage positive action have yielded results. For example, in the Netherlands women now make up one-third of the membership of both the Cabinet and the Lower House of Parliament. These and other positive results are also due to women's own efforts to infiltrate the old boys' network.
  When will we see the day that one third of the captains of industry are women? Unfortunately, it still sounds like science fiction.
- Finally, an important area of concern has been the promotion of a change in attitudes and in the stereotyping of women and men which has mainly kept women in their perceived role of mother and wife. As part of its efforts to sensitize the public, the Government launched a media campaign about the prevention of sexual harassment; not by showing women as the stereotyped victims but by showing men as perpetrators. The campaign advocated that "if a girl says no she means no!".

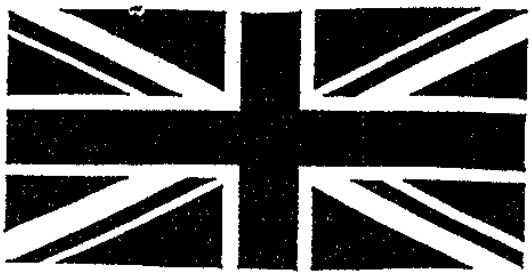
Madam Chairperson, the reproductive and sexual rights of women are among the most important issues of this conference. I strongly believe that women should have control over their own fertility and sexuality. They must be free in their choice of partners. In this respect we must not tolerate the use of coercion and violence. Also, women should not be discriminated against because of their sexual orientation. I sincerely hope that these important issues will be reflected in the Platform for Action.

Our commitments under the Platform for Action do not only concern our national policies but also our international policies. We know that women play a key role in the development of every country. That is why in the Netherlands development cooperation programme gender equality is a major priority. Moreover, the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD recently adopted gender equality as a strategic priority for development, thereby committing the donor community to play its part in the implementation of the Platform for Action.

Madam Chairperson, this Fourth World Conference on Women reaffirms that a shift is taking place in how we view the world. We are moving from a focus on states towards a focus on human beings. With their inspiring actions to put gender issues on the political agenda of the United Nations, women have taken their responsibility and have achieved remarkable change. Now we need more responsible men.

This Fourth World Conference in Beijing is a new inspiration for action to remove inequality between men and women in a true multi-cultural society. For the future of our daughters and therefore for the future of us all.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson



UNITED NATIONS

FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

STATEMENT

by

The Right Honourable The Baroness Chalker of Wallasey

Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

and

Minister for Overseas Development

PEKING, 5 September 1995

BARONESS CHALKER'S STATEMENT AT THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

INTRODUCTION

I am honoured to address the Fourth UN World Conference on Women; the Conference itself is a great achievement and I would like to thank all those involved in its organisation.

In the past year I am privileged to have spoken for the UK Government at two other major international conferences concerned to promote people-centred development. I now speak on behalf of all three Ministers jointly leading the UK delegation: Cheryl Gillan, responsible for co-ordinating policy on all women's issues; Angela Browning, Government Co-Chair of the Women's National Commission; and myself, responsible for overseas aid.

In March I led the UK delegation to the Social Development Summit in Copenhagen. There I stressed the importance of gender equality for children, as well as adults. This is not achieved overnight. But ultimately, our future success depends on the younger generation. The Platform for the World Conference on Women reflects this view by including a critical area of concern devoted solely to the girl child.

Last September, I led the UK delegation to the International Conference on Population and Development. Most of us believe that Cairo was an outstanding achievement. I certainly do. Governments, NGOs and communities are responding to the demands of women who tell us that "reproductive rights are my rights". We committed ourselves at Cairo to the advancement and empowerment of women, the elimination of all kinds of violence against women and women's right to control their own fertility. We must endorse these commitments here at the World Conference on Women. These cannot be renegotiated now.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Both these conferences built on the strong foundations laid at the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993. The Declaration and Programme of Action agreed there affirmed powerfully the importance and universality of the human rights of women. The Platform for Action for the World Conference on Women must be based on these foundations.

Justice and respect for the fundamental freedoms of all citizens are not only important in their own right, but are also the most effective basis for economic and social development. As we all recognised in Vienna, the rights of women are an integral part of universal human rights. The British Government attaches considerable importance to the universality of rights and we will defend this principle at this Conference.

By far the best way to promote these rights is for individual countries to ratify and implement all the human rights Conventions and particularly the ones relating to women and children. This would ensure that the principles of the UN Charter were fulfilled. What better way to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the UN?

THE WORLD CONFERENCE

Here in China, our task is twofold.

First, we will build on the commitments we have already made: we will dedicate ourselves once again to attaining the advances established for women at previous international conferences.

Second, we will agree a Platform for Action that provides a positive framework for women and men to work together to achieve further advances in a partnership based on equality of opportunity and mutual respect; we must all commit ourselves to take forward this vision.

We will carry forward the principles set out in the Platform, including:

- mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies;

- ensuring that all women, regardless of age, ethnicity, religion, disability or other characteristics, have equal opportunities, choices and rights;

- supporting women's promotion to the top of public and working life; and

- working in partnership with NGOs and others with an interest to take forward the objectives of the Platform.

Two themes I want to focus on today are freedom of choice and working in partnership. These are also two of the key themes which guide the UK national approach to equal opportunities.

If this Conference achieves only one thing it should be a global recognition of women's right to freedom of choice. Women must be treated as individuals; we must respect and support their personal choices. This holds true not only for women's sexual and reproductive health, but extends to work, education, politics, as well as the management of household resources and expenditure.

A change in attitudes and practices is just as important as equality under the law if we are to enable women and men to make full use of their talents and potential. It means a new flexibility in approach from public and private sector institutions, from civil society, as well as from government and formal sector employers.

I would like to see more women reaching the senior positions in industry and politics which their talents deserve; more young women training and pursuing careers in a wider range of occupations; more women entrepreneurs.

But as I have already said, these changes must begin with the girl child. Children have rights and we must encourage action to stop exploitation and abuse. Both in the work place and in the home. We all recognise that girl children are particularly vulnerable. Brought up in many societies to remain quiet and docile, their rights and needs are often over-looked. That is why the British aid programme places so much emphasis on access of girls to education.

In the UK, we have begun to see changes which promise much for the future. Young women have started to outperform young men in **all** subjects, including mathematics and science, in school examinations at age 16. But we need to see more young women go on to study science, engineering and technology subjects if they are truly to have freedom of choice in all walks of life, and I am pleased to see that the Platform for Action reflects this need.

Where women do not have choice, this significantly affects the way children are cared for; it perpetuates patterns of gender inequality from one generation to the next. A more equal sharing, between women and men, of parental and household responsibilities provides a better quality of life for women and girl children within the family. It is also fundamental for women's equal access to education, jobs and politics. This leads me to my next theme of **partnership**.

PARTNERSHIP

This Conference is much more than governments talking to each other. The inspiration for change has come from many individuals and groups working in partnership all over the world. The draft Platform for Action is largely an outcome of women's organised voice in dialogue with governments. It is up to all of us to work together to realise that vision.

None of us can effect real change alone. The role of NGOs both in our own countries and at the NGO Forum is a key example of the vitality which can be produced when women at grass roots work together. Governments can and should set out a strong legal framework for equality but it is essential that we all

work in partnership - governments, non-governmental organisations, employers and individuals - women and men alike - if real equality is to be achieved.

In the UK we are proud of what we have achieved so far, much of which has been achieved in partnership with many of the actors concerned. One example is Opportunity 2000, an employer-led initiative which aims to increase the participation of women in the workplace at all levels on the basis of their ability. Another is a regional initiative, "Fair Play for Women"; this is a joint Government and Equal Opportunities Commission initiative to remove barriers to women's fulfilment of their potential, which operates through co-operation between the public, private and voluntary sectors.

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The ECE Regional Platform drew out some important themes for the countries of our region. The protection of the human rights of women headed that list, but we also committed ourselves to promoting the eradication of poverty and ensuring that women were able to make a full contribution to the economy and to public life. We in the UK stand ready to play our part.

Our regional platform also committed us to promoting international solidarity and co-operation for the empowerment of women. The UK Government, in concert with other donors in the OECD Development Assistance Committee, has welcomed the opportunity to assist in the preparations of other regions for this Conference. This process has led to thousands of women and men enhancing their skills in promoting women's status. It has heightened public awareness and concern for the issues in a significant number of countries. And it has produced regional platforms for action for developing countries which the British aid programme intends to support.

The Africa Platform, for example, has identified women's health and reproductive rights as priority issues. This document recognised that improvements in women's health and ability to control their own fertility were major steps in enabling them to make choices in other areas. The Asia Platform stressed the needs of those

most vulnerable to poverty, such as young women and the elderly. It was particularly concerned with the predominance of women among the poorest groups in society.

If improvements in women's lives are to be seen, governments and non-governmental organisations must give priority to tackling the problems of women within their regions. The UK aid programme is ready to help.

Making aid work for women has been a challenge for the British aid programme since the first international women's conference in Mexico twenty years ago. We established our first comprehensive strategy for promoting women's role in development after the 1985 women's conference in Nairobi. Enhancing the status of women' has been one of British aid's priority objectives since 1993 and we are spending increasing amounts on making aid work for women.

The main effort, however, will come from the people of this world and their governments. Even the collective efforts of aid donors cannot hope to alleviate directly the conditions of the many millions of disempowered women living in poverty. For governments, this means encouraging the conditions whereby the private sector, civil society and individual women and men can respond creatively and positively to the agenda for equality. Again, partnership is the key.

To create these conditions governments may also have to reallocate public resources, for example, reducing excessive military expenditure and increasing investment in education and health care. It means governments implementing policies which reflect women's concerns. This requires the full participation of the women themselves in the design of programmes intended to benefit them.

National Commitment

We in the United Kingdom are not complacent. We must consolidate and build on our achievements, and the Platform for Action provides an impetus for this process. We will, of course, be taking away many ideas from the Platform:

- we will be making new efforts to integrate gender into all our policies;

- we will be striving to ensure that all women are able to make free choices and achieve their full potential; and

- we will continue to work in partnership with NGOs and others for the equality of women.

At this Conference, we have been invited to state or restate some of our national commitments within the context of the Platform for Action.

First, our international commitment. Promoting the status of women is central to our aid programme's overriding goal of poverty reduction through sustainable development. Reducing the poverty and powerlessness of many millions of women around the world is not just a "women's issue". It is important for everybody and I hereby restate our commitment to *making aid work for women*.

Second, we intend to make some new national commitments. I would like to share one or two of these with you today. I have already mentioned the importance we attach to international conventions. The UK has recently prepared its third report to the *CEDAW Convention*. As part of that exercise, we have reviewed all our reservations and declarations to the Convention. Whilst we have always maintained that our reservations are not contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention, I am delighted to be able to report that we have decided to withdraw many of our reservations.

In addition, we intend to build on the success of our *Out of School Childcare Initiative*, which has created thousands of childcare places and so enabled parents, especially women, to exercise real choice in combining work with their family responsibilities. This year, we have now decided that we can increase our target for places in England by 20% to 50,000 by March 1996.

Finally, the UK Government has for some time been committed to the policy of *mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes*. We have issued guidance to all government departments aimed at ensuring that policies do not discriminate on grounds of sex or other factors. We are pleased to see that the Platform recognises the importance of mainstreaming. We therefore intend to review the guidance in the light of the Platform for Action and other recent developments.

CONCLUSION

Here and now in China is an enormous gathering of women and men committed to making the world a better place for women, as well as for men. We must make fully effective the advances for women established at previous international conferences. And we must dedicate ourselves to agree a Platform which will provide a real framework for further progress.

I repeat, empowering women around the world is <u>not</u> just a "women's issue". It is important for both men and women. Progress for women is progress for everyone. We must respond to this vision: the future of our children depends on it.

18/8/95
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French Republic

Address to the Fourth World Conference on Women by

Mrs Colette CODACCIONI
Minister for Solidarity between Generations

Beijing, September 7, 1995

Address by Mrs Colette CODACCIONI,

French Minister for Solidarity between Generations,

to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women

The Beijing Conference is the outcome of a long process

The Fourth World Conference on Women is a huge gathering of women - but also of men - who have come from all over the world, and in itself a major event.

But it is not an isolated event . as the outcome of a long preparation process, it stands at the crossroads of two major evolutions that have marked and - to a great extent - revived the debate within the United Nations over the past twenty years.

* The first of these is the growing attention given - since 1975, which was proclaimed the International Women's Year - to the improvement of women's status and to the emphasis placed at the Mexico, Copenhagen and Nairobi World Conferences on Women on promoting *equality* of the sexes, integrating women into the *development* process, and on the need for them to contribute to the *peace* effort.

Equality, development, peace, such is the prospect since 1975 for the hopes and gains, but also at times the disappointments which have punctuated women's path within the United Nations framework.

* The second evolution deals with the place and the importance given by the international community to adopting common social objectives.

When they gathered last March in Copenhagen for the World Summit on Social Development, Heads of State and Government solemnly affirmed their commitment to place people at the centre of the development process. This historic meeting marked a new approach which was prepared by a series of conferences held in Rio, Vienna and Cairo where all became aware that growth and economic development are indissociable from social development and the respect of fundamental rights of man.

There is a great deal at stake for women and for humanity as a whole

How is it that questions which some still regard as "feminine" have turned into major issues and a major concern for the international community ?

There are two major reasons for this :

* There is, first of all, the crucial element of the *justice* to be rendered to women :

How can one possibly accept the fact that poverty affects mainly women, as 70% of people living in extreme poverty are females ? How can one possibly justify that, throughout the world, the workload of women is much greater than that of men, and that women's work is, for the most part, not acknowledged in any way ? And also that, when their work earns women a wage it is always much lower than a man's (as average women's salaries are only three quarters those of men) ?

How can one tolerate the fact that women continue to be subjected to domestic or social violence, to sexual exploitation, and that they be, with their children, the first civilian victims of conflicts and all too often obliged to flee their countries ?

Finally, how is it possible to accept that women, who account for half of the electorate, hold only 10% of parliamentary seats and 6% of ministerial positions in the world ?

The important disparaties which remain, in fact or in law, in very many areas, obviously constitute a major issue. The promotion of women is *an objective in itself* and must be acknowledged as such.

* but the promotion of women is also an *essential development condition* and as such a major challenge for humanity, whether for men or women.

The overriding importance of the economic and social contribution of women is better understood nowadays, and the international consensus that emerged at Rio in recognition of the central role of women in the protection of the environment, extends today to the economic development process of which women are the cornerstone.

All field players know that the results of development actions are increased tenfold if women take part in designing and implementing projects. And this applies both to actions conducted in industrial countries to fight against poverty and exclusion in underpriviledged districts, and to aid development projects implemented with our partners of the South.

In this context, the refusal of real equality between women and men, the negation of fundamental women's rights entail, for society as a whole, a loss in human capital, a slowing down of economic development and put obstacles in the path of social progress.

Equality : the key-stone of progress

At a time when we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, it is unthinkable for us to accept that the principle of equal rights between men and women - stipulated in the Charter's Preamble - be called into question in any way.

The alternative between the concepts of equality and equity is a false one : only equality - which is in fact the Conference's emblem - has any legitimacy as far as rights are concerned, unlike equity which perforce entails a subjective assessment of any given situation.

The present Conference must be a platform for affirming the strong commitment of Governments and of the international community to guarantee *equality of rights* for women in all areas.

This legal equality is an indispensable prerequisite, but it is only a first step as the law very often comes up against custom, traditions, ingrained habits and prejudice.

As we have been walking it for several years now, we know in France how long and hard is the road leading from equality in law to equality in fact. But we are convinced that the crisis experienced today in various ways and to a various extent by all our societies and our economies can only be resolved by way of a new partnership between women and men, based on the equal participation of women in everyday, political, economic, social, and cultural life.

Some women and men still contrast the concept of equality to that of being different.

On the one hand, there is fear that equality of the sexes will lead to an asexual society in which women would align their behaviour and way of life with men's. On the other, the idea of a sexual specificity is being challenged as it is linked in people's minds with inegalitarian systems.

This, once again, seems beside the point, as the fact that women and men have identical rights does not make them identical.

Equality of opportunities thanks to equal access to education, health services and resources is first and foremost a matter of freedom, and freedom implies freedom of choice.

Equal yet different, both different and equal . what goes for relationships between genders also applies within a given gender. Regarding this, we should keep in mind that female populations are themselves heterogeneous and that some women experience additional difficulties owing to handicaps, age, origin or socioeconomic status.

Common values and diversity of models

We know also that there are fundamental differences between women, depending on what part of the world they come from.

The necessary and legitimate acknowledgement of this diversity, the respect of collective values resting on beliefs, traditions and multifarious cultures cannot oppose or call into question the universal principles recognized throughout the international community and which rest on the rights of people, whatever their sex, and on the respect of their dignity.

The fundamental rights of women and little girls are an inalienable, integral and indissociable part of people's rights, as was underlined at the World Conference in Vienna.

Equality of the sexes is one of these rights.

Far from imposing a unique model that can be adjusted to all circumstances worldwide, equality of the sexes defines the universal framework within which individual and collective freedom can find expression.

In France, we are very attached to this plurality of social and individual models, and we think that responsibility for guaranteeing equality and freedom of choice for all women and men lies with the State.

Empowerment of women

Women will be able to exercise this freedom to the full only if they are given the means of controlling their own and their collective future and of becoming the players of their own history.

This requires :

- women's *education* :

There is in this respect a great deal of lost time to make up considering women account for three quarters of the victims of illiteracy in the world;

- *information* for women on their rights, as how could they assert them without any knowledge of them and if they can get no support in actually getting these rights enforced ?

- *access to resources*, whether food, economic or financial resources, as women are much more affected by poverty than men. In this perspective, equality of rights with respect to heritage, ownership, and access to credit must be acknowledged and actually put into effect;

- the guarantee of the best possible *health standards*, which implies affordable and quality primary health care services;

- *fertility control*, which requires access to services and methods to help women decide freely on the number of their children and on birth spacing. Acknowledged at the World Conference in Cairo, this is a fundamental right, from which the present Conference will have to draw all inferences;

- *full participation* as men's equals in the decision-making process.

Women at all levels, whether local, regional or national, still find themselves too far away from decision-making centres. The fact that women are underrepresented in politics is a fundamental weakness of our democracies the consequences of which we are now beginning to assess. The new partnership I mentioned earlier on naturally calls for the introduction of a democracy based on equal representation at all levels and in all decision-making areas.

* *

*

The Beijing Conference will be a success only if its statement and platform clearly and unambiguously highlight these fundamental elements and affirm the commitment of participating States and of the international community to act accordingly.

This is a difficult task with many pitfalls. Addressing core concerns without avoiding specificities while stressing universal aspects, being realistic and concrete without giving up ambition : I rely on the solidarity of the women and men attending this conference to triumph over this impossible equation.

I rely especially on the momentum, the commitment and the vigilance of non-governmental organizations in providing the necessary impetus to our work as they have done in the past.

Finally, I call upon the spirit of open-mindedness and responsibility of all for the outcome of this meeting to live up to the challenges and hopes it has raised.

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Press Release

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Statement by

Ms Claudia Nolte

Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth,

Fourth World Conference on Women

Beijing, 6. September 1995

Madam Chairperson,
distinguished delegates,

First of all, let me express my support for the statement made by the Spanish Presidency of the European Union.

In 4 weeks, exactly 5 years will have passed since the restoration of German unity after more than 40 years of separation.

I am very happy that, for the first time, women from the former German Democratic Republic are taking part as members of the German delegation in this conference and in the NGO-Forum.

In 1989, hundreds of thousands of citizens of the German Democratic Republic, women and men, asked for democracy and freedom. The end of communist rule and the unification of Germany put an end to injustice and the arbitrary rule and gave freedom to the people.

At present, the two parts of Germany are growing together. 40 years of diverging experiences in our country have now to be merged in a constructive and forward-looking process.

One of the major challenges consists in solving the difficult issues in eastern Germany which were either caused or brought to light by the unification process. Women have been particularly affected by this transition. They bear the brunt of the job cuts as a result of the process of economic restructuring. We shall continue to face up to this challenge and do everything possible to improve their opportunities.

Although problems women face all over the world are very different, there are many issues that we must tackle together.

To me human rights for women are the focal point of this conference. I appeal to all of you to respect human rights for women as integral part of the universal, indivisible and inalienable human rights. These must not be restricted on grounds of religion, culture or tradition.They must be guaranteed in order to ensure that women and girls can fully and truly enjoy them. All of us - our host country as well as all the other states in the world - are called upon to denounce, prevent and punish violence against women as a violation of human rights. This includes infanticide, forced abortion, prenatal sex selection, and trafficking in women and girls. The respect for human rights and combat against violence

affecting women are ethical imperatives. Violence against women and girls remains an important issue in Germany.

We have succeeded in adopting numerous statutory improvements. For instance the provisions of penal law governing the trafficking in human beings have been tightened. Legal protection for the victims of sexual offences has been improved. I am making every effort to make rape within marriage a legal offense. We shall continue to work towards the elimination of violence against women through continued special campagins.

Respect for human rights for women is one of the fundamental prerequisites for equality between women and men.

In the past years United Nations' conferences have shown that global challenges cannot be mastered without equal participation of women, strengthening of their rights and continuous empowerment. The Federal Government considers it important to ensure that women all over the world learn to know their rights and are put in a position to assert them. In the framework of our bilateral development cooperation we will provide from 1996 to the year 2000 US$ 40 million for projects in the fields of legal and socio-political counselling in developing countries, with a particular emphasis on the interests and needs of women. Thus we want to contribute to a socially balanced economic and investment policy in developing countries so that women get an equal share in the economic and social development.

Absolute poverty and structural discrimination still deny women in many parts of the world access to education, employment and economic independence. Women remain largely excluded from political economical and social decision-making. That is why we need economic empowerment of women.

We all are called upon to further develop strategies and implement measures to ensure the equal participation of women at all levels and in all areas in a spirit of partnership between women and men.

Since the Third World Conference on Women in 1985, much progress has been made in Germany towards equality of women and men. However the constitutional right of equality and equal access to resources does not automatically abolish all forms of discrimination in real life.

In current debates in Germany equality is increasingly being measured by the degree of sharing between women and men: sharing of power and status, of rights and duties in the families, in the economy and in political decisions. Men have to accept greater family

responsibility and to give up privileges. This social process needs political support while at the same time requiring the committment of each and every person.

To encourage this process of social change and as a follow-up to this conference, I intend to declare the year 1996 with regard to women's policy a year of "Equality, Participation Partnership" . Building upon the public awareness raised by the Fourth World Conference on Women we want to launch adequate activities and compaigns to raise the awareness of men and women for inequalities which still exist. In order to implement the decisions adopted in Beijing I shall convene a national follow-up conference.

The national preparatory process made it evident that greater attention has to be paid to the needs of disabled women and the topic of "women and the environment".

The preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women have led to intensified dialogue between government and non-governmental organizations in Germany. I consider it important to continue this dialogue. Shaping the relations between nations is not left to the governments alone. Non-governmental organizations and associations have entered the game and become players beyond national boundaries.

At the eve of this conference, there was an intensive debate in Germany about the conference venue. I sincerely hope that holding this conference here will make a lasting contribution to achieving full respect of human rights in China and all over the world. We will be measured by our ability to fully implement the Program of Action of this conference.

□ 제4차 세계여성회의 공식보고서(영문)

UNITED
NATIONS

FOURTH WORLD
CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Beijing, China
4-15 September 1995

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REPORT OF THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN*

(Beijing, 4-15 September 1995)

* The present document is a preliminary version of the report of the Fourth World Conference on Women. Annexes I to IV will appear in an addendum to the present document. The complete report will be issued as a United Nations sales publication.

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* To be issued as an addendum to the present document.

Chapter I

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE

Resolution 1

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*

The Fourth World Conference on Women,

Having met in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995,

1. Adopts the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which are annexed to the present resolution;

2. Recommends to the General Assembly of the United Nations at its fiftieth session that it endorse the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as adopted by the Conference.

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* Adopted at the 16th plenary meeting, on 15 September 1995; for the discussion, see chapter V.

Annex I

BEIJING DECLARATION

1. We, the Governments participating in the Fourth World Conference on Women,

2. Gathered here in Beijing in September 1995, the year of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations,

3. Determined to advance the goals of equality, development and peace for all women everywhere in the interest of all humanity,

4. Acknowledging the voices of all women everywhere and taking note of the diversity of women and their roles and circumstances, honouring the women who paved the way and inspired by the hope present in the world's youth,

5. Recognize that the status of women has advanced in some important respects in the past decade but that progress has been uneven, inequalities between women and men have persisted and major obstacles remain, with serious consequences for the well-being of all people,

6. Also recognize that this situation is exacerbated by the increasing poverty that is affecting the lives of the majority of the world's people, in particular women and children, with origins in both the national and international domains,

7. Dedicate ourselves unreservedly to addressing these constraints and obstacles and thus enhancing further the advancement and empowerment of women all over the world, and agree that this requires urgent action in the spirit of determination, hope, cooperation and solidarity, now and to carry us forward into the next century.

We reaffirm our commitment to:

8. The equal rights and inherent human dignity of women and men and other purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and the Declaration on the Right to Development;

9. Ensure the full implementation of the human rights of women and of the girl child as an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

10. Build on consensus and progress made at previous United Nations conferences and summits - on women in Nairobi in 1985, on children in New York in 1990, on environment and development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, on human rights in Vienna in 1993, on population and development in Cairo in 1994 and on social development in Copenhagen in 1995 with the objective of achieving equality, development and peace;

11. Achieve the full and effective implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;

12. The empowerment and advancement of women, including the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief, thus contributing to the moral, ethical, spiritual and intellectual needs of women and men, individually or in community with others and thereby guaranteeing them the possibility of realizing their full potential in society and shaping their lives in accordance with their own aspirations.

We are convinced that:

13. Women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society, including participation in the decision-making process and access to power, are fundamental for the achievement of equality, development and peace;

14. Women's rights are human rights;

15. Equal rights, opportunities and access to resources, equal sharing of responsibilities for the family by men and women, and a harmonious partnership between them are critical to their well-being and that of their families as well as to the consolidation of democracy;

16. Eradication of poverty based on sustained economic growth, social development, environmental protection and social justice requires the involvement of women in economic and social development, equal opportunities and the full and equal participation of women and men as agents and beneficiaries of people-centred sustainable development;

17. The explicit recognition and reaffirmation of the right of all women to control all aspects of their health, in particular their own fertility, is basic to their empowerment;

18. Local, national, regional and global peace is attainable and is inextricably linked with the advancement of women, who are a fundamental force for leadership, conflict resolution and the promotion of lasting peace at all levels;

19. It is essential to design, implement and monitor, with the full participation of women, effective, efficient and mutually reinforcing gender-sensitive policies and programmes, including development policies and programmes, at all levels that will foster the empowerment and advancement of women;

20. The participation and contribution of all actors of civil society, particularly women's groups and networks and other non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, with full respect for their autonomy, in cooperation with Governments, are important to the effective implementation and follow-up of the Platform for Action;

21. The implementation of the Platform for Action requires commitment from Governments and the international community. By making national and international commitments for action, including those made at the Conference, Governments and the international community recognize the need to take priority action for the empowerment and advancement of women.

We are determined to:

22. Intensify efforts and actions to achieve the goals of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women by the end of this century;

23. Ensure the full enjoyment by women and the girl child of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and take effective action against violations of these rights and freedoms;

24. Take all necessary measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and the girl child and remove all obstacles to gender equality and the advancement and empowerment of women;

25. Encourage men to participate fully in all actions towards equality;

26. Promote women's economic independence, including employment, and eradicate the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women by addressing the structural causes of poverty through changes in economic structures, ensuring equal access for all women, including those in rural areas, as vital development agents, to productive resources, opportunities and public services;

27. Promote people-centred sustainable development, including sustained economic growth, through the provision of basic education, life-long education, literacy and training, and primary health care for girls and women;

28. Take positive steps to ensure peace for the advancement of women and, recognizing the leading role that women have played in the peace movement, work actively towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, and support negotiations on the conclusion, without delay, of a universal and multilaterally and effectively verifiable comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty which contributes to nuclear disarmament and the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects;

29. Prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls;

30. Ensure equal access to and equal treatment of women and men in education and health care and enhance women's sexual and reproductive health as well as education;

31. Promote and protect all human rights of women and girls;

32. Intensify efforts to ensure equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all women and girls who face multiple barriers to their empowerment and advancement because of such factors as their race age, language, ethnicity, culture, religion, or disability, or because they are indigenous people;

33. Ensure respect for international law, including humanitarian law, in order to protect women and girls in particular;

34. Develop the fullest potential of girls and women of all ages, ensure their full and equal participation in building a better world for all and enhance their role in the development process.

We are determined to:

35. Ensure women's equal access to economic resources, including land, credit, science and technology, vocational training, information, communication and markets, as a means to further the advancement and empowerment of women and girls, including through the enhancement of their capacities to enjoy the benefits of equal access to these resources, inter alia, by means of international cooperation;

36. Ensure the success of the Platform for Action, which will require a strong commitment on the part of Governments, international organizations and institutions at all levels. We are deeply convinced that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development, which is the framework for our efforts to achieve a higher quality of life for all people. Equitable social development that recognizes empowering the poor, particularly women living in poverty, to utilize environmental resources sustainably is a necessary foundation for sustainable development. We also recognize that broad-based and sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development is necessary to sustain social development and social justice. The success of the Platform for Action will also require adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels as well as new and additional resources to the developing countries from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources for the advancement of women; financial resources to strengthen the capacity of national, subregional, regional and international institutions; a commitment to equal rights, equal responsibilities and equal opportunities and to the equal participation of women and men in all national, regional and international bodies and policy-making processes; and the establishment or strengthening of mechanisms at all levels for accountability to the world's women;

37. Ensure also the success of the Platform for Action in countries with economies in transition, which will require continued international cooperation and assistance;

38. We hereby adopt and commit ourselves as Governments to implement the following Platform for Action, ensuring that a gender perspective is reflected in all our policies and programmes. We urge the United Nations system, regional and international financial institutions, other relevant regional and international institutions and all women and men, as well as non-governmental organizations, with full respect for their autonomy, and all sectors of civil society, in cooperation with Governments, to fully commit themselves and contribute to the implementation of this Platform for Action.

Annex II

PLATFORM FOR ACTION

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Chapter I

MISSION STATEMENT

1. The Platform for Action is an agenda for women's empowerment. It aims at accelerating the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 1/ and at removing all the obstacles to women's active participation in all spheres of public and private life through a full and equal share in economic, social, cultural and political decision-making. This means that the principle of shared power and responsibility should be established between women and men at home, in the workplace and in the wider national and international communities. Equality between women and men is a matter of human rights and a condition for social justice and is also a necessary and fundamental prerequisite for equality, development and peace. A transformed partnership based on equality between women and men is a condition for people-centred sustainable development. A sustained and long-term commitment is essential, so that women and men can work together for themselves, for their children and for society to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.

2. The Platform for Action reaffirms the fundamental principle set forth in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, 2/ adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, that the human rights of women and of the girl child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights. As an agenda for action, the Platform seeks to promote and protect the full enjoyment of all human rights and the fundamental freedoms of all women throughout their life cycle.

3. The Platform for Action emphasizes that women share common concerns that can be addressed only by working together and in partnership with men towards the common goal of gender* equality around the world. It respects and values the full diversity of women's situations and conditions and recognizes that some women face particular barriers to their empowerment.

4. The Platform for Action requires immediate and concerted action by all to create a peaceful, just and humane world based on human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the principle of equality for all people of all ages and from all walks of life, and to this end, recognizes that broad-based and sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development is necessary to sustain social development and social justice.

5. The success of the Platform for Action will require a strong commitment on the part of Governments, international organizations and institutions at all levels. It will also require adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels as well as new and additional resources to the developing countries from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources for the advancement of women; financial resources to strengthen the capacity of national, subregional, regional and international institutions; a commitment to equal rights, equal responsibilities and equal opportunities and to the equal participation of women and men in all national, regional and international bodies and policy-making processes; and the establishment or strengthening of mechanisms at all levels for accountability to the world's women.

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* For the commonly understood meaning of the term "gender", see annex IV to the present report.

Chapter II

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK

6. The Fourth World Conference on Women is taking place as the world stands poised on the threshold of a new millennium.

7. The Platform for Action upholds the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 3/ and builds upon the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, as well as relevant resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. The formulation of the Platform for Action is aimed at establishing a basic group of priority actions that should be carried out during the next five years.

8. The Platform for Action recognizes the importance of the agreements reached at the World Summit for Children, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development and the World Summit for Social Development, which set out specific approaches and commitments to fostering sustainable development and international cooperation and to strengthening the role of the United Nations to that end. Similarly, the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the International Conference on Nutrition, the International Conference on Primary Health Care and the World Conference on Education for All have addressed the various facets of development and human rights, within their specific perspectives, paying significant attention to the role of women and girls. In addition, the International Year for the World's Indigenous People, 4/ the International Year of the Family, 5/ the United Nations Year for Tolerance, 6/ the Geneva Declaration for Rural Women, 7/ and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women 8/ have also emphasized the issues of women's empowerment and equality.

9. The objective of the Platform for Action, which is in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, is the empowerment of all women. The full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women is essential for the empowerment of women. While the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms. 9/ The implementation of this Platform, including through national laws and the formulation of strategies, policies, programmes and development priorities, is the sovereign responsibility of each State, in conformity with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the significance of and full respect for various religious and ethical values, cultural backgrounds and philosophical convictions of individuals and their communities should contribute to the full enjoyment by women of their human rights in order to achieve equality, development and peace.

10. Since the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held at Nairobi in 1985, and the adoption of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, the world has experienced profound political, economic, social and cultural changes, which have had both positive and negative effects on women. The World Conference on Human Rights recognized that the human rights of women and the girl child are an inalienable, integral and

indivisible part of universal human rights. The full and equal participation of women in political, civil, economic, social and cultural life at the national, regional and international levels, and the eradication of all forms of discrimination on the grounds of sex are priority objectives of the international community. The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirmed the solemn commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, other instruments related to human rights and international law. The universal nature of these rights and freedoms is beyond question.

11. The end of the cold war has resulted in international changes and diminished competition between the super-Powers. The threat of a global armed conflict has diminished, while international relations have improved and prospects for peace among nations have increased. Although the threat of global conflict has been reduced, wars of aggression, armed conflicts, colonial or other forms of alien domination and foreign occupation, civil wars, and terrorism continue to plague many parts of the world. Grave violations of the human rights of women occur, particularly in times of armed conflict, and include murder, torture, systematic rape, forced pregnancy and forced abortion, in particular under policies of ethnic cleansing.

12. The maintenance of peace and security at the global, regional and local levels, together with the prevention of policies of aggression and ethnic cleansing and the resolution of armed conflict, is crucial for the protection of the human rights of women and girl children, as well as for the elimination of all forms of violence against them and of their use as a weapon of war.

13. Excessive military expenditures, including global military expenditures and arms trade or trafficking, and investments for arms production and acquisition have reduced the resources available for social development. As a result of the debt burden and other economic difficulties, many developing countries have undertaken structural adjustment policies. Moreover, there are structural adjustment programmes that have been poorly designed and implemented, with resulting detrimental effects on social development. The number of people living in poverty has increased disproportionately in most developing countries, particularly the heavily indebted countries, during the past decade.

14. In this context, the social dimension of development should be emphasized. Accelerated economic growth, although necessary for social development, does not by itself improve the quality of life of the population. In some cases, conditions can arise which can aggravate social inequality and marginalization. Hence, it is indispensable to search for new alternatives that ensure that all members of society benefit from economic growth based on a holistic approach to all aspects of development: growth, equality between women and men, social justice, conservation and protection of the environment, sustainability, solidarity, participation, peace and respect for human rights.

15. A world-wide movement towards democratization has opened up the political process in many nations, but the popular participation of women in key decision-making as full and equal partners with men, particularly in politics, has not yet been achieved. South Africa's policy of institutionalized racism - apartheid - has been dismantled and a peaceful and democratic transfer of power has occurred. In Central and Eastern Europe the transition to parliamentary democracy has been rapid and has given rise to a variety of experiences, depending on the specific circumstances of each country. While the transition

has been mostly peaceful, in some countries this process has been hindered by armed conflict that has resulted in grave violations of human rights.

16. Widespread economic recession, as well as political instability in some regions, has been responsible for setting back development goals in many countries. This has led to the expansion of unspeakable poverty. Of the more than 1 billion people living in abject poverty, women are an overwhelming majority. The rapid process of change and adjustment in all sectors has also led to increased unemployment and underemployment, with particular impact on women. In many cases, structural adjustment programmes have not been designed to minimize their negative effects on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups or on women, nor have they been designed to assure positive effects on those groups by preventing their marginalization in economic and social activities. The Final Act of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations 10/ underscored the increasing interdependence of national economies, as well as the importance of trade liberalization and access to open, dynamic markets. There has also been heavy military spending in some regions. Despite increases in official development assistance (ODA) by some countries, ODA has recently declined overall.

17. Absolute poverty and the feminization of poverty, unemployment, the increasing fragility of the environment, continued violence against women and the widespread exclusion of half of humanity from institutions of power and governance underscore the need to continue the search for development, peace and security and for ways of assuring people-centred sustainable development. The participation and leadership of the half of humanity that is female is essential to the success of that search. Therefore, only a new era of international cooperation among Governments and peoples based on a spirit of partnership, an equitable, international social and economic environment, and a radical transformation of the relationship between women and men to one of full and equal partnership will enable the world to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.

18. Recent international economic developments have had in many cases a disproportionate impact on women and children, the majority of whom live in developing countries. For those States that have carried a large burden of foreign debt, structural adjustment programmes and measures, though beneficial in the long term, have led to a reduction in social expenditures, thereby adversely affecting women, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries. This is exacerbated when responsibilities for basic social services have shifted from Governments to women.

19. Economic recession in many developed and developing countries, as well as ongoing restructuring in countries with economies in transition, have had a disproportionately negative impact on women's employment. Women often have no choice but to take employment that lacks long-term job security or involves dangerous working conditions, to work in unprotected home-based production or to be unemployed. Many women enter the labour market in under-remunerated and undervalued jobs, seeking to improve their household income; others decide to migrate for the same purpose. Without any reduction in their other responsibilities, this has increased the total burden of work for women.

20. Macro and micro-economic policies and programmes, including structural adjustment, have not always been designed to take account of their impact on women and girl children, especially those living in poverty. Poverty has increased in both absolute and relative terms, and the number of women living in poverty has increased in most regions. There are many urban women living in

poverty; however, the plight of women living in rural and remote areas deserves special attention given the stagnation of development in such areas. In developing countries, even those in which national indicators have shown improvement, the majority of rural women continue to live in conditions of economic underdevelopment and social marginalization.

21. Women are key contributors to the economy and to combating poverty through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace. Growing numbers of women have achieved economic independence through gainful employment.

22. One fourth of all households world wide are headed by women and many other households are dependent on female income even where men are present. Female-maintained households are very often among the poorest because of wage discrimination, occupational segregation patterns in the labour market and other gender-based barriers. Family disintegration, population movements between urban and rural areas within countries, international migration, war and internal displacements are factors contributing to the rise of female-headed households.

23. Recognizing that the achievement and maintenance of peace and security are a precondition for economic and social progress, women are increasingly establishing themselves as central actors in a variety of capacities in the movement of humanity for peace. Their full participation in decision-making, conflict prevention and resolution and all other peace initiatives is essential to the realization of lasting peace.

24. Religion, spirituality and belief play a central role in the lives of millions of women and men, in the way they live and in the aspirations they have for the future. The right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion is inalienable and must be universally enjoyed. This right includes the freedom to have or to adopt the religion or belief of their choice either individually or in community with others, in public or in private, and to manifest their religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching. In order to realize equality, development and peace, there is a need to respect these rights and freedoms fully. Religion, thought, conscience and belief may, and can, contribute to fulfilling women's and men's moral, ethical and spiritual needs and to realizing their full potential in society. However, it is acknowledged that any form of extremism may have a negative impact on women and can lead to violence and discrimination.

25. The Fourth World Conference on Women should accelerate the process that formally began in 1975, which was proclaimed International Women's Year by the United Nations General Assembly. The Year was a turning-point in that it put women's issues on the agenda. The United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985) was a world-wide effort to examine the status and rights of women and to bring women into decision-making at all levels. In 1979, the General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which entered into force in 1981 and set an international standard for what was meant by equality between women and men. In 1985, the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace adopted the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, to be implemented by the year 2000. There has been important progress in achieving equality between women and men. Many Governments have enacted legislation to promote equality between women and men and have established national machineries to ensure the mainstreaming of gender

perspectives in all spheres of society. International agencies have focused greater attention on women's status and roles.

26. The growing strength of the non-governmental sector, particularly women's organizations and feminist groups, has become a driving force for change. Non-governmental organizations have played an important advocacy role in advancing legislation or mechanisms to ensure the promotion of women. They have also become catalysts for new approaches to development. Many Governments have increasingly recognized the important role that non-governmental organizations play and the importance of working with them for progress. Yet, in some countries, Governments continue to restrict the ability of non-governmental organizations to operate freely. Women, through non-governmental organizations, have participated in and strongly influenced community, national, regional and global forums and international debates.

27. Since 1975, knowledge of the status of women and men, respectively, has increased and is contributing to further actions aimed at promoting equality between women and men. In several countries, there have been important changes in the relationships between women and men, especially where there have been major advances in education for women and significant increases in their participation in the paid labour force. The boundaries of the gender division of labour between productive and reproductive roles are gradually being crossed as women have started to enter formerly male-dominated areas of work and men have started to accept greater responsibility for domestic tasks, including child care. However, changes in women's roles have been greater and much more rapid than changes in men's roles. In many countries, the differences between women's and men's achievements and activities are still not recognized as the consequences of socially constructed gender roles rather than immutable biological differences.

28. Moreover, 10 years after the Nairobi Conference, equality between women and men has still not been achieved. On average, women represent a mere 10 per cent of all elected legislators world wide and in most national and international administrative structures, both public and private, they remain underrepresented. The United Nations is no exception. Fifty years after its creation, the United Nations is continuing to deny itself the benefits of women's leadership by their underrepresentation at decision-making levels within the Secretariat and the specialized agencies.

29. Women play a critical role in the family. The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. The rights, capabilities and responsibilities of family members must be respected. Women make a great contribution to the welfare of the family and to the development of society, which is still not recognized or considered in its full importance. The social significance of maternity, motherhood and the role of parents in the family and in the upbringing of children should be acknowledged. The upbringing of children requires shared responsibility of parents, women and men and society as a whole. Maternity, motherhood, parenting and the role of women in procreation must not be a basis for discrimination nor restrict the full participation of women in society. Recognition should also be given to the important role often played by women in many countries in caring for other members of their family.

30. While the rate of growth of world population is on the decline, world population is at an all-time high in absolute numbers, with current increments approaching 86 million persons annually. Two other major demographic trends

have had profound repercussions on the dependency ratio within families. In many developing countries, 45 to 50 per cent of the population is less than 15 years old, while in industrialized nations both the number and proportion of elderly people are increasing. According to United Nations projections, 72 per cent of the population over 60 years of age will be living in developing countries by the year 2025, and more than half of that population will be women. Care of children, the sick and the elderly is a responsibility that falls disproportionately on women, owing to lack of equality and the unbalanced distribution of remunerated and unremunerated work between women and men.

31. Many women face particular barriers because of various diverse factors in addition to their gender. Often these diverse factors isolate or marginalize such women. They are, inter alia, denied their human rights, they lack access or are denied access to education and vocational training, employment, housing and economic self-sufficiency and they are excluded from decision-making processes. Such women are often denied the opportunity to contribute to their communities as part of the mainstream.

32. The past decade has also witnessed a growing recognition of the distinct interests and concerns of indigenous women, whose identity, cultural traditions and forms of social organization enhance and strengthen the communities in which they live. Indigenous women often face barriers both as women and as members of indigenous communities.

33. In the past 20 years, the world has seen an explosion in the field of communications. With advances in computer technology and satellite and cable television, global access to information continues to increase and expand, creating new opportunities for the participation of women in communications and the mass media and for the dissemination of information about women. However, global communication networks have been used to spread stereotyped and demeaning images of women for narrow commercial and consumerist purposes. Until women participate equally in both the technical and decision-making areas of communications and the mass media, including the arts, they will continue to be misrepresented and awareness of the reality of women's lives will continue to be lacking. The media have a great potential to promote the advancement of women and the equality of women and men by portraying women and men in a non-stereotypical, diverse and balanced manner, and by respecting the dignity and worth of the human person.

34. The continuing environmental degradation that affects all human lives has often a more direct impact on women. Women's health and their livelihood are threatened by pollution and toxic wastes, large-scale deforestation, desertification, drought and depletion of the soil and of coastal and marine resources, with a rising incidence of environmentally related health problems and even death reported among women and girls. Those most affected are rural and indigenous women, whose livelihood and daily subsistence depends directly on sustainable ecosystems.

35. Poverty and environmental degradation are closely interrelated. While poverty results in certain kinds of environmental stress, the major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment is the unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, particularly in industrialized countries, which are a matter of grave concern and aggravate poverty and imbalances.

36. Global trends have brought profound changes in family survival strategies and structures. Rural to urban migration has increased substantially in all regions. The global urban population is projected to reach 47 per cent of the

total population by the year 2000. An estimated 125 million people are migrants, refugees and displaced persons, half of whom live in developing countries. These massive movements of people have profound consequences for family structures and well-being and have unequal consequences for women and men, including in many cases the sexual exploitation of women.

37. According to World Health Organization (WHO) estimates, by the beginning of 1995 the number of cumulative cases of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) was 4.5 million. An estimated 19.5 million men, women and children have been infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) since it was first diagnosed and it is projected that another 20 million will be infected by the end of the decade. Among new cases, women are twice as likely to be infected as men. In the early stage of the AIDS pandemic, women were not infected in large numbers; however, about 8 million women are now infected. Young women and adolescents are particularly vulnerable. It is estimated that by the year 2000 more than 13 million women will be infected and 4 million women will have died from AIDS-related conditions. In addition, about 250 million new cases of sexually transmitted diseases are estimated to occur every year. The rate of transmission of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, is increasing at an alarming rate among women and girls, especially in developing countries.

38. Since 1975, significant knowledge and information have been generated about the status of women and the conditions in which they live. Throughout their entire life cycle, women's daily existence and long-term aspirations are restricted by discriminatory attitudes, unjust social and economic structures, and a lack of resources in most countries that prevent their full and equal participation. In a number of countries, the practice of prenatal sex selection, higher rates of mortality among very young girls and lower rates of school enrolment for girls as compared with boys suggest that son preference is curtailing the access of girl children to food, education and health care and even life itself. Discrimination against women begins at the earliest stages of life and must therefore be addressed from then onwards.

39. The girl child of today is the woman of tomorrow. The skills, ideas and energy of the girl child are vital for full attainment of the goals of equality, development and peace. For the girl child to develop her full potential she needs to be nurtured in an enabling environment, where her spiritual, intellectual and material needs for survival, protection and development are met and her equal rights safeguarded. If women are to be equal partners with men, in every aspect of life and development, now is the time to recognize the human dignity and worth of the girl child and to ensure the full enjoyment of her human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights assured by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 11/ universal ratification of which is strongly urged. Yet there exists world-wide evidence that discrimination and violence against girls begin at the earliest stages of life and continue unabated throughout their lives. They often have less access to nutrition, physical and mental health care and education and enjoy fewer rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence than do boys. They are often subjected to various forms of sexual and economic exploitation, paedophilia, forced prostitution and possibly the sale of their organs and tissues, violence and harmful practices such as female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, incest, female genital mutilation and early marriage, including child marriage.

40. Half the world's population is under the age of 25 and most of the world's youth - more than 85 per cent - live in developing countries. Policy makers must recognize the implications of these demographic factors. Special measures

must be taken to ensure that young women have the life skills necessary for active and effective participation in all levels of social, cultural, political and economic leadership. It will be oritical for the international community to demonstrate a new commitment to the future - a commitment to inspiring a new generation of women and men to work together for a more just society. This new generation of leaders must accept and promote a world in which every child is free from injustice, oppression and inequality and free to develop her/his own potential. The principle of equality of women and men must therefore be integral to the socialization process.

Chapter III

CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN

41. The advancement of women and the achievement of equality between women and men are a matter of human rights and a condition for social justice and should not be seen in isolation as a women's issue. They are the only way to build a sustainable, just and developed society. Empowerment of women and equality between women and men are prerequisites for achieving political, social, economic, cultural and environmental security among all peoples.

42. Most of the goals set out in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women have not been achieved. Barriers to women's empowerment remain, despite the efforts of Governments, as well as non-governmental organizations and women and men everywhere. Vast political, economic and ecological crises persist in many parts of the world. Among them are wars of aggression, armed conflicts, colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, civil wars and terrorism. These situations, combined with systematic or de facto discrimination, violations of and failure to protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women, and their civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, including the right to development and ingrained prejudicial attitudes towards women and girls are but a few of the impediments encountered since the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, in 1985.

43. A review of progress since the Nairobi Conference highlights special concerns - areas of particular urgency that stand out as priorities for action. All actors should focus action and resources on the strategic objectives relating to the critical areas of concern which are, necessarily, interrelated, interdependent and of high priority. There is a need for these actors to develop and implement mechanisms of accountability for all the areas of concern.

44. To this end, Governments, the international community and civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, are called upon to take strategic action in the following critical areas of concern:

- The persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women
- Inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to education and training
- Inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to health care and related services
- Violence against women
- The effects of armed or other kinds of conflict on women, including those living under foreign occupation
- Inequality in economic structures and policies, in all forms of productive activities and in access to resources
- Inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels

- Insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women

- Lack of respect for and inadequate promotion and protection of the human rights of women

- Stereotyping of women and inequality in women's access to and participation in all communication systems, especially in the media

- Gender inequalities in the management of natural resources and in the safeguarding of the environment

- Persistent discrimination against and violation of the rights of the girl child

Chapter IV

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

45. In each critical area of concern, the problem is diagnosed and strategic objectives are proposed with concrete actions to be taken by various actors in order to achieve those objectives. The strategic objectives are derived from the critical areas of concern and specific actions to be taken to achieve them cut across the boundaries of equality, development and peace - the goals of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women - and reflect their interdependence. The objectives and actions are interlinked, of high priority and mutually reinforcing. The Platform for Action is intended to improve the situation of all women, without exception, who often face similar barriers, while special attention should be given to groups that are the most disadvantaged.

46. The Platform for Action recognizes that women face barriers to full equality and advancement because of such factors as their race, age, language, ethnicity, culture, religion or disability, because they are indigenous women or because of other status. Many women encounter specific obstacles related to their family status, particularly as single parents; and to their socio-economic status, including their living conditions in rural, isolated or impoverished areas. Additional barriers also exist for refugee women, other displaced women, including internally displaced women as well as for immigrant women and migrant women, including women migrant workers. Many women are also particularly affected by environmental disasters, serious and infectious diseases and various forms of violence against women.

A. Women and poverty

47. More than 1 billion people in the world today, the great majority of whom are women, live in unacceptable conditions of poverty, mostly in the developing countries. Poverty has various causes, including structural ones. Poverty is a complex, multidimensional problem, with origins in both the national and international domains. The globalization of the world's economy and the deepening interdependence among nations present challenges and opportunities for sustained economic growth and development, as well as risks and uncertainties for the future of the world economy. The uncertain global economic climate has been accompanied by economic restructuring as well as, in a certain number of countries, persistent, unmanageable levels of external debt and structural adjustment programmes. In addition, all types of conflict, displacement of people and environmental degradation have undermined the capacity of Governments to meet the basic needs of their populations. Transformations in the world economy are profoundly changing the parameters of social development in all countries. One significant trend has been the increased poverty of women, the extent of which varies from region to region. The gender disparities in economic power-sharing are also an important contributing factor to the poverty of women. Migration and consequent changes in family structures have placed additional burdens on women, especially those who provide for several dependants. Macroeconomic policies need rethinking and reformulation to address such trends. These policies focus almost exclusively on the formal sector. They also tend to impede the initiatives of women and fail to consider the differential impact on women and men. The application of gender analysis to a wide range of policies and programmes is therefore critical to poverty reduction strategies. In order to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development,

women and men must participate fully and equally in the formulation of macroeconomic and social policies and strategies for the eradication of poverty. The eradication of poverty cannot be accomplished through anti-poverty programmes alone but will require democratic participation and changes in economic structures in order to ensure access for all women to resources, opportunities and public services. Poverty has various manifestations, including lack of income and productive resources sufficient to ensure a sustainable livelihood; hunger and malnutrition; ill health; limited or lack of access to education and other basic services; increasing morbidity and mortality from illness; homelessness and inadequate housing; unsafe environments; and social discrimination and exclusion. It is also characterized by lack of participation in decision-making and in civil, social and cultural life. It occurs in all countries - as mass poverty in many developing countries and as pockets of poverty amidst wealth in developed countries. Poverty may be caused by an economic recession that results in loss of livelihood or by disaster or conflict. There is also the poverty of low-wage workers and the utter destitution of people who fall outside family support systems, social institutions and safety nets.

48. In the past decade the number of women living in poverty has increased disproportionately to the number of men, particularly in the developing countries. The feminization of poverty has also recently become a significant problem in the countries with economies in transition as a short-term consequence of the process of political, economic and social transformation. In addition to economic factors, the rigidity of socially ascribed gender roles and women's limited access to power, education, training and productive resources as well as other emerging factors that may lead to insecurity for families are also responsible. The failure to adequately mainstream a gender perspective in all economic analysis and planning and to address the structural causes of poverty is also a contributing factor.

49. Women contribute to the economy and to combating poverty through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace. The empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty.

50. While poverty affects households as a whole, because of the gender division of labour and responsibilities for household welfare, women bear a disproportionate burden, attempting to manage household consumption and production under conditions of increasing scarcity. Poverty is particularly acute for women living in rural households.

51. Women's poverty is directly related to the absence of economic opportunities and autonomy, lack of access to economic resources, including credit, land ownership and inheritance, lack of access to education and support services and their minimal participation in the decision-making process. Poverty can also force women into situations in which they are vulnerable to sexual exploitation.

52. In too many countries, social welfare systems do not take sufficient account of the specific conditions of women living in poverty, and there is a tendency to scale back the services provided by such systems. The risk of falling into poverty is greater for women than for men, particularly in old age, where social security systems are based on the principle of continuous remunerated employment. In some cases, women do not fulfil this requirement because of interruptions in their work, due to the unbalanced distribution of

remunerated and unremunerated work. Moreover, older women also face greater obstacles to labour-market re-entry.

53. In many developed countries, where the level of general education and professional training of women and men are similar and where systems of protection against discrimination are available, in some sectors the economic transformations of the past decade have strongly increased either the unemployment of women or the precarious nature of their employment. The proportion of women among the poor has consequently increased. In countries with a high level of school enrolment of girls, those who leave the educational system the earliest, without any qualification, are among the most vulnerable in the labour market.

54. In countries with economies in transition and in other countries undergoing fundamental political, economic and social transformations, these transformations have often led to a reduction in women's income or to women being deprived of income.

55. Particularly in developing countries, the productive capacity of women should be increased through access to capital, resources, credit, land, technology, information, technical assistance and training so as to raise their income and improve nutrition, education, health care and status within the household. The release of women's productive potential is pivotal to breaking the cycle of poverty so that women can share fully in the benefits of development and in the products of their own labour.

56. Sustainable development and economic growth that is both sustained and sustainable are possible only through improving the economic, social, political, legal and cultural status of women. Equitable social development that recognizes empowering the poor, particularly women, to utilize environmental resources sustainably is a necessary foundation for sustainable development.

57. The success of policies and measures aimed at supporting or strengthening the promotion of gender equality and the improvement of the status of women should be based on the integration of the gender perspective in general policies relating to all spheres of society as well as the implementation of positive measures with adequate institutional and financial support at all levels.

Strategic objective A.1. Review, adopt and maintain macroeconomic policies and development strategies that address the needs and efforts of women in poverty

Actions to be taken

58. By Governments:

(a) Review and modify, with the full and equal participation of women, macroeconomic and social policies with a view to achieving the objectives of the Platform for Action;

(b) Analyse, from a gender perspective, policies and programmes - including those related to macroeconomic stability, structural adjustment, external debt problems, taxation, investments, employment, markets and all relevant sectors of the economy - with respect to their impact on poverty, on inequality and particularly on women;

assess their impact on family well-being and conditions and adjust them, as appropriate, to promote more equitable distribution of productive assets, wealth, opportunities, income and services;

(c) Pursue and implement sound and stable macroeconomic and sectoral policies that are designed and monitored with the full and equal participation of women, encourage broad-based sustained economic growth, address the structural causes of poverty and are geared towards eradicating poverty and reducing gender-based inequality within the overall framework of achieving people-centred sustainable development;

(d) Restructure and target the allocation of public expenditures to promote women's economic opportunities and equal access to productive resources and to address the basic social, educational and health needs of women, particularly those living in poverty;

(e) Develop agricultural and fishing sectors, where and as necessary, in order to ensure, as appropriate, household and national food security and food self-sufficiency, by allocating the necessary financial, technical and human resources;

(f) Develop policies and programmes to promote equitable distribution of food within the household;

(g) Provide adequate safety nets and strengthen State-based and community-based support systems, as an integral part of social policy, in order to enable women living in poverty to withstand adverse economic environments and preserve their livelihood, assets and revenues in times of crisis;

(h) Generate economic policies that have a positive impact on the employment and income of women workers in both the formal and informal sectors and adopt specific measures to address women's unemployment, in particular their long-term unemployment;

(i) Formulate and implement, when necessary, specific economic, social, agricultural and related policies in support of female-headed households;

(j) Develop and implement anti-poverty programmes, including employment schemes, that improve access to food for women living in poverty, including through the use of appropriate pricing and distribution mechanisms;

(k) Ensure the full realization of the human rights of all women migrants, including women migrant workers, and their protection against violence and exploitation; introduce measures for the empowerment of documented women migrants, including women migrant workers; facilitate the productive employment of documented migrant women through greater recognition of their skills, foreign education and credentials, and facilitate their full integration into the labour force;

(l) Introduce measures to integrate or reintegrate women living in poverty and socially marginalized women into productive employment and the economic mainstream; ensure that internally displaced women have full

access to economic opportunities and that the qualifications and skills of immigrant and refugee women are recognized;

(m) Enable women to obtain affordable housing and access to land by, among other things, removing all obstacles to access, with special emphasis on meeting the needs of women, especially those living in poverty and female heads of household;

(n) Formulate and implement policies and programmes that enhance the access of women agricultural and fisheries producers (including subsistence farmers and producers, especially in rural areas) to financial, technical, extension and marketing services; provide access to and control of land, appropriate infrastructure and technology in order to increase women's incomes and promote household food security, especially in rural areas and, where appropriate, encourage the development of producer-owned, market-based cooperatives;

(o) Create social security systems wherever they do not exist, or review them with a view to placing individual women and men on an equal footing, at every stage of their lives;

(p) Ensure access to free or low-cost legal services, including legal literacy, especially designed to reach women living in poverty;

(q) Take particular measures to promote and strengthen policies and programmes for indigenous women with their full participation and respect for their cultural diversity, so that they have opportunities and the possibility of choice in the development process in order to eradicate the poverty that affects them.

59. By multilateral financial and development institutions, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and regional development institutions, and through bilateral development cooperation:

(a) In accordance with the commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development, seek to mobilize new and additional financial resources that are both adequate and predictable and mobilized in a way that maximizes the availability of such resources and uses all available funding sources and mechanisms with a view to contributing towards the goal of poverty eradication and targeting women living in poverty;

(b) Strengthen analytical capacity in order to more systematically strengthen gender perspectives and integrate them into the design and implementation of lending programmes, including structural adjustment and economic recovery programmes;

(c) Find effective development-oriented and durable solutions to external debt problems in order to help them to finance programmes and projects targeted at development, including the advancement of women, inter alia, through the immediate implementation of the terms of debt forgiveness agreed upon in the Paris Club in December 1994, which encompassed debt reduction, including cancellation or other debt relief measures and develop techniques of debt conversion applied to social development programmes and projects in conformity with the priorities of the Platform for Action;

(d) Invite the international financial institutions to examine innovative approaches to assisting low-income countries with a high proportion of multilateral debt, with a view to alleviating their debt burden;

(e) Ensure that structural adjustment programmes are designed to minimize their negative effects on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and communities and to assure their positive effects on such groups and communities by preventing their marginalization in economic and social activities and devising measures to ensure that they gain access to and control over economic resources and economic and social activities; take actions to reduce inequality and economic disparity;

(f) Review the impact of structural adjustment programmes on social development by means of gender-sensitive social impact assessments and other relevant methods, in order to develop policies to reduce their negative effects and improve their positive impact, ensuring that women do not bear a disproportionate burden of transition costs; complement adjustment lending with enhanced, targeted social development lending;

(g) Create an enabling environment that allows women to build and maintain sustainable livelihoods.

60. By national and international non-governmental organizations and women's groups:

(a) Mobilize all parties involved in the development process, including academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and grass-roots and women's groups, to improve the effectiveness of anti-poverty programmes directed towards the poorest and most disadvantaged groups of women, such as rural and indigenous women, female heads of household, young women and older women, refugees and migrant women and women with disabilities, recognizing that social development is primarily the responsibility of Governments;

(b) Engage in lobbying and establish monitoring mechanisms, as appropriate, and other relevant activities to ensure implementation of the recommendations on poverty eradication outlined in the Platform for Action and aimed at ensuring accountability and transparency from the State and private sectors;

(c) Include in their activities women with diverse needs and recognize that youth organizations are increasingly becoming effective partners in development programmes;

(d) In cooperation with the government and private sectors, participate in the development of a comprehensive national strategy for improving health, education and social services so that girls and women of all ages living in poverty have full access to such services; seek funding to secure access to services with a gender perspective and to extend those services in order to reach the rural and remote areas that are not covered by government institutions;

(e) In cooperation with Governments, employers, other social partners and relevant parties, contribute to the development of education and training and retraining policies to ensure that women can acquire a wide range of skills to meet new demands;

(f) Mobilize to protect women's right to full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and to ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies.

Strategic objective A.2. Revise laws and administrative practices to ensure women's equal rights and access to economic resources

Actions to be taken

61. By Governments:

(a) Ensure access to free or low-cost legal services, including legal literacy, especially designed to reach women living in poverty;

(b) Undertake legislative and administrative reforms to give women full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and to ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies;

(c) Consider ratification of Convention No. 169 of the International Labour Organization (ILO) as part of their efforts to promote and protect the rights of indigenous people.

Strategic objective A.3. Provide women with access to savings and credit mechanisms and institutions

Actions to be taken

62. By Governments:

(a) Enhance the access of disadvantaged women, including women entrepreneurs, in rural, remote and urban areas to financial services through strengthening links between the formal banks and intermediary lending organizations, including legislative support, training for women and institutional strengthening for intermediary institutions with a view to mobilizing capital for those institutions and increasing the availability of credit;

(b) Encourage links between financial institutions and non-governmental organizations and support innovative lending practices, including those that integrate credit with women's services and training and provide credit facilities to rural women.

63. By commercial banks, specialized financial institutions and the private sector in examining their policies:

(a) Use credit and savings methodologies that are effective in reaching women in poverty and innovative in reducing transaction costs and redefining risk;

(b) Open special windows for lending to women, including young women, who lack access to traditional sources of collateral;

(c) Simplify banking practices, for example by reducing the minimum deposit and other requirements for opening bank accounts;

(d) Ensure the participation and joint ownership, where possible, of women clients in the decision-making of institutions providing credit and financial services.

64. By multilateral and bilateral development cooperation organizations:

Support, through the provision of capital and/or resources, financial institutions that serve low-income, small-scale and micro-scale women entrepreneurs and producers, in both the formal and informal sectors.

65. By Governments and multilateral financial institutions, as appropriate:

Support institutions that meet performance standards in reaching large numbers of low-income women and men through capitalization, refinancing and institutional development support in forms that foster self-sufficiency.

66. By international organizations:

Increase funding for programmes and projects designed to promote sustainable and productive entrepreneurial activities for income-generation among disadvantaged women and women living in poverty.

Strategic objective A.4. Develop gender-based methodologies and conduct research to address the feminization of poverty

Actions to be taken

67. By Governments, intergovernmental organizations, academic and research institutions and the private sector:

(a) Develop conceptual and practical methodologies for incorporating gender perspectives into all aspects of economic policy-making, including structural adjustment planning and programmes;

(b) Apply these methodologies in conducting gender-impact analyses of all policies and programmes, including structural adjustment programmes, and disseminate the research findings.

68. By national and international statistical organizations:

(a) Collect gender and age-disaggregated data on poverty and all aspects of economic activity and develop qualitative and quantitative statistical indicators to facilitate the assessment of economic performance from a gender perspective;

(b) Devise suitable statistical means to recognize and make visible the full extent of the work of women and all their contributions to the national economy, including their contribution in the unremunerated and domestic sectors, and examine the relationship of women's unremunerated work to the incidence of and their vulnerability to poverty.

B. Education and training of women

69. Education is a human right and an essential tool for achieving the goals of equality, development and peace. Non-discriminatory education benefits both girls and boys and thus ultimately contributes to more equal relationships between women and men. Equality of access to and attainment of educational qualifications is necessary if more women are to become agents of change. Literacy of women is an important key to improving health, nutrition and education in the family and to empowering women to participate in decision-making in society. Investing in formal and non-formal education and training for girls and women, with its exceptionally high social and economic return, has proved to be one of the best means of achieving sustainable development and economic growth that is both sustained and sustainable.

70. On a regional level, girls and boys have achieved equal access to primary education, except in some parts of Africa, in particular sub-Saharan Africa, and Central Asia, where access to education facilities is still inadequate. Progress has been made in secondary education, where equal access of girls and boys has been achieved in some countries. Enrolment of girls and women in tertiary education has increased considerably. In many countries, private schools have also played an important complementary role in improving access to education at all levels. Yet, more than five years after the World Conference on Education for All (Jomtien, Thailand, 1990) adopted the World Declaration on Education for All and the Framework for Action to Meet Basic Learning Needs, 12/ approximately 100 million children, including at least 60 million girls, are without access to primary schooling and more than two thirds of the world's 960 million illiterate adults are women. The high rate of illiteracy prevailing in most developing countries, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa and some Arab States, remains a severe impediment to the advancement of women and to development.

71. Discrimination in girls' access to education persists in many areas, owing to customary attitudes, early marriages and pregnancies, inadequate and gender-biased teaching and educational materials, sexual harassment and lack of adequate and physically and otherwise accessible schooling facilities. Girls undertake heavy domestic work at a very early age. Girls and young women are expected to manage both educational and domestic responsibilities, often resulting in poor scholastic performance and early drop-out from the educational system. This has long-lasting consequences for all aspects of women's lives.

72. Creation of an educational and social environment, in which women and men, girls and boys, are treated equally and encouraged to achieve their full potential, respecting their freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief, and where educational resources promote non-stereotyped images of women and men, would be effective in the elimination of the causes of discrimination against women and inequalities between women and men.

73. Women should be enabled to benefit from an ongoing acquisition of knowledge and skills beyond those acquired during youth. This concept of lifelong learning includes knowledge and skills gained in formal education and training, as well as learning that occurs in informal ways, including volunteer activity, unremunerated work and traditional knowledge.

74. Curricula and teaching materials remain gender-biased to a large degree, and are rarely sensitive to the specific needs of girls and women. This reinforces traditional female and male roles that deny women opportunities for full and equal partnership in society. Lack of gender awareness by educators at

all levels strengthens existing inequities between males and females by reinforcing discriminatory tendencies and undermining girls' self-esteem. The lack of sexual and reproductive health education has a profound impact on women and men.

75. Science curricula in particular are gender-biased. Science textbooks do not relate to women's and girls' daily experience and fail to give recognition to women scientists. Girls are often deprived of basic education in mathematics and science and technical training, which provide knowledge they could apply to improve their daily lives and enhance their employment opportunities. Advanced study in science and technology prepares women to take an active role in the technological and industrial development of their countries, thus necessitating a diverse approach to vocational and technical training. Technology is rapidly changing the world and has also affected the developing countries. It is essential that women not only benefit from technology, but also participate in the process from the design to the application, monitoring and evaluation stages.

76. Access for and retention of girls and women at all levels of education, including the higher level, and all academic areas is one of the factors of their continued progress in professional activities. Nevertheless, it can be noted that girls are still concentrated in a limited number of fields of study.

77. The mass media are a powerful means of education. As an educational tool the mass media can be an instrument for educators and governmental and non-governmental institutions for the advancement of women and for development. Computerized education and information systems are increasingly becoming an important element in learning and the dissemination of knowledge. Television especially has the greatest impact on young people and, as such, has the ability to shape values, attitudes and perceptions of women and girls in both positive and negative ways. It is therefore essential that educators teach critical judgement and analytical skills.

78. Resources allocated to education, particularly for girls and women, are in many countries insufficient and in some cases have been further diminished, including in the context of adjustment policies and programmes. Such insufficient resource allocations have a long-term adverse effect on human development, particularly on the development of women.

79. In addressing unequal access to and inadequate educational opportunities, Governments and other actors should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes, so that, before decisions are taken, an analysis is made of the effects on women and men, respectively.

Strategic objective B.1. Ensure equal access to education

Actions to be taken

80. By Governments:

(a) Advance the goal of equal access to education by taking measures to eliminate discrimination in education at all levels on the basis of gender, race, language, religion, national origin, age or disability, or any other form of discrimination and, as appropriate, consider establishing procedures to address grievances;

(b) By the year 2000, provide universal access to basic education and ensure completion of primary education by at least 80 per cent of primary school-age children; close the gender gap in primary and secondary school education by the year 2005; provide universal primary education in all countries before the year 2015;

(c) Eliminate gender disparities in access to all areas of tertiary education by ensuring that women have equal access to career development, training, scholarships and fellowships, and by adopting positive action when appropriate;

(d) Create a gender-sensitive educational system in order to ensure equal educational and training opportunities and full and equal participation of women in educational administration and policy- and decision-making;

(e) Provide - in collaboration with parents, non-governmental organizations, including youth organizations, communities and the private sector - young women with academic and technical training, career planning, leadership and social skills and work experience to prepare them to participate fully in society;

(f) Increase enrolment and retention rates of girls by allocating appropriate budgetary resources; by enlisting the support of parents and the community, as well as through campaigns, flexible school schedules, incentives, scholarships and other means to minimize the costs of girls' education to their families and to facilitate parents' ability to choose education for the girl child; and by ensuring that the rights of women and girls to freedom of conscience and religion are respected in educational institutions through repealing any discriminatory laws or legislation based on religion, race or culture;

(g) Promote an educational setting that eliminates all barriers that impeded the schooling of pregnant adolescents and young mothers, including, as appropriate, affordable and physically accessible child-care facilities and parental education to encourage those who are responsible for the care of their children and siblings during their school years, to return to or continue with and complete schooling;

(h) Improve the quality of education and equal opportunities for women and men in terms of access in order to ensure that women of all ages can acquire the knowledge, capacities, aptitudes, skills and ethical values needed to develop and to participate fully under equal conditions in the process of social, economic and political development;

(i) Make available non-discriminatory and gender-sensitive professional school counselling and career education programmes to encourage girls to pursue academic and technical curricula in order to widen their future career opportunities;

(j) Encourage ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 13/ where they have not already done so.

Strategic objective B.2. Eradicate illiteracy among women

Actions to be taken

81. By Governments, national, regional and international bodies, bilateral and multilateral donors and non-governmental organizations:

(a) Reduce the female illiteracy rate to at least half its 1990 level, with emphasis on rural women, migrant, refugee and internally displaced women and women with disabilities;

(b) Provide universal access to, and seek to ensure gender equality in the completion of, primary education for girls by the year 2000;

(c) Eliminate the gender gap in basic and functional literacy, as recommended in the World Declaration on Education for All (Jomtien);

(d) Narrow the disparities between developed and developing countries;

(e) Encourage adult and family engagement in learning to promote total literacy for all people;

(f) Promote, together with literacy, life skills and scientific and technological knowledge and work towards an expansion of the definition of literacy, taking into account current targets and benchmarks.

Strategic objective B.3. Improve women's access to vocational training, science and technology, and continuing education

Actions to be taken

82. By Governments, in cooperation with employers, workers and trade unions, international and non-governmental organizations, including women's and youth organizations, and educational institutions:

(a) Develop and implement education, training and retraining policies for women, especially young women and women re-entering the labour market, to provide skills to meet the needs of a changing socio-economic context for improving their employment opportunities;

(b) Provide recognition to non-formal educational opportunities for girls and women in the educational system;

(c) Provide information to women and girls on the availability and benefits of vocational training, training programmes in science and technology and programmes of continuing education;

(d) Design educational and training programmes for women who are unemployed in order to provide them with new knowledge and skills that will enhance and broaden their employment opportunities, including self-employment, and development of their entrepreneurial skills;

(e) Diversify vocational and technical training and improve access for and retention of girls and women in education and vocational training in

such fields as science, mathematics, engineering, environmental sciences and technology, information technology and high technology, as well as management training;

(f) Promote women's central role in food and agricultural research, extension and education programmes;

(g) Encourage the adaptation of curricula and teaching materials, encourage a supportive training environment and take positive measures to promote training for the full range of occupational choices of non-traditional careers for women and men, including the development of multidisciplinary courses for science and mathematics teachers to sensitize them to the relevance of science and technology to women's lives;

(h) Develop curricula and teaching materials and formulate and take positive measures to ensure women better access to and participation in technical and scientific areas, especially areas where they are not represented or are underrepresented;

(i) Develop policies and programmes to encourage women to participate in all apprenticeship programmes;

(j) Increase training in technical, managerial, agricultural extension and marketing areas for women in agriculture, fisheries, industry and business, arts and crafts, to increase income-generating opportunities, women's participation in economic decision-making, in particular through women's organizations at the grass-roots level, and their contribution to production, marketing, business, and science and technology;

(k) Ensure access to quality education and training at all appropriate levels for adult women with little or no education, for women with disabilities and for documented migrant, refugee and displaced women to improve their work opportunities.

Strategic objective B.4. Develop non-discriminatory education and training

Actions to be taken

83. By Governments, educational authorities and other educational and academic institutions:

(a) Elaborate recommendations and develop curricula, textbooks and teaching aids free of gender-based stereotypes for all levels of education, including teacher training, in association with all concerned - publishers, teachers, public authorities and parents' associations;

(b) Develop training programmes and materials for teachers and educators that raise awareness about the status, role and contribution of women and men in the family, as defined in paragraph 29 above, and society; in this context, promote equality, cooperation, mutual respect and shared responsibilities between girls and boys from pre-school level onward and develop, in particular, educational modules to ensure that

boys have the skills necessary to take care of their own domestic needs and to share responsibility for their household and for the care of dependants;

(c) Develop training programmes and materials for teachers and educators that raise awareness of their own role in the educational process, with a view to providing them with effective strategies for gender-sensitive teaching;

(d) Take actions to ensure that female teachers and professors have the same opportunities as and equal status with male teachers and professors, in view of the importance of having female teachers at all levels and in order to attract girls to school and retain them in school;

(e) Introduce and promote training in peaceful conflict resolution;

(f) Take positive measures to increase the proportion of women gaining access to educational policy- and decision-making, particularly women teachers at all levels of education and in academic disciplines that are traditionally male-dominated, such as the scientific and technological fields;

(g) Support and develop gender studies and research at all levels of education, especially at the postgraduate level of academic institutions, and apply them in the development of curricula, including university curricula, textbooks and teaching aids, and in teacher training;

(h) Develop leadership training and opportunities for all women to encourage them to take leadership roles both as students and as adults in civil society;

(i) Develop appropriate education and information programmes with due respect for multilingualism, particularly in conjunction with the mass media, that make the public, particularly parents, aware of the importance of non-discriminatory education for children and the equal sharing of family responsibilities by girls and boys;

(j) Develop human rights education programmes that incorporate the gender dimension at all levels of education, in particular by encouraging higher education institutions, especially in their graduate and postgraduate juridical, social and political science curricula, to include the study of the human rights of women as they appear in United Nations conventions;

(k) Remove legal, regulatory and social barriers, where appropriate, to sexual and reproductive health education within formal education programmes regarding women's health issues;

(l) Encourage, with the guidance and support of their parents and in cooperation with educational staff and institutions, the elaboration of educational programmes for girls and boys and the creation of integrated services in order to raise awareness of their responsibilities and to help them to assume those responsibilities, taking into account the importance of such education and services to personal development and self-esteem, as well as the urgent need to

avoid unwanted pregnancy, the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, especially HIV/AIDS, and such phenomena as sexual violence and abuse;

(m) Provide accessible recreational and sports facilities and establish and strengthen gender-sensitive programmes for girls and women of all ages in education and community institutions and support the advancement of women in all areas of athletics and physical activity, including coaching, training and administration, and as participants at the national, regional and international levels;

(n) Recognize and support the right of indigenous women and girls to education and promote a multicultural approach to education that is responsive to the needs, aspirations and cultures of indigenous women, including by developing appropriate education programmes, curricula and teaching aids, to the extent possible in the languages of indigenous people, and by providing for the participation of indigenous women in these processes;

(o) Acknowledge and respect the artistic, spiritual and cultural activities of indigenous women;

(p) Ensure that gender equality and cultural, religious and other diversity are respected in educational institutions;

(q) Promote education, training and relevant information programmes for rural and farming women through the use of affordable and appropriate technologies and the mass media - for example, radio programmes, cassettes and mobile units;

(r) Provide non-formal education, especially for rural women, in order to realize their potential with regard to health, micro-enterprise, agriculture and legal rights;

(s) Remove all barriers to access to formal education for pregnant adolescents and young mothers, and support the provision of child care and other support services where necessary.

Strategic objective B.5. Allocate sufficient resources for and monitor the implementation of educational reforms

Actions to be taken

84. By Governments:

(a) Provide the required budgetary resources to the educational sector, with reallocation within the educational sector to ensure increased funds for basic education, as appropriate;

(b) Establish a mechanism at appropriate levels to monitor the implementation of educational reforms and measures in relevant ministries, and establish technical assistance programmes, as appropriate, to address issues raised by the monitoring efforts.

85. By Governments and, as appropriate, private and public institutions, foundations, research institutes and non-governmental organizations:

(a) When necessary, mobilize additional funds from private and public institutions, foundations, research institutes and non-governmental organizations to enable girls and women, as well as boys and men on an equal basis, to complete their education, with particular emphasis on under-served populations;

(b) Provide funding for special programmes, such as programmes in mathematics, science and computer technology, to advance opportunities for all girls and women.

86. By multilateral development institutions, including the World Bank, regional development banks, bilateral donors and foundations:

(a) Consider increasing funding for the education and training needs of girls and women as a priority in development assistance programmes;

(b) Consider working with recipient Governments to ensure that funding for women's education is maintained or increased in structural adjustment and economic recovery programmes, including lending and stabilization programmes.

87. By international and intergovernmental organizations, especially the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, at the global level:

(a) Contribute to the evaluation of progress achieved, using educational indicators generated by national, regional and international bodies, and urge Governments, in implementing measures, to eliminate differences between women and men and boys and girls with regard to opportunities in education and training and the levels achieved in all fields, particularly in primary and literacy programmes;

(b) Provide technical assistance upon request to developing countries to strengthen the capacity to monitor progress in closing the gap between women and men in education, training and research, and in levels of achievement in all fields, particularly basic education and the elimination of illiteracy;

(c) Conduct an international campaign promoting the right of women and girls to education;

(d) Allocate a substantial percentage of their resources to basic education for women and girls.

Strategic objective B.6. Promote life-long education and training for girls and women

Actions to be taken

88. By Governments, educational institutions and communities:

(a) Ensure the availability of a broad range of educational and training programmes that lead to ongoing acquisition by women and girls of the knowledge and skills required for living in, contributing to and benefiting from their communities and nations;

(b) Provide support for child care and other services to enable mothers to continue their schooling;

(c) Create flexible education, training and retraining programmes for life-long learning that facilitate transitions between women's activities at all stages of their lives.

C. Women and health*

89. Women have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. The enjoyment of this right is vital to their life and well-being and their ability to participate in all areas of public and private life. Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Women's health involves their emotional, social and physical well-being and is determined by the social, political and economic context of their lives, as well as by biology. However, health and well-being elude the majority of women. A major barrier for women to the achievement of the highest attainable standard of health is inequality, both between men and women and among women in different geographical regions, social classes and indigenous and ethnic groups. In national and international forums, women have emphasized that to attain optimal health throughout the life cycle, equality, including the sharing of family responsibilities, development and peace are necessary conditions.

90. Women have different and unequal access to and use of basic health resources, including primary health services for the prevention and treatment of childhood diseases, malnutrition, anaemia, diarrhoeal diseases, communicable diseases, malaria and other tropical diseases and tuberculosis, among others. Women also have different and unequal opportunities for the protection, promotion and maintenance of their health. In many developing countries, the lack of emergency obstetric services is also of particular concern. Health policies and programmes often perpetuate gender stereotypes and fail to consider socio-economic disparities and other differences among women and may not fully take account of the lack of autonomy of women regarding their health. Women's health is also affected by gender bias in the health system and by the provision of inadequate and inappropriate medical services to women.

91. In many countries, especially developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, a decrease in public health spending and, in some cases, structural adjustment, contribute to the deterioration of public health systems. In addition, privatization of health-care systems without appropriate guarantees of universal access to affordable health care further reduces health-care availability. This situation not only directly affects the health of girls and women, but also places disproportionate responsibilities on women, whose multiple roles, including their roles within the family and the community, are often not acknowledged; hence they do not receive the necessary social, psychological and economic support.

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* The Holy See expressed a general reservation on this section. The reservation is to be interpreted in terms of the statement made by the representative of the Holy See at the 4th meeting of the Main Committee, on 14 September 1995 (see chap. V of the present report, para. 11).

92. Women's right to the enjoyment of the highest standard of health must be secured throughout the whole life cycle in equality with men. Women are affected by many of the same health conditions as men, but women experience them differently. The prevalence among women of poverty and economic dependence, their experience of violence, negative attitudes towards women and girls, racial and other forms of discrimination, the limited power many women have over their sexual and reproductive lives and lack of influence in decision-making are social realities which have an adverse impact on their health. Lack of food and inequitable distribution of food for girls and women in the household, inadequate access to safe water, sanitation facilities and fuel supplies, particularly in rural and poor urban areas, and deficient housing conditions, all overburden women and their families and have a negative effect on their health. Good health is essential to leading a productive and fulfilling life, and the right of all women to control all aspects of their health, in particular their own fertility, is basic to their empowerment.

93. Discrimination against girls, often resulting from son preference, in access to nutrition and health-care services endangers their current and future health and well-being. Conditions that force girls into early marriage, pregnancy and child-bearing and subject them to harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation, pose grave health risks. Adolescent girls need, but too often do not have, access to necessary health and nutrition services as they mature. Counselling and access to sexual and reproductive health information and services for adolescents are still inadequate or lacking completely, and a young woman's right to privacy, confidentiality, respect and informed consent is often not considered. Adolescent girls are both biologically and psychosocially more vulnerable than boys to sexual abuse, violence and prostitution, and to the consequences of unprotected and premature sexual relations. The trend towards early sexual experience, combined with a lack of information and services, increases the risk of unwanted and too early pregnancy, HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases, as well as unsafe abortions. Early child-bearing continues to be an impediment to improvements in the educational, economic and social status of women in all parts of the world. Overall, for young women early marriage and early motherhood can severely curtail educational and employment opportunities and are likely to have a long-term, adverse impact on the quality of their lives and the lives of their children. Young men are often not educated to respect women's self-determination and to share responsibility with women in matters of sexuality and reproduction.

94. Reproductive health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes. Reproductive health therefore implies that people are able to have a satisfying and safe sex life and that they have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so. Implicit in this last condition are the right of men and women to be informed and to have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of family planning of their choice, as well as other methods of their choice for regulation of fertility which are not against the law, and the right of access to appropriate health-care services that will enable women to go safely through pregnancy and childbirth and provide couples with the best chance of having a healthy infant. In line with the above definition of reproductive health, reproductive health care is defined as the constellation of methods, techniques and services that contribute to reproductive health and well-being by preventing and solving reproductive health problems. It also includes sexual health, the purpose of which is the enhancement of life and personal relations, and not merely counselling and care related to reproduction and sexually transmitted diseases.

95. Bearing in mind the above definition, reproductive rights embrace certain human rights that are already recognized in national laws, international human rights documents and other consensus documents. These rights rest on the recognition of the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, and the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health. It also includes their right to make decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion and violence, as expressed in human rights documents. In the exercise of this right, they should take into account the needs of their living and future children and their responsibilities towards the community. The promotion of the responsible exercise of these rights for all people should be the fundamental basis for government- and community-supported policies and programmes in the area of reproductive health, including family planning. As part of their commitment, full attention should be given to the promotion of mutually respectful and equitable gender relations and particularly to meeting the educational and service needs of adolescents to enable them to deal in a positive and responsible way with their sexuality. Reproductive health eludes many of the world's people because of such factors as: inadequate levels of knowledge about human sexuality and inappropriate or poor-quality reproductive health information and services; the prevalence of high-risk sexual behaviour; discriminatory social practices; negative attitudes towards women and girls; and the limited power many women and girls have over their sexual and reproductive lives. Adolescents are particularly vulnerable because of their lack of information and access to relevant services in most countries. Older women and men have distinct reproductive and sexual health issues which are often inadequately addressed.

96. The human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence. Equal relationships between women and men in matters of sexual relations and reproduction, including full respect for the integrity of the person, require mutual respect, consent and shared responsibility for sexual behaviour and its consequences.

97. Further, women are subject to particular health risks due to inadequate responsiveness and lack of services to meet health needs related to sexuality and reproduction. Complications related to pregnancy and childbirth are among the leading causes of mortality and morbidity of women of reproductive age in many parts of the developing world. Similar problems exist to a certain degree in some countries with economies in transition. Unsafe abortions threaten the lives of a large number of women, representing a grave public health problem as it is primarily the poorest and youngest who take the highest risk. Most of these deaths, health problems and injuries are preventable through improved access to adequate health-care services, including safe and effective family planning methods and emergency obstetric care, recognizing the right of women and men to be informed and to have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of family planning of their choice, as well as other methods of their choice for regulation of fertility which are not against the law, and the right of access to appropriate health-care services that will enable women to go safely through pregnancy and childbirth and provide couples with the best chance of having a healthy infant. These problems and means should be addressed on the basis of the report of the International Conference on Population and Development, with particular reference to relevant paragraphs of the Programme of Action of the Conference. 14/ In most countries, the neglect of women's reproductive rights severely limits their opportunities in public and private

life, including opportunities for education and economic and political empowerment. The ability of women to control their own fertility forms an important basis for the enjoyment of other rights. Shared responsibility between women and men in matters related to sexual and reproductive behaviour is also essential to improving women's health.

98. HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, the transmission of which is sometimes a consequence of sexual violence, are having a devastating effect on women's health, particularly the health of adolescent girls and young women. They often do not have the power to insist on safe and responsible sex practices and have little access to information and services for prevention and treatment. Women, who represent half of all adults newly infected with HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, have emphasized that social vulnerability and the unequal power relationships between women and men are obstacles to safe sex, in their efforts to control the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. The consequences of HIV/AIDS reach beyond women's health to their role as mothers and caregivers and their contribution to the economic support of their families. The social, developmental and health consequences of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases need to be seen from a gender perspective.

99. Sexual and gender-based violence, including physical and psychological abuse, trafficking in women and girls, and other forms of abuse and sexual exploitation place girls and women at high risk of physical and mental trauma, disease and unwanted pregnancy. Such situations often deter women from using health and other services.

100. Mental disorders related to marginalization, powerlessness and poverty, along with overwork and stress and the growing incidence of domestic violence as well as substance abuse, are among other health issues of growing concern to women. Women throughout the world, especially young women, are increasing their use of tobacco with serious effects on their health and that of their children. Occupational health issues are also growing in importance, as a large number of women work in low-paid jobs in either the formal or the informal labour market under tedious and unhealthy conditions, and the number is rising. Cancers of the breast and cervix and other cancers of the reproductive system, as well as infertility affect growing numbers of women and may be preventable, or curable, if detected early.

101. With the increase in life expectancy and the growing number of older women, their health concerns require particular attention. The long-term health prospects of women are influenced by changes at menopause, which, in combination with life-long conditions and other factors, such as poor nutrition and lack of physical activity, may increase the risk of cardiovascular disease and osteoporosis. Other diseases of ageing and the interrelationships of ageing and disability among women also need particular attention.

102. Women, like men, particularly in rural areas and poor urban areas, are increasingly exposed to environmental health hazards owing to environmental catastrophes and degradation. Women have a different susceptibility to various environmental hazards, contaminants and substances and they suffer different consequences from exposure to them.

103. The quality of women's health care is often deficient in various ways, depending on local circumstances. Women are frequently not treated with respect, nor are they guaranteed privacy and confidentiality, nor do they always receive full information about the options and services available. Furthermore,

in some countries, over-medicating of women's life events is common, leading to unnecessary surgical intervention and inappropriate medication.

104. Statistical data on health are often not systematically collected, disaggregated and analysed by age, sex and socio-economic status and by established demographic criteria used to serve the interests and solve the problems of subgroups, with particular emphasis on the vulnerable and marginalized and other relevant variables. Recent and reliable data on the mortality and morbidity of women and conditions and diseases particularly affecting women are not available in many countries. Relatively little is known about how social and economic factors affect the health of girls and women of all ages, about the provision of health services to girls and women and the patterns of their use of such services, and about the value of disease prevention and health promotion programmes for women. Subjects of importance to women's health have not been adequately researched and women's health research often lacks funding. Medical research, on heart disease, for example, and epidemiological studies in many countries are often based solely on men; they are not gender specific. Clinical trials involving women to establish basic information about dosage, side-effects and effectiveness of drugs, including contraceptives, are noticeably absent and do not always conform to ethical standards for research and testing. Many drug therapy protocols and other medical treatments and interventions administered to women are based on research on men without any investigation and adjustment for gender differences.

105. In addressing inequalities in health status and unequal access to and inadequate health-care services between women and men, Governments and other actors should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes, so that, before decisions are taken, an analysis is made of the effects for women and men, respectively.

Strategic objective C.1. Increase women's access throughout the life cycle to appropriate, affordable and quality health care, information and related services

Actions to be taken

106. By Governments, in collaboration with non-governmental organizations and employers' and workers' organizations and with the support of international institutions:

(a) Support and implement the commitments made in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, as established in the report of that Conference and the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development 15/ and the obligations of States parties under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other relevant international agreements, to meet the health needs of girls and women of all ages;

(b) Reaffirm the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, protect and promote the attainment of this right for women and girls and incorporate it in national legislation, for example; review existing legislation, including health legislation, as well as policies, where necessary, to

reflect a commitment to women's health and to ensure that they meet the changing roles and responsibilities of women wherever they reside;

(c) Design and implement, in cooperation with women and community-based organizations, gender-sensitive health programmes, including decentralized health services, that address the needs of women throughout their lives and take into account their multiple roles and responsibilities, the demands on their time, the special needs of rural women and women with disabilities and the diversity of women's needs arising from age and socio-economic and cultural differences, among others; include women, especially local and indigenous women, in the identification and planning of health-care priorities and programmes; remove all barriers to women's health services and provide a broad range of health-care services;

(d) Allow women access to social security systems in equality with men throughout the whole life cycle;

(e) Provide more accessible, available and affordable primary health-care services of high quality, including sexual and reproductive health care, which includes family planning information and services, and giving particular attention to maternal and emergency obstetric care, as agreed to in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

(f) Redesign health information, services and training for health workers so that they are gender-sensitive and reflect the user's perspectives with regard to interpersonal and communications skills and the user's right to privacy and confidentiality; these services, information and training should be based on a holistic approach;

(g) Ensure that all health services and workers conform to human rights and to ethical, professional and gender-sensitive standards in the delivery of women's health services aimed at ensuring responsible, voluntary and informed consent; encourage the development, implementation and dissemination of codes of ethics guided by existing international codes of medical ethics as well as ethical principles that govern other health professionals;

(h) Take all appropriate measures to eliminate harmful, medically unnecessary or coercive medical interventions, as well as inappropriate medication and over-medication of women, and ensure that all women are fully informed of their options, including likely benefits and potential side-effects, by properly trained personnel;

(i) Strengthen and reorient health services, particularly primary health care, in order to ensure universal access to quality health services for women and girls; reduce ill health and maternal morbidity and achieve world wide the agreed-upon goal of reducing maternal mortality by at least 50 per cent of the 1990 levels by the year 2000 and a further one half by the year 2015; ensure that the necessary services are available at each level of the health system and make reproductive health care accessible, through the primary health-care system, to all individuals of appropriate ages as soon as possible and no later than the year 2015;

(j) Recognize and deal with the health impact of unsafe abortion as a major public health concern, as agreed in paragraph 8.25 of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; 14/

(k) In the light of paragraph 8.25 of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, which states: "In no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning. All Governments and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are urged to strengthen their commitment to women's health, to deal with the health impact of unsafe abortion 16/ as a major public health concern and to reduce the recourse to abortion through expanded and improved family-planning services. Prevention of unwanted pregnancies must always be given the highest priority and every attempt should be made to eliminate the need for abortion. Women who have unwanted pregnancies should have ready access to reliable information and compassionate counselling. Any measures or changes related to abortion within the health system can only be determined at the national or local level according to the national legislative process. In circumstances where abortion is not against the law, such abortion should be safe. In all cases, women should have access to quality services for the management of complications arising from abortion. Post-abortion counselling, education and family-planning services should be offered promptly, which will also help to avoid repeat abortions", consider reviewing laws containing punitive measures against women who have undergone illegal abortions;

(l) Give particular attention to the needs of girls, especially the promotion of healthy behaviour, including physical activities; take specific measures for closing the gender gaps in morbidity and mortality where girls are disadvantaged, while achieving internationally approved goals for the reduction of infant and child mortality - specifically, by the year 2000, the reduction of mortality rates of infants and children under five years of age by one third of the 1990 level, or 50 to 70 per 1,000 live births, whichever is less; by the year 2015 an infant mortality rate below 35 per 1,000 live births and an under-five mortality rate below 45 per 1,000;

(m) Ensure that girls have continuing access to necessary health and nutrition information and services as they mature, to facilitate a healthful transition from childhood to adulthood;

(n) Develop information, programmes and services to assist women to understand and adapt to changes associated with ageing and to address and treat the health needs of older women, paying particular attention to those who are physically or psychologically dependent;

(o) Ensure that girls and women of all ages with any form of disability receive supportive services;

(p) Formulate special policies, design programmes and enact the legislation necessary to alleviate and eliminate environmental and occupational health hazards associated with work in the home, in the workplace and elsewhere with attention to pregnant and lactating women;

(q) Integrate mental health services into primary health-care systems or other appropriate levels, develop supportive programmes and train primary health workers to recognize and care for girls and women of all ages who have experienced any form of violence especially domestic violence, sexual abuse or other abuse resulting from armed and non-armed conflict;

(r) Promote public information on the benefits of breast-feeding; examine ways and means of implementing fully the WHO/UNICEF International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes, and enable mothers to breast-feed their infants by providing legal, economic, practical and emotional support;

(s) Establish mechanisms to support and involve non-governmental organizations, particularly women's organizations, professional groups and other bodies working to improve the health of girls and women, in government policy-making, programme design, as appropriate, and implementation within the health sector and related sectors at all levels;

(t) Support non-governmental organizations working on women's health and help develop networks aimed at improving coordination and collaboration between all sectors that affect health;

(u) Rationalize drug procurement and ensure a reliable, continuous supply of high-quality pharmaceutical, contraceptive and other supplies and equipment, using the WHO Model List of Essential Drugs as a guide, and ensure the safety of drugs and devices through national regulatory drug approval processes;

(v) Provide improved access to appropriate treatment and rehabilitation services for women substance abusers and their families;

(w) Promote and ensure household and national food security, as appropriate, and implement programmes aimed at improving the nutritional status of all girls and women by implementing the commitments made in the Plan of Action on Nutrition of the International Conference on Nutrition, 17/ including a reduction world wide of severe and moderate malnutrition among children under the age of five by one half of 1990 levels by the year 2000, giving special attention to the gender gap in nutrition, and a reduction in iron deficiency anaemia in girls and women by one third of the 1990 levels by the year 2000;

(x) Ensure the availability of and universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation and put in place effective public distribution systems as soon as possible;

(y) Ensure full and equal access to health-care infrastructure and services for indigenous women.

Strategic objective C.2. Strengthen preventive programmes that promote women's health

Actions to be taken

107. By Governments, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations, the mass media, the private sector and relevant international organizations, including United Nations bodies, as appropriate:

(a) Give priority to both formal and informal educational programmes that support and enable women to develop self-esteem, acquire knowledge, make decisions on and take responsibility for their own health, achieve mutual respect in matters concerning sexuality and fertility and educate men regarding the importance of women's health and well-being, placing special focus on programmes for both men and women that emphasize the elimination of harmful attitudes and practices, including female genital mutilation, son preference (which results in female infanticide and prenatal sex selection), early marriage, including child marriage, violence against women, sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, which at times is conducive to infection with HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, drug abuse, discrimination against girls and women in food allocation and other harmful attitudes and practices related to the life, health and well-being of women, and recognizing that some of these practices can be violations of human rights and ethical medical principles;

(b) Pursue social, human development, education and employment policies to eliminate poverty among women in order to reduce their susceptibility to ill health and to improve their health;

(c) Encourage men to share equally in child care and household work and to provide their share of financial support for their families, even if they do not live with them;

(d) Reinforce laws, reform institutions and promote norms and practices that eliminate discrimination against women and encourage both women and men to take responsibility for their sexual and reproductive behaviour; ensure full respect for the integrity of the person, take action to ensure the conditions necessary for women to exercise their reproductive rights and eliminate coercive laws and practices;

(e) Prepare and disseminate accessible information, through public health campaigns, the media, reliable counselling and the education system, designed to ensure that women and men, particularly young people, can acquire knowledge about their health, especially information on sexuality and reproduction, taking into account the rights of the child to access to information, privacy, confidentiality, respect and informed consent, as well as the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents and legal guardians to provide, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child, appropriate direction and guidance in the exercise by the child of the rights recognized in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and in conformity with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; ensure that in all actions concerning children, the best interests of the child are a primary consideration;

(f) Create and support programmes in the educational system, in the workplace and in the community to make opportunities to participate in sport, physical activity and recreation available to girls and women of all ages on the same basis as they are made available to men and boys;

(g) Recognize the specific needs of adolescents and implement specific appropriate programmes, such as education and information on sexual and reproductive health issues and on sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, taking into account the rights of the child and the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents as stated in paragraph 107 (e) above;

(h) Develop policies that reduce the disproportionate and increasing burden on women who have multiple roles within the family and the community by providing them with adequate support and programmes from health and social services;

(i) Adopt regulations to ensure that the working conditions, including remuneration and promotion of women at all levels of the health system, are non-discriminatory and meet fair and professional standards to enable them to work effectively;

(j) Ensure that health and nutritional information and training form an integral part of all adult literacy programmes and school curricula from the primary level;

(k) Develop and undertake media campaigns and information and educational programmes that inform women and girls of the health and related risks of substance abuse and addiction and pursue strategies and programmes that discourage substance abuse and addiction and promote rehabilitation and recovery;

(l) Devise and implement comprehensive and coherent programmes for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis, a condition that predominantly affects women;

(m) Establish and/or strengthen programmes and services, including media campaigns, that address the prevention, early detection and treatment of breast, cervical and other cancers of the reproductive system;

(n) Reduce environmental hazards that pose a growing threat to health, especially in poor regions and communities; apply a precautionary approach, as agreed to in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 18/ and include reporting on women's health risks related to the environment in monitoring the implementation of Agenda 21; 19/

(o) Create awareness among women, health professionals, policy makers and the general public about the serious but preventable health hazards stemming from tobacco consumption and the need for regulatory and education measures to reduce smoking as important health promotion and disease prevention activities;

(p) Ensure that medical school curricula and other health-care training include gender-sensitive, comprehensive and mandatory courses on women's health;

(q) Adopt specific preventive measures to protect women, youth and children from any abuse - sexual abuse, exploitation, trafficking and violence, for example - including the formulation and enforcement of laws, and provide legal protection and medical and other assistance.

Strategic objective C.3. Undertake gender-sensitive initiatives that address sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, and sexual and reproductive health issues

Actions to be taken

108. By Governments, international bodies including relevant United Nations organizations, bilateral and multilateral donors and non-governmental organizations:

(a) Ensure the involvement of women, especially those infected with HIV/AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases or affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, in all decision-making relating to the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes on HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases;

(b) Review and amend laws and combat practices, as appropriate, that may contribute to women's susceptibility to HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases, including enacting legislation against those socio-cultural practices that contribute to it, and implement legislation, policies and practices to protect women, adolescents and young girls from discrimination related to HIV/AIDS;

(c) Encourage all sectors of society, including the public sector, as well as international organizations, to develop compassionate and supportive, non-discriminatory HIV/AIDS-related policies and practices that protect the rights of infected individuals;

(d) Recognize the extent of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in their countries, taking particularly into account its impact on women, with a view to ensuring that infected women do not suffer stigmatization and discrimination, including during travel;

(e) Develop gender-sensitive multisectoral programmes and strategies to end social subordination of women and girls and to ensure their social and economic empowerment and equality; facilitate promotion of programmes to educate and enable men to assume their responsibilities to prevent HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases;

(f) Facilitate the development of community strategies that will protect women of all ages from HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases; provide care and support to infected girls, women and their families and mobilize all parts of the community in response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic to exert pressure on all responsible authorities to respond in a timely, effective, sustainable and gender-sensitive manner;

(g) Support and strengthen national capacity to create and improve gender-sensitive policies and programmes on HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, including the provision of resources and facilities to women who find themselves the principal caregivers or economic support for those infected with HIV/AIDS or affected by the pandemic, and the survivors, particularly children and older persons;

(h) Provide workshops and specialized education and training to parents, decision makers and opinion leaders at all levels of the community, including religious and traditional authorities, on prevention of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases and on their repercussions on both women and men of all ages;

(i) Give all women and health workers all relevant information and education about sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS and pregnancy and the implications for the baby, including breast-feeding;

(j) Assist women and their formal and informal organizations to establish and expand effective peer education and outreach programmes and to participate in the design, implementation and monitoring of these programmes;

(k) Give full attention to the promotion of mutually respectful and equitable gender relations and, in particular, to meeting the educational and service needs of adolescents to enable them to deal in a positive and responsible way with their sexuality;

(l) Design specific programmes for men of all ages and male adolescents, recognizing the parental roles referred to in paragraph 107 (e) above, aimed at providing complete and accurate information on safe and responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour, including voluntary, appropriate and effective male methods for the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases through, inter alia, abstinence and condom use;

(m) Ensure the provision, through the primary health-care system, of universal access of couples and individuals to appropriate and affordable preventive services with respect to sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and expand the provision of counselling and voluntary and confidential diagnostic and treatment services for women; ensure that high-quality condoms as well as drugs for the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases are, where possible, supplied and distributed to health services;

(n) Support programmes which acknowledge that the higher risk among women of contracting HIV is linked to high-risk behaviour, including intravenous substance use and substance-influenced unprotected and irresponsible sexual behaviour, and take appropriate preventive measures;

(o) Support and expedite action-oriented research on affordable methods, controlled by women, to prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, on strategies empowering women to protect themselves from sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and on methods of care, support and treatment of women, ensuring their involvement in all aspects of such research;

(p) Support and initiate research which addresses women's needs and situations, including research on HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases in women, on women-controlled methods of protection, such as non-spermicidal microbicides, and on male and female risk-taking attitudes and practices.

Strategic objective C.4. Promote research and disseminate information on women's health

Actions to be taken

109. By Governments, the United Nations system, health professions, research institutions, non-governmental organizations, donors, pharmaceutical industries and the mass media, as appropriate:

(a) Train researchers and introduce systems that allow for the use of data collected, analysed and disaggregated by, among other factors, sex and age, other established demographic criteria and socio-economic variables, in policy-making, as appropriate, planning, monitoring and evaluation;

(b) Promote gender-sensitive and women-centred health research, treatment and technology and link traditional and indigenous knowledge with modern medicine, making information available to women to enable them to make informed and responsible decisions;

(c) Increase the number of women in leadership positions in the health professions, including researchers and scientists, to achieve equality at the earliest possible date;

(d) Increase financial and other support from all sources for preventive, appropriate biomedical, behavioural, epidemiological and health service research on women's health issues and for research on the social, economic and political causes of women's health problems, and their consequences, including the impact of gender and age inequalities, especially with respect to chronic and non-communicable diseases, particularly cardiovascular diseases and conditions, cancers, reproductive tract infections and injuries, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, domestic violence, occupational health, disabilities, environmentally related health problems, tropical diseases and health aspects of ageing;

(e) Inform women about the factors which increase the risks of developing cancers and infections of the reproductive tract, so that they can make informed decisions about their health;

(f) Support and fund social, economic, political and cultural research on how gender-based inequalities affect women's health, including etiology, epidemiology, provision and utilization of services and eventual outcome of treatment;

(g) Support health service systems and operations research to strengthen access and improve the quality of service delivery, to ensure appropriate support for women as health-care providers and to examine patterns with respect to the provision of health services to women and use of such services by women;

(h) Provide financial and institutional support for research on safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods and technologies for the reproductive and sexual health of women and men, including more safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods for the regulation of fertility, including natural family planning for both sexes, methods to protect against HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases and simple and inexpensive methods of diagnosing such diseases, among others; this research needs to be guided at all stages by users and from the perspective of gender, particularly the perspective of women, and should be carried out in strict conformity with internationally accepted legal, ethical, medical and scientific standards for biomedical research;

(i) Since unsafe abortion 16/ is a major threat to the health and life of women, research to understand and better address the determinants and consequences of induced abortion, including its effects on subsequent fertility, reproductive and mental health and contraceptive practice, should be promoted, as well as research on treatment of complications of abortions and post-abortion care;

(j) Acknowledge and encourage beneficial traditional health care, especially that practised by indigenous women, with a view to preserving and incorporating the value of traditional health care in the provision of health services, and support research directed towards achieving this aim;

(k) Develop mechanisms to evaluate and disseminate available data and research findings to researchers, policy makers, health professionals and women's groups, among others;

(l) Monitor human genome and related genetic research from the perspective of women's health and disseminate information and results of studies conducted in accordance with accepted ethical standards.

Strategic objective C.5. Increase resources and monitor follow-up for women's health

Actions to be taken

110. By Governments at all levels and, where appropriate, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations, especially women's and youth organizations:

(a) Increase budgetary allocations for primary health care and social services, with adequate support for secondary and tertiary levels, and give special attention to the reproductive and sexual health of girls and women and give priority to health programmes in rural and poor urban areas;

(b) Develop innovative approaches to funding health services through promoting community participation and local financing; increase, where necessary, budgetary allocations for community health centres and community-based programmes and services that address women's specific health needs;

(c) Develop local health services, promoting the incorporation of gender-sensitive community-based participation and self-care and specially designed preventive health programmes;

(d) Develop goals and time-frames, where appropriate, for improving women's health and for planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating programmes, based on gender-impact assessments using qualitative and quantitative data disaggregated by sex, age, other established demographic criteria and socio-economic variables;

(e) Establish, as appropriate, ministerial and inter-ministerial mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of women's health policy and programme reforms and establish, as appropriate, high-level focal points in national planning authorities responsible for monitoring to ensure that women's health concerns are mainstreamed in all relevant government agencies and programmes.

111. By Governments, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, international financial institutions, bilateral donors and the private sector, as appropriate:

(a) Formulate policies favourable to investment in women's health and, where appropriate, increase allocations for such investment;

(b) Provide appropriate material, financial and logistical assistance to youth non-governmental organizations in order to strengthen them to address youth concerns in the area of health, including sexual and reproductive health;

(c) Give higher priority to women's health and develop mechanisms for coordinating and implementing the health objectives of the Platform for Action and relevant international agreements to ensure progress.

D. Violence against women

112. Violence against women is an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace. Violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. The long-standing failure to protect and promote those rights and freedoms in the case of violence against women is a matter of concern to all States and should be addressed. Knowledge about its causes and consequences, as well as its incidence and measures to combat it, have been greatly expanded since the Nairobi Conference. In all societies, to a greater or lesser degree, women and girls are subjected to physical, sexual and psychological abuse that cuts across lines of income, class and culture. The low social and economic status of women can be both a cause and a consequence of violence against women.

113. The term "violence against women" means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. Accordingly, violence against women encompasses but is not limited to the following:

(a) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation;

(b) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution;

(c) Physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State, wherever it occurs.

114. Other acts of violence against women include violation of the human rights of women in situations of armed conflict, in particular murder, systematic rape, sexual slavery and forced pregnancy.

115. Acts of violence against women also include forced sterilization and forced abortion, coercive/forced use of contraceptives, female infanticide and prenatal sex selection.

116. Some groups of women, such as women belonging to minority groups, indigenous women, refugee women, women migrants, including women migrant workers, women in poverty living in rural or remote communities, destitute women, women in institutions or in detention, female children, women with disabilities, elderly women, displaced women, repatriated women, women living in poverty and women in situations of armed conflict, foreign occupation, wars of aggression, civil wars, terrorism, including hostage-taking, are also particularly vulnerable to violence.

117. Acts or threats of violence, whether occurring within the home or in the community, or perpetrated or condoned by the State, instil fear and insecurity in women's lives and are obstacles to the achievement of equality and for development and peace. The fear of violence, including harassment, is a permanent constraint on the mobility of women and limits their access to resources and basic activities. High social, health and economic costs to the individual and society are associated with violence against women. Violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men. In many cases, violence against women and girls occurs in the family or within the home, where violence is often tolerated. The neglect, physical and sexual abuse, and rape of girl children and women by family members and other members of the household, as well as incidences of spousal and non-spousal abuse, often go unreported and are thus difficult to detect. Even when such violence is reported, there is often a failure to protect victims or punish perpetrators.

118. Violence against women is a manifestation of the historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of women's full advancement. Violence against women throughout the life cycle derives essentially from cultural patterns, in particular the harmful effects of certain traditional or customary practices and all acts of extremism linked to race, sex, language or religion that perpetuate the lower status accorded to women in the family, the workplace, the community and society. Violence against women is exacerbated by social pressures, notably the shame of denouncing certain acts that have been perpetrated against women; women's lack of access to legal

information, aid or protection; the lack of laws that effectively prohibit violence against women; failure to reform existing laws; inadequate efforts on the part of public authorities to promote awareness of and enforce existing laws; and the absence of educational and other means to address the causes and consequences of violence. Images in the media of violence against women, in particular those that depict rape or sexual slavery as well as the use of women and girls as sex objects, including pornography, are factors contributing to the continued prevalence of such violence, adversely influencing the community at large, in particular children and young people.

119. Developing a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to the challenging task of promoting families, communities and States that are free of violence against women is necessary and achievable. Equality, partnership between women and men and respect for human dignity must permeate all stages of the socialization process. Educational systems should promote self-respect, mutual respect, and cooperation between women and men.

120. The absence of adequate gender-disaggregated data and statistics on the incidence of violence makes the elaboration of programmes and monitoring of changes difficult. Lack of or inadequate documentation and research on domestic violence, sexual harassment and violence against women and girls in private and in public, including the workplace, impede efforts to design specific intervention strategies. Experience in a number of countries shows that women and men can be mobilized to overcome violence in all its forms and that effective public measures can be taken to address both the causes and the consequences of violence. Men's groups mobilizing against gender violence are necessary allies for change.

121. Women may be vulnerable to violence perpetrated by persons in positions of authority in both conflict and non-conflict situations. Training of all officials in humanitarian and human rights law and the punishment of perpetrators of violent acts against women would help to ensure that such violence does not take place at the hands of public officials in whom women should be able to place trust, including police and prison officials and security forces.

122. The effective suppression of trafficking in women and girls for the sex trade is a matter of pressing international concern. Implementation of the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, 20/ as well as other relevant instruments, needs to be reviewed and strengthened. The use of women in international prostitution and trafficking networks has become a major focus of international organized crime. The Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, who has explored these acts as an additional cause of the violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls, is invited to address, within her mandate and as a matter of urgency, the issue of international trafficking for the purposes of the sex trade, as well as the issues of forced prostitution, rape, sexual abuse and sex tourism. Women and girls who are victims of this international trade are at an increased risk of further violence, as well as unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection, including infection with HIV/AIDS.

123. In addressing violence against women, Governments and other actors should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes so that before decisions are taken an analysis may be made of their effects on women and men, respectively.

Strategic objective D.1. Take integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women

Actions to be taken

124. By Governments:

(a) Condemn violence against women and refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination as set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;

(b) Refrain from engaging in violence against women and exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and, in accordance with national legislation, punish acts of violence against women, whether those acts are perpetrated by the State or by private persons;

(c) Enact and/or reinforce penal, civil, labour and administrative sanctions in domestic legislation to punish and redress the wrongs done to women and girls who are subjected to any form of violence, whether in the home, the workplace, the community or society;

(d) Adopt and/or implement and periodically review and analyse legislation to ensure its effectiveness in eliminating violence against women, emphasizing the prevention of violence and the prosecution of offenders; take measures to ensure the protection of women subjected to violence, access to just and effective remedies, including compensation and indemnification and healing of victims, and rehabilitation of perpetrators;

(e) Work actively to ratify and/or implement international human rights norms and instruments as they relate to violence against women, including those contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 21/ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 13/ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 13/ and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; 22/

(f) Implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, taking into account general recommendation 19, adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its eleventh session; 23/

(g) Promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes related to violence against women; actively encourage, support and implement measures and programmes aimed at increasing the knowledge and understanding of the causes, consequences and mechanisms of violence against women among those responsible for implementing these policies, such as law enforcement officers, police personnel and judicial, medical and social workers, as well as those who deal with minority, migration and refugee issues, and develop strategies to ensure that the revictimization of women victims of violence does not occur because of gender-insensitive laws or judicial or enforcement practices;

(h) Provide women who are subjected to violence with access to the mechanisms of justice and, as provided for by national legislation, to

just and effective remedies for the harm they have suffered and inform women of their rights in seeking redress through such mechanisms;

(i) Enact and enforce legislation against the perpetrators of practices and acts of violence against women, such as female genital mutilation, female infanticide, prenatal sex selection and dowry-related violence, and give vigorous support to the efforts of non-governmental and community organizations to eliminate such practices;

(j) Formulate and implement, at all appropriate levels, plans of action to eliminate violence against women;

(k) Adopt all appropriate measures, especially in the field of education, to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, and to eliminate prejudices, customary practices and all other practices based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority of either of the sexes and on stereotyped roles for men and women;

(l) Create or strengthen institutional mechanisms so that women and girls can report acts of violence against them in a safe and confidential environment, free from the fear of penalties or retaliation, and file charges;

(m) Ensure that women with disabilities have access to information and services in the field of violence against women;

(n) Create, improve or develop as appropriate, and fund the training programmes for judicial, legal, medical, social, educational and police and immigrant personnel, in order to avoid the abuse of power leading to violence against women and sensitize such personnel to the nature of gender-based acts and threats of violence so that fair treatment of female victims can be assured;

(o) Adopt laws, where necessary, and reinforce existing laws that punish police, security forces or any other agents of the State who engage in acts of violence against women in the course of the performance of their duties; review existing legislation and take effective measures against the perpetrators of such violence;

(p) Allocate adequate resources within the government budget and mobilize community resources for activities related to the elimination of violence against women, including resources for the implementation of plans of action at all appropriate levels;

(q) Include in reports submitted in accordance with the provisions of relevant United Nations human rights instruments, information pertaining to violence against women and measures taken to implement the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;

(r) Cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women in the performance of her mandate and furnish all information requested; cooperate also with other competent mechanisms, such as the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on torture and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on summary, extrajudiciary and arbitrary executions, in relation to violence against women;

(s) Recommend that the Commission on Human Rights renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women when her term ends in 1997 and, if warranted, to update and strengthen it.

125. By Governments, including local governments, community organizations, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, the public and private sectors, particularly enterprises, and the mass media, as appropriate:

(a) Provide well-funded shelters and relief support for girls and women subjected to violence, as well as medical, psychological and other counselling services and free or low-cost legal aid, where it is needed, as well as appropriate assistance to enable them to find a means of subsistence;

(b) Establish linguistically and culturally accessible services for migrant women and girls, including women migrant workers, who are victims of gender-based violence;

(c) Recognize the vulnerability to violence and other forms of abuse of women migrants, including women migrant workers, whose legal status in the host country depends on employers who may exploit their situation;

(d) Support initiatives of women's organizations and non-governmental organizations all over the world to raise awareness on the issue of violence against women and to contribute to its elimination;

(e) Organize, support and fund community-based education and training campaigns to raise awareness about violence against women as a violation of women's enjoyment of their human rights and mobilize local communities to use appropriate gender-sensitive traditional and innovative methods of conflict resolution;

(f) Recognize, support and promote the fundamental role of intermediate institutions, such as primary health-care centres, family-planning centres, existing school health services, mother and baby protection services, centres for migrant families and so forth in the field of information and education related to abuse;

(g) Organize and fund information campaigns and educational and training programmes in order to sensitize girls and boys and women and men to the personal and social detrimental effects of violence in the family, community and society; teach them how to communicate without violence and promote training for victims and potential victims so that they can protect themselves and others against such violence;

(h) Disseminate information on the assistance available to women and families who are victims of violence;

(i) Provide, fund and encourage counselling and rehabilitation programmes for the perpetrators of violence and promote research to further efforts concerning such counselling and rehabilitation so as to prevent the recurrence of such violence;

(j) Raise awareness of the responsibility of the media in promoting non-stereotyped images of women and men, as well as in eliminating patterns of media presentation that generate violence, and encourage those responsible for media content to establish professional

guidelines and codes of conduct; also raise awareness of the important role of the media in informing and educating people about the causes and effects of violence against women and in stimulating public debate on the topic.

126. By Governments, employers, trade unions, community and youth organizations and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate:

(a) Develop programmes and procedures to eliminate sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women in all educational institutions, workplaces and elsewhere;

(b) Develop programmes and procedures to educate and raise awareness of acts of violence against women that constitute a crime and a violation of the human rights of women;

(c) Develop counselling, healing and support programmes for girls, adolescents and young women who have been or are involved in abusive relationships, particularly those who live in homes or institutions where abuse occurs;

(d) Take special measures to eliminate violence against women, particularly those in vulnerable situations, such as young women, refugee, displaced and internally displaced women, women with disabilities and women migrant workers, including enforcing any existing legislation and developing, as appropriate, new legislation for women migrant workers in both sending and receiving countries.

127. By the Secretary-General of the United Nations:

Provide the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women with all necessary assistance, in particular the staff and resources required to perform all mandated functions, especially in carrying out and following up on missions undertaken either separately or jointly with other special rapporteurs and working groups, and adequate assistance for periodic consultations with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and all treaty bodies.

128. By Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations:

Encourage the dissemination and implementation of the UNHCR Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women and the UNHCR Guidelines on the Prevention of and Response to Sexual Violence against Refugees.

Strategic objective D.2. Study the causes and consequences of violence against women and the effectiveness of preventive measures

Actions to be taken

129. By Governments, regional organizations, the United Nations, other international organizations, research institutions, women's and youth organizations and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate:

(a) Promote research, collect data and compile statistics, especially concerning domestic violence relating to the prevalence of different forms of violence against women, and encourage research into the causes, nature, seriousness and consequences of violence against women and the effectiveness of measures implemented to prevent and redress violence against women;

(b) Disseminate findings of research and studies widely;

(c) Support and initiate research on the impact of violence, such as rape, on women and girl children, and make the resulting information and statistics available to the public;

(d) Encourage the media to examine the impact of gender role stereotypes, including those perpetuated by commercial advertisements which foster gender-based violence and inequalities, and how they are transmitted during the life cycle, and take measures to eliminate these negative images with a view to promoting a violence-free society.

Strategic objective D.3. Eliminate trafficking in women and assist victims of violence due to prostitution and trafficking

Actions to be taken

130. By Governments of countries of origin, transit and destination, regional and international organizations, as appropriate:

(a) Consider the ratification and enforcement of international conventions on trafficking in persons and on slavery;

(b) Take appropriate measures to address the root factors, including external factors, that encourage trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriages and forced labour in order to eliminate trafficking in women, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing the perpetrators, through both criminal and civil measures;

(c) Step up cooperation and concerted action by all relevant law enforcement authorities and institutions with a view to dismantling national, regional and international networks in trafficking;

(d) Allocate resources to provide comprehensive programmes designed to heal and rehabilitate into society victims of trafficking, including through job training, legal assistance and confidential health care, and take measures to cooperate with non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims of trafficking;

(e) Develop educational and training programmes and policies and consider enacting legislation aimed at preventing sex tourism and trafficking, giving special emphasis to the protection of young women and children.

E. Women and armed conflict

131. An environment that maintains world peace and promotes and protects human rights, democracy and the peaceful settlement of disputes, in accordance with the principles of non-threat or use of force against territorial integrity or political independence and of respect for sovereignty as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, is an important factor for the advancement of women. Peace is inextricably linked with equality between women and men and development. Armed and other types of conflicts and terrorism and hostage-taking still persist in many parts of the world. Aggression, foreign occupation, ethnic and other types of conflicts are an ongoing reality affecting women and men in nearly every region. Gross and systematic violations and situations that constitute serious obstacles to the full enjoyment of human rights continue to occur in different parts of the world. Such violations and obstacles include, as well as torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, summary and arbitrary executions, disappearances, arbitrary detentions, all forms of racism and racial discrimination, foreign occupation and alien domination, xenophobia, poverty, hunger and other denials of economic, social and cultural rights, religious intolerance, terrorism, discrimination against women and lack of the rule of law. International humanitarian law, prohibiting attacks on civilian populations, as such, is at times systematically ignored and human rights are often violated in connection with situations of armed conflict, affecting the civilian population, especially women, children, the elderly and the disabled. Violations of the human rights of women in situations of armed conflict are violations of the fundamental principles of international human rights and humanitarian law. Massive violations of human rights, especially in the form of genocide, ethnic cleansing as a strategy of war and its consequences, and rape, including systematic rape of women in war situations, creating a mass exodus of refugees and displaced persons, are abhorrent practices that are strongly condemned and must be stopped immediately, while perpetrators of such crimes must be punished. Some of these situations of armed conflict have their origin in the conquest or colonialization of a country by another State and the perpetuation of that colonization through state and military repression.

132. The Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 1949, and the Additional Protocols of 1977 24/ provide that women shall especially be protected against any attack on their honour, in particular against humiliating and degrading treatment, rape, enforced prostitution or any form of indecent assault. The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, states that "violations of the human rights of women in situations of armed conflict are violations of the fundamental principles of international human rights and humanitarian law". 25/ All violations of this kind, including in particular murder, rape, including systematic rape, sexual slavery and forced pregnancy require a particularly effective response. Gross and systematic violations and situations that constitute serious obstacles to the full enjoyment of human rights continue to occur in different parts of the world. Such violations and obstacles include, as well as torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or summary and arbitrary detention, all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, denial of economic, social and cultural rights and religious intolerance.

133. Violations of human rights in situations of armed conflict and military occupation are violations of the fundamental principles of international human rights and humanitarian law as embodied in international human rights instruments and in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols

thereto. Gross human rights violations and policies of ethnic cleansing in war-torn and occupied areas continue to be carried out. These practices have created, inter alia, a mass flow of refugees and other displaced persons in need of international protection and internally displaced persons, the majority of whom are women, adolescent girls and children. Civilian victims, mostly women and children, often outnumber casualties among combatants. In addition, women often become caregivers for injured combatants and find themselves, as a result of conflict, unexpectedly cast as sole manager of household, sole parent, and caretaker of elderly relatives.

134. In a world of continuing instability and violence, the implementation of cooperative approaches to peace and security is urgently needed. The equal access and full participation of women in power structures and their full involvement in all efforts for the prevention and resolution of conflicts are essential for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. Although women have begun to play an important role in conflict resolution, peace-keeping and defence and foreign affairs mechanisms, they are still underrepresented in decision-making positions. If women are to play an equal part in securing and maintaining peace, they must be empowered politically and economically and represented adequately at all levels of decision-making.

135. While entire communities suffer the consequences of armed conflict and terrorism, women and girls are particularly affected because of their status in society and their sex. Parties to conflict often rape women with impunity, sometimes using systematic rape as a tactic of war and terrorism. The impact of violence against women and violation of the human rights of women in such situations is experienced by women of all ages, who suffer displacement, loss of home and property, loss or involuntary disappearance of close relatives, poverty and family separation and disintegration, and who are victims of acts of murder, terrorism, torture, involuntary disappearance, sexual slavery, rape, sexual abuse and forced pregnancy in situations of armed conflict, especially as a result of policies of ethnic cleansing and other new and emerging forms of violence. This is compounded by the life-long social, economic and psychologically traumatic consequences of armed conflict and foreign occupation and alien domination.

136. Women and children constitute some 80 per cent of the world's millions of refugees and other displaced persons, including internally displaced persons. They are threatened by deprivation of property, goods and services and deprivation of their right to return to their homes of origin as well as by violence and insecurity. Particular attention should be paid to sexual violence against uprooted women and girls employed as a method of persecution in systematic campaigns of terror and intimidation and forcing members of a particular ethnic, cultural or religious group to flee their homes. Women may also be forced to flee as a result of a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons enumerated in the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol, including persecution through sexual violence or other gender-related persecution, and they continue to be vulnerable to violence and exploitation while in flight, in countries of asylum and resettlement and during and after repatriation. Women often experience difficulty in some countries of asylum in being recognized as refugees when the claim is based on such persecution.

137. Refugee, displaced and migrant women in most cases display strength, endurance and resourcefulness and can contribute positively to countries of resettlement or to their country of origin on their return. They need to be appropriately involved in decisions that affect them.

138. Many women's non-governmental organizations have called for reductions in military expenditures world wide, as well as in international trade and trafficking in and the proliferation of weapons. Those affected most negatively by conflict and excessive military spending are people living in poverty, who are deprived because of the lack of investment in basic services. Women living in poverty, particularly rural women, also suffer because of the use of arms that are particularly injurious or have indiscriminate effects. There are more than 100 million anti-personnel land-mines scattered in 64 countries globally. The negative impact on development of excessive military expenditures, the arms trade, and investment for arms production and acquisition must be addressed. At the same time, maintenance of national security and peace is an important factor for economic growth and development and the empowerment of women.

139. During times of armed conflict and the collapse of communities, the role of women is crucial. They often work to preserve social order in the midst of armed and other conflicts. Women make an important but often unrecognized contribution as peace educators both in their families and in their societies.

140. Education to foster a culture of peace that upholds justice and tolerance for all nations and peoples is essential to attaining lasting peace and should be begun at an early age. It should include elements of conflict resolution, mediation, reduction of prejudice and respect for diversity.

141. In addressing armed or other conflicts, an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes should be promoted so that before decisions are taken an analysis is made of the effects on women and men, respectively.

Strategic objective E.1. Increase the participation of women in conflict resolution at decision-making levels and protect women living in situations of armed and other conflicts or under foreign occupation

Actions to be taken

142. By Governments and international and regional intergovernmental institutions:

(a) Take action to promote equal participation of women and equal opportunities for women to participate in all forums and peace activities at all levels, particularly at the decision-making level, including in the United Nations Secretariat with due regard to equitable geographical distribution in accordance with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations;

(b) Integrate a gender perspective in the resolution of armed or other conflicts and foreign occupation and aim for gender balance when nominating or promoting candidates for judicial and other positions in all relevant international bodies, such as the United Nations International Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda and the International Court of Justice, as well as in other bodies related to the peaceful settlement of disputes;

(c) Ensure that these bodies are able to address gender issues properly by providing appropriate training to prosecutors, judges and other

officials in handling cases involving rape, forced pregnancy in situations of armed conflict, indecent assault and other forms of violence against women in armed conflicts, including terrorism, and integrate a gender perspective into their work.

Strategic objective E.2. Reduce excessive military expenditures and control the availability of armaments

Actions to be taken

143. By Governments:

(a) Increase and hasten, as appropriate, subject to national security considerations, the conversion of military resources and related industries to development and peaceful purposes;

(b) Undertake to explore new ways of generating new public and private financial resources, inter alia, through the appropriate reduction of excessive military expenditures, including global military expenditures, trade in arms and investment for arms production and acquisition, taking into consideration national security requirements, so as to permit the possible allocation of additional funds for social and economic development, in particular for the advancement of women;

(c) Take action to investigate and punish members of the police, security and armed forces and others who perpetrate acts of violence against women, violations of international humanitarian law and violations of the human rights of women in situations of armed conflict;

(d) While acknowledging legitimate national defence needs, recognize and address the dangers to society of armed conflict and the negative effect of excessive military expenditures, trade in arms, especially those arms that are particularly injurious or have indiscriminate effects, and excessive investment for arms production and acquisition; similarly, recognize the need to combat illicit arms trafficking, violence, crime, the production and use of and trafficking in illicit drugs, and trafficking in women and children;

(e) Recognizing that women and children are particularly affected by the indiscriminate use of anti-personnel land-mines:

(i) Undertake to work actively towards ratification, if they have not already done so, of the 1981 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, particularly the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II), 26/ with a view to universal ratification by the year 2000;

(ii) Undertake to strongly consider strengthening the Convention to promote a reduction in the casualties and intense suffering caused to the civilian population by the indiscriminate use of land-mines;

(iii) Undertake to promote assistance in mine clearance, notably by facilitating, in respect of the means of mine-clearing, the exchange of information, the transfer of technology and the promotion of scientific research;

(iv) Within the United Nations context, undertake to support efforts to coordinate a common response programme of assistance in de-mining without unnecessary discrimination;

(v) Adopt at the earliest possible date, if they have not already done so, a moratorium on the export of anti-personnel land-mines, including to non-governmental entities, noting with satisfaction that many States have already declared moratoriums on the export, transfer or sale of such mines;

(vi) Undertake to encourage further international efforts to seek solutions to the problems caused by antipersonnel land-mines, with a view to their eventual elimination, recognizing that States can move most effectively towards this goal as viable and humane alternatives are developed;

(f) Recognizing the leading role that women have played in the peace movement:

(i) Work actively towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control;

(ii) Support negotiations on the conclusion, without delay, of a universal and multilaterally and effectively verifiable comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty that contributes to nuclear disarmament and the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects;

(iii) Pending the entry into force of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, exercise the utmost restraint in respect of nuclear testing.

Strategic objective E.3. Promote non-violent forms of conflict resolution and reduce the incidence of human rights abuse in conflict situations

Actions to be taken

144. By Governments:

(a) Consider the ratification of or accession to international instruments containing provisions relative to the protection of women and children in armed conflicts, including the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 1949, the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I) and to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II); 24/

(b) Respect fully the norms of international humanitarian law in armed conflicts and take all measures required for the protection of women and children, in particular against rape, forced prostitution and any other form of indecent assault;

(c) Strengthen the role of women and ensure equal representation of women at all decision-making levels in national and international institutions which may make or influence policy with regard to matters related to peace-keeping, preventive diplomacy and related activities and in all stages of peace mediation and negotiations, taking note of the specific recommendations of the Secretary-General in his strategic plan of action for the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (1995-2000) (A/49/587, sect. IV).

145. By Governments and international and regional organizations:

(a) Reaffirm the right of self-determination of all peoples, in particular of peoples under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, and the importance of the effective realization of this right, as enunciated, inter alia, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, 2/ adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights;

(b) Encourage diplomacy, negotiation and peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 2, paragraphs 3 and 4 thereof;

(c) Urge the identification and condemnation of the systematic practice of rape and other forms of inhuman and degrading treatment of women as a deliberate instrument of war and ethnic cleansing and take steps to ensure that full assistance is provided to the victims of such abuse for their physical and mental rehabilitation;

(d) Reaffirm that rape in the conduct of armed conflict constitutes a war crime and under certain circumstances it constitutes a crime against humanity and an act of genocide as defined in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide; 27/ take all measures required for the protection of women and children from such acts and strengthen mechanisms to investigate and punish all those responsible and bring the perpetrators to justice;

(e) Uphold and reinforce standards set out in international humanitarian law and international human rights instruments to prevent all acts of violence against women in situations of armed and other conflicts; undertake a full investigation of all acts of violence against women committed during war, including rape, in particular systematic rape, forced prostitution and other forms of indecent assault and sexual slavery; prosecute all criminals responsible for war crimes against women and provide full redress to women victims;

(f) Call upon the international community to condemn and act against all forms and manifestations of terrorism;

(g) Take into account gender-sensitive concerns in developing training programmes for all relevant personnel on international humanitarian law and human rights awareness and recommend such training for those

involved in United Nations peace-keeping and humanitarian aid, with a view to preventing violence against women, in particular;

(h) Discourage the adoption of and refrain from any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries, in particular women and children, that hinders their well-being and that creates obstacles to the full enjoyment of their human rights, including the right of everyone to a standard of living adequate for their health and well-being and their right to food, medical care and the necessary social services. This Conference reaffirms that food and medicine must not be used as a tool for political pressure;

(i) Take measures in accordance with international law with a view to alleviating the negative impact of economic sanctions on women and children.

Strategic objective E.4. Promote women's contribution to fostering a culture of peace

Actions to be taken

146. By Governments, international and regional intergovernmental institutions and non-governmental organizations:

(a) Promote peaceful conflict resolution and peace, reconciliation and tolerance through education, training, community actions and youth exchange programmes, in particular for young women;

(b) Encourage the further development of peace research, involving the participation of women, to examine the impact of armed conflict on women and children and the nature and contribution of women's participation in national, regional and international peace movements; engage in research and identify innovative mechanisms for containing violence and for conflict resolution for public dissemination and for use by women and men;

(c) Develop and disseminate research on the physical, psychological, economic and social effects of armed conflicts on women, particularly young women and girls, with a view to developing policies and programmes to address the consequences of conflicts;

(d) Consider establishing educational programmes for girls and boys to foster a culture of peace, focusing on conflict resolution by non-violent means and the promotion of tolerance.

Strategic objective E.5. Provide protection, assistance and training to refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women

Actions to be taken

147. By Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other institutions involved in providing protection, assistance and training to refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Programme, as appropriate:

(a) Take steps to ensure that women are fully involved in the planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all short-term and long-term projects and programmes providing assistance to refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women, including the management of refugee camps and resources; ensure that refugee and displaced women and girls have direct access to the services provided;

(b) Offer adequate protection and assistance to women and children displaced within their country and find solutions to the root causes of their displacement with a view to preventing it and, when appropriate, facilitate their return or resettlement;

(c) Take steps to protect the safety and physical integrity of refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women during their displacement and upon their return to their communities of origin, including programmes of rehabilitation; take effective measures to protect from violence women who are refugees or displaced; hold an impartial and thorough investigation of any such violations and bring those responsible to justice;

(d) While fully respecting and strictly observing the principle of non-refoulement of refugees, take all the necessary steps to ensure the right of refugee and displaced women to return voluntarily to their place of origin in safety and with dignity, and their right to protection after their return;

(e) Take measures, at the national level with international cooperation, as appropriate, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, to find lasting solutions to questions related to internally displaced women, including their right to voluntary and safe return to their home of origin;

(f) Ensure that the international community and its international organizations provide financial and other resources for emergency relief and other longer-term assistance that takes into account the specific needs, resources and potentials of refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women; in the provision of protection and assistance, take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women and girls in order to ensure equal access to appropriate and adequate food, water and shelter, education, and social and health services,

including reproductive health care and maternity care and services to combat tropical diseases;

(g) Facilitate the availability of educational materials in the appropriate language - in emergency situations also - in order to minimize disruption of schooling among refugee and displaced children;

(h) Apply international norms to ensure equal access and equal treatment of women and men in refugee determination procedures and the granting of asylum, including full respect and strict observation of the principle of non-refoulement through, inter alia, bringing national immigration regulations into conformity with relevant international instruments, and consider recognizing as refugees those women whose claim to refugee status is based upon the well-founded fear of persecution for reasons enumerated in the 1951 Convention 28/ and the 1967 Protocol 29/ relating to the Status of Refugees, including persecution through sexual violence or other gender-related persecution, and provide access to specially trained officers, including female officers, to interview women regarding sensitive or painful experiences, such as sexual assault;

(i) Support and promote efforts by States towards the development of criteria and guidelines on responses to persecution specifically aimed at women, by sharing information on States' initiatives to develop such criteria and guidelines and by monitoring to ensure their fair and consistent application;

(j) Promote the self-reliant capacities of refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women and provide programmes for women, particularly young women, in leadership and decision-making within refugee and returnee communities;

(k) Ensure that the human rights of refugee and displaced women are protected and that refugee and displaced women are made aware of these rights; ensure that the vital importance of family reunification is recognized;

(l) Provide, as appropriate, women who have been determined refugees with access to vocational/professional training programmes, including language training, small-scale enterprise development training and planning and counselling on all forms of violence against women, which should include rehabilitation programmes for victims of torture and trauma; Governments and other donors should contribute adequately to assistance programmes for refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women, taking into account in particular the effects on the host countries of the increasing requirements of large refugee populations and the need to widen the donor base and to achieve greater burden-sharing;

(m) Raise public awareness of the contribution made by refugee women to their countries of resettlement, promote understanding of their human rights and of their needs and abilities and encourage mutual understanding and acceptance through educational programmes promoting cross-cultural and interracial harmony;

(n) Provide basic and support services to women who are displaced from their place of origin as a result of terrorism, violence, drug trafficking or other reasons linked to violence situations;

(o) Develop awareness of the human rights of women and provide, as appropriate, human rights education and training to military and police personnel operating in areas of armed conflict and areas where there are refugees.

148. By Governments:

(a) Disseminate and implement the UNHCR Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women and the UNHCR Guidelines on Evaluation and Care of Victims of Trauma and Violence, or provide similar guidance, in close cooperation with refugee women and in all sectors of refugee programmes;

(b) Protect women and children who migrate as family members from abuse or denial of their human rights by sponsors and consider extending their stay, should the family relationship dissolve, within the limits of national legislation.

Strategic objective E.6. Provide assistance to the women of the colonies and non-self-governing territories

Actions to be taken

149. By Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations:

(a) Support and promote the implementation of the right of self-determination of all peoples as enunciated, inter alia, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action by providing special programmes in leadership and in training for decision-making;

(b) Raise public awareness, as appropriate, through the mass media, education at all levels and special programmes to create a better understanding of the situation of women of the colonies and non-self-governing territories.

F. Women and the economy

150. There are considerable differences in women's and men's access to and opportunities to exert power over economic structures in their societies. In most parts of the world, women are virtually absent from or are poorly represented in economic decision-making, including the formulation of financial, monetary, commercial and other economic policies, as well as tax systems and rules governing pay. Since it is often within the framework of such policies that individual men and women make their decisions, inter alia, on how to divide their time between remunerated and unremunerated work, the actual development of these economic structures and policies has a direct impact on women's and men's access to economic resources, their economic power and consequently the extent of equality between them at the individual and family levels as well as in society as a whole.

151. In many regions, women's participation in remunerated work in the formal and non-formal labour market has increased significantly and has changed during the past decade. While women continue to work in agriculture and fisheries, they have also become increasingly involved in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and, in some cases, have become more dominant in the expanding informal sector. Due to, inter alia, difficult economic situations and a lack of bargaining power resulting from gender inequality, many women have been forced to accept low pay and poor working conditions and thus have often become preferred workers. On the other hand, women have entered the workforce increasingly by choice when they have become aware of and demanded their rights. Some have succeeded in entering and advancing in the workplace and improving their pay and working conditions. However, women have been particularly affected by the economic situation and restructuring processes, which have changed the nature of employment and, in some cases, have led to a loss of jobs, even for professional and skilled women. In addition, many women have entered the informal sector owing to the lack of other opportunities. Women's participation and gender concerns are still largely absent from and should be integrated in the policy formulation process of the multilateral institutions that define the terms and, in cooperation with Governments, set the goals of structural adjustment programmes, loans and grants.

152. Discrimination in education and training, hiring and remuneration, promotion and horizontal mobility practices, as well as inflexible working conditions, lack of access to productive resources and inadequate sharing of family responsibilities, combined with a lack of or insufficient services such as child care, continue to restrict employment, economic, professional and other opportunities and mobility for women and make their involvement stressful. Moreover, attitudinal obstacles inhibit women's participation in developing economic policy and in some regions restrict the access of women and girls to education and training for economic management.

153. Women's share in the labour force continues to rise and almost everywhere women are working more outside the household, although there has not been a parallel lightening of responsibility for unremunerated work in the household and community. Women's income is becoming increasingly necessary to households of all types. In some regions, there has been a growth in women's entrepreneurship and other self-reliant activities, particularly in the informal sector. In many countries, women are the majority of workers in non-standard work, such as temporary, casual, multiple part-time, contract and home-based employment.

154. Women migrant workers, including domestic workers, contribute to the economy of the sending country through their remittances and also to the economy of the receiving country through their participation in the labour force. However, in many receiving countries, migrant women experience higher levels of unemployment compared with both non-migrant workers and male migrant workers.

155. Insufficient attention to gender analysis has meant that women's contributions and concerns remain too often ignored in economic structures, such as financial markets and institutions, labour markets, economics as an academic discipline, economic and social infrastructure, taxation and social security systems, as well as in families and households. As a result, many policies and programmes may continue to contribute to inequalities between women and men. Where progress has been made in integrating gender perspectives, programme and policy effectiveness has also been enhanced.

156. Although many women have advanced in economic structures, for the majority of women, particularly those who face additional barriers, continuing obstacles have hindered their ability to achieve economic autonomy and to ensure sustainable livelihoods for themselves and their dependants. Women are active in a variety of economic areas, which they often combine, ranging from wage labour and subsistence farming and fishing to the informal sector. However, legal and customary barriers to ownership of or access to land, natural resources, capital, credit, technology and other means of production, as well as wage differentials, contribute to impeding the economic progress of women. Women contribute to development not only through remunerated work but also through a great deal of unremunerated work. On the one hand, women participate in the production of goods and services for the market and household consumption, in agriculture, food production or family enterprises. Though included in the United Nations System of National Accounts and therefore in international standards for labour statistics, this unremunerated work - particularly that related to agriculture - is often undervalued and under-recorded. On the other hand, women still also perform the great majority of unremunerated domestic work and community work, such as caring for children and older persons, preparing food for the family, protecting the environment and providing voluntary assistance to vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals and groups. This work is often not measured in quantitative terms and is not valued in national accounts. Women's contribution to development is seriously underestimated, and thus its social recognition is limited. The full visibility of the type, extent and distribution of this unremunerated work will also contribute to a better sharing of responsibilities.

157. Although some new employment opportunities have been created for women as a result of the globalization of the economy, there are also trends that have exacerbated inequalities between women and men. At the same time, globalization, including economic integration, can create pressures on the employment situation of women to adjust to new circumstances and to find new sources of employment as patterns of trade change. More analysis needs to be done of the impact of globalization on women's economic status.

158. These trends have been characterized by low wages, little or no labour standards protection, poor working conditions, particularly with regard to women's occupational health and safety, low skill levels, and a lack of job security and social security, in both the formal and informal sectors. Women's unemployment is a serious and increasing problem in many countries and sectors. Young workers in the informal and rural sectors and migrant female workers remain the least protected by labour and immigration laws. Women, particularly those who are heads of households with young children, are limited in their employment opportunities for reasons that include inflexible working conditions and inadequate sharing, by men and by society, of family responsibilities.

159. In countries that are undergoing fundamental political, economic and social transformation, the skills of women, if better utilized, could constitute a major contribution to the economic life of their respective countries. Their input should continue to be developed and supported and their potential further realized.

160. Lack of employment in the private sector and reductions in public services and public service jobs have affected women disproportionately. In some countries, women take on more unpaid work, such as the care of children and those who are ill or elderly, compensating for lost household income, particularly when public services are not available. In many cases, employment creation strategies have not paid sufficient attention to occupations and

sectors where women predominate; nor have they adequately promoted the access of women to those occupations and sectors that are traditionally male.

161. For those women in paid work, many experience obstacles that prevent them from achieving their potential. While some are increasingly found in lower levels of management, attitudinal discrimination often prevents them from being promoted further. The experience of sexual harassment is an affront to a worker's dignity and prevents women from making a contribution commensurate with their abilities. The lack of a family-friendly work environment, including a lack of appropriate and affordable child care, and inflexible working hours further prevent women from achieving their full potential.

162. In the private sector, including transnational and national enterprises, women are largely absent from management and policy levels, denoting discriminatory hiring and promotion policies and practices. The unfavourable work environment as well as the limited number of employment opportunities available have led many women to seek alternatives. Women have increasingly become self-employed and owners and managers of micro, small and medium-scale enterprises. The expansion of the informal sector, in many countries, and of self-organized and independent enterprises is in large part due to women, whose collaborative, self-help and traditional practices and initiatives in production and trade represent a vital economic resource. When they gain access to and control over capital, credit and other resources, technology and training, women can increase production, marketing and income for sustainable development.

163. Taking into account the fact that continuing inequalities and noticeable progress coexist, rethinking employment policies is necessary in order to integrate the gender perspective and to draw attention to a wider range of opportunities as well as to address any negative gender implications of current patterns of work and employment. To realize fully equality between women and men in their contribution to the economy, active efforts are required for equal recognition and appreciation of the influence that the work, experience, knowledge and values of both women and men have in society.

164. In addressing the economic potential and independence of women, Governments and other actors should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes so that before decisions are taken, an analysis is made of the effects on women and men, respectively.

Strategic objective F.1. Promote women's economic rights and independence, including access to employment, appropriate working conditions and control over economic resources

Actions to be taken

165. By Governments:

(a) Enact and enforce legislation to guarantee the rights of women and men to equal pay for equal work or work of equal value;

(b) Adopt and implement laws against discrimination based on sex in the labour market, especially considering older women workers, hiring and promotion, the extension of employment benefits and social security, and working conditions;

(c) Eliminate discriminatory practices by employers and take appropriate measures in consideration of women's reproductive role and functions, such as the denial of employment and dismissal due to pregnancy or breast-feeding, or requiring proof of contraceptive use, and take effective measures to ensure that pregnant women, women on maternity leave or women re-entering the labour market after childbearing are not discriminated against;

(d) Devise mechanisms and take positive action to enable women to gain access to full and equal participation in the formulation of policies and definition of structures through such bodies as ministries of finance and trade, national economic commissions, economic research institutes and other key agencies, as well as through their participation in appropriate international bodies;

(e) Undertake legislation and administrative reforms to give women equal rights with men to economic resources, including access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, credit, inheritance, natural resources and appropriate new technology;

(f) Conduct reviews of national income and inheritance tax and social security systems to eliminate any existing bias against women;

(g) Seek to develop a more comprehensive knowledge of work and employment through, inter alia, efforts to measure and better understand the type, extent and distribution of unremunerated work, particularly work in caring for dependants and unremunerated work done for family farms or businesses, and encourage the sharing and dissemination of information on studies and experience in this field, including the development of methods for assessing its value in quantitative terms, for possible reflection in accounts that may be produced separately from, but consistent with, core national accounts;

(h) Review and amend laws governing the operation of financial institutions to ensure that they provide services to women and men on an equal basis;

(i) Facilitate, at appropriate levels, more open and transparent budget processes;

(j) Revise and implement national policies that support the traditional savings, credit and lending mechanisms for women;

(k) Seek to ensure that national policies related to international and regional trade agreements do not have an adverse impact on women's new and traditional economic activities;

(l) Ensure that all corporations, including transnational corporations, comply with national laws and codes, social security regulations, applicable international agreements, instruments and conventions, including those related to the environment, and other relevant laws;

(m) Adjust employment policies to facilitate the restructuring of work patterns in order to promote the sharing of family responsibilities;

(n) Establish mechanisms and other forums to enable women entrepreneurs and women workers to contribute to the formulation of policies and

programmes being developed by economic ministries and financial institutions;

(o) Enact and enforce equal opportunity laws, take positive action and ensure compliance by the public and private sectors through various means;

(p) Use gender-impact analyses in the development of macro and micro-economic and social policies in order to monitor such impact and restructure policies in cases where harmful impact occurs;

(q) Promote gender-sensitive policies and measures to empower women as equal partners with men in technical, managerial and entrepreneurial fields;

(r) Reform laws or enact national policies that support the establishment of labour laws to ensure the protection of all women workers, including safe work practices, the right to organize and access to justice.

Strategic objective F.2. Facilitate women's equal access to resources, employment, markets and trade

Actions to be taken

166. By Governments:

(a) Promote and support women's self-employment and the development of small enterprises, and strengthen women's access to credit and capital on appropriate terms equal to those of men through the scaling-up of institutions dedicated to promoting women's entrepreneurship, including, as appropriate, non-traditional and mutual credit schemes, as well as innovative linkages with financial institutions;

(b) Strengthen the incentive role of the State as employer to develop a policy of equal opportunities for women and men;

(c) Enhance, at the national and local levels, rural women's income-generating potential by facilitating their equal access to and control over productive resources, land, credit, capital, property rights, development programmes and cooperative structures;

(d) Promote and strengthen micro-enterprises, new small businesses, cooperative enterprises, expanded markets and other employment opportunities and, where appropriate, facilitate the transition from the informal to the formal sector, especially in rural areas;

(e) Create and modify programmes and policies that recognize and strengthen women's vital role in food security and provide paid and unpaid women producers, especially those involved in food production, such as farming, fishing and aquaculture, as well as urban enterprises, with equal access to appropriate technologies, transportation, extension services, marketing and credit facilities at the local and community levels;

(f) Establish appropriate mechanisms and encourage intersectoral institutions that enable women's cooperatives to optimize access to necessary services;

(g) Increase the proportion of women extension workers and other government personnel who provide technical assistance or administer economic programmes;

(h) Review, reformulate, if necessary, and implement policies, including business, commercial and contract law and government regulations, to ensure that they do not discriminate against micro, small and medium-scale enterprises owned by women in rural and urban areas;

(i) Analyse, advise on, coordinate and implement policies that integrate the needs and interests of employed, self-employed and entrepreneurial women into sectoral and inter-ministerial policies, programmes and budgets;

(j) Ensure equal access for women to effective job training, retraining, counselling and placement services that are not limited to traditional employment areas;

(k) Remove policy and regulatory obstacles faced by women in social and development programmes that discourage private and individual initiative;

(l) Safeguard and promote respect for basic workers' rights, including the prohibition of forced labour and child labour, freedom of association and the right to organize and bargain collectively, equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal value and non-discrimination in employment, fully implementing the conventions of the International Labour Organization in the case of States Parties to those conventions and, taking into account the principles embodied in the case of those countries that are not parties to those conventions in order to achieve truly sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

167. By Governments, central banks and national development banks, and private banking institutions, as appropriate:

(a) Increase the participation of women, including women entrepreneurs, in advisory boards and other forums to enable women entrepreneurs from all sectors and their organizations to contribute to the formulation and review of policies and programmes being developed by economic ministries and banking institutions;

(b) Mobilize the banking sector to increase lending and refinancing through incentives and the development of intermediaries that serve the needs of women entrepreneurs and producers in both rural and urban areas, and include women in their leadership, planning and decision-making;

(c) Structure services to reach rural and urban women involved in micro, small and medium-scale enterprises, with special attention to young women, low-income women, those belonging to ethnic and racial minorities, and indigenous women who lack access to capital and assets; and expand women's access to financial markets by identifying and encouraging financial supervisory and regulatory reforms that

support financial institutions' direct and indirect efforts to better meet the credit and other financial needs of the micro, small and medium-scale enterprises of women;

(d) Ensure that women's priorities are included in public investment programmes for economic infrastructure, such as water and sanitation, electrification and energy conservation, transport and road construction; promote greater involvement of women beneficiaries at the project planning and implementation stages to ensure access to jobs and contracts.

168. By Governments and non-governmental organizations:

(a) Pay special attention to women's needs when disseminating market, trade and resource information and provide appropriate training in these fields;

(b) Encourage community economic development strategies that build on partnerships among Governments, and encourage members of civil society to create jobs and address the social circumstances of individuals, families and communities.

169. By multilateral funders and regional development banks, as well as bilateral and private funding agencies, at the international, regional and subregional levels:

(a) Review, where necessary reformulate, and implement policies, programmes and projects, to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reach women in rural and remote areas;

(b) Develop flexible funding arrangements to finance intermediary institutions that target women's economic activities, and promote self-sufficiency and increased capacity in and profitability of women's economic enterprises;

(c) Develop strategies to consolidate and strengthen their assistance to the micro, small and medium-scale enterprise sector, in order to enhance the opportunities for women to participate fully and equally and work together to coordinate and enhance the effectiveness of this sector, drawing upon expertise and financial resources from within their own organizations as well as from bilateral agencies, Governments and non-governmental organizations.

170. By international, multilateral and bilateral development cooperation organizations:

Support, through the provision of capital and/or resources, financial institutions that serve low-income, small and micro-scale women entrepreneurs and producers in both the formal and informal sectors.

171. By Governments and/or multilateral financial institutions:

Review rules and procedures of formal national and international financial institutions that obstruct replication of the Grameen Bank prototype, which provides credit facilities to rural women.

172. By international organizations:

Provide adequate support for programmes and projects designed to promote sustainable and productive entrepreneurial activities among women, in particular the disadvantaged.

Strategic objective F.3. Provide business services, training and access to markets, information and technology, particularly to low-income women

Actions to be taken

173. By Governments in cooperation with non-governmental organizations and the private sector:

(a) Provide public infrastructure to ensure equal market access for women and men entrepreneurs;

(b) Develop programmes that provide training and retraining, particularly in new technologies, and affordable services to women in business management, product development, financing, production and quality control, marketing and the legal aspects of business;

(c) Provide outreach programmes to inform low-income and poor women, particularly in rural and remote areas, of opportunities for market and technology access, and provide assistance in taking advantage of such opportunities;

(d) Create non-discriminatory support services, including investment funds for women's businesses, and target women, particularly low-income women, in trade promotion programmes;

(e) Disseminate information about successful women entrepreneurs in both traditional and non-traditional economic activities and the skills necessary to achieve success, and facilitate networking and the exchange of information;

(f) Take measures to ensure equal access of women to ongoing training in the workplace, including unemployed women, single parents, women re-entering the labour market after an extended temporary exit from employment owing to family responsibilities and other causes, and women displaced by new forms of production or by retrenchment, and increase incentives to enterprises to expand the number of vocational and training centres that provide training for women in non-traditional areas;

(g) Provide affordable support services, such as high-quality, flexible and affordable child-care services, that take into account the needs of working men and women.

174. By local, national, regional and international business organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned with women's issues:

Advocate, at all levels, for the promotion and support of women's businesses and enterprises, including those in the informal sector, and the equal access of women to productive resources.

Strategic objective F.4. Strengthen women's economic capacity and commercial networks

Actions to be taken

175. By Governments:

(a) Adopt policies that support business organizations, non-governmental organizations, cooperatives, revolving loan funds, credit unions, grass-roots organizations, women's self-help groups and other groups in order to provide services to women entrepreneurs in rural and urban areas;

(b) Integrate a gender perspective into all economic restructuring and structural adjustment policies and design programmes for women who are affected by economic restructuring, including structural adjustment programmes, and for women who work in the informal sector;

(c) Adopt policies that create an enabling environment for women's self-help groups, workers' organizations and cooperatives through non-conventional forms of support and by recognizing the right to freedom of association and the right to organize;

(d) Support programmes that enhance the self-reliance of special groups of women, such as young women, women with disabilities, elderly women and women belonging to racial and ethnic minorities;

(e) Promote gender equality through the promotion of women's studies and through the use of the results of studies and gender research in all fields, including the economic, scientific and technological fields;

(f) Support the economic activities of indigenous women, taking into account their traditional knowledge, so as to improve their situation and development;

(g) Adopt policies to extend or maintain the protection of labour laws and social security provisions for those who do paid work in the home;

(h) Recognize and encourage the contribution of research by women scientists and technologists;

(i) Ensure that policies and regulations do not discriminate against micro, small and medium-scale enterprises run by women.

176. By financial intermediaries, national training institutes, credit unions, non-governmental organizations, women's associations, professional organizations and the private sector, as appropriate:

(a) Provide, at the national, regional and international levels, training in a variety of business-related and financial management and technical skills to enable women, especially young women, to participate in economic policy-making at those levels;

(b) Provide business services, including marketing and trade information, product design and innovation, technology transfer and quality, to women's business enterprises, including those in export sectors of the economy;

(c) Promote technical and commercial links and establish joint ventures among women entrepreneurs at the national, regional and international levels to support community-based initiatives;

(d) Strengthen the participation of women, including marginalized women, in production and marketing cooperatives by providing marketing and financial support, especially in rural and remote areas;

(e) Promote and strengthen women's micro-enterprises, new small businesses, cooperative enterprises, expanded markets and other employment opportunities and, where appropriate, facilitate the transition from the informal to the formal sector, in rural and urban areas;

(f) Invest capital and develop investment portfolios to finance women's business enterprises;

(g) Give adequate attention to providing technical assistance, advisory services, training and retraining for women connected with the entry to the market economy;

(h) Support credit networks and innovative ventures, including traditional savings schemes;

(i) Provide networking arrangements for entrepreneurial women, including opportunities for the mentoring of inexperienced women by the more experienced;

(j) Encourage community organizations and public authorities to establish loan pools for women entrepreneurs, drawing on successful small-scale cooperative models.

177. By the private sector, including transnational and national corporations:

(a) Adopt policies and establish mechanisms to grant contracts on a non-discriminatory basis;

(b) Recruit women for leadership, decision-making and management and provide training programmes, all on an equal basis with men;

(c) Observe national labour, environment, consumer, health and safety laws, particularly those that affect women.

Strategic objective F.5. Eliminate occupational segregation and all forms of employment discrimination

Actions to be taken

178. By Governments, employers, employees, trade unions and women's organizations:

(a) Implement and enforce laws and regulations and encourage voluntary codes of conduct that ensure that international labour standards, such as International Labour Organization Convention No. 100 on equal pay and workers' rights, apply equally to female and male workers;

(b) Enact and enforce laws and introduce implementing measures, including means of redress and access to justice in cases of non-compliance, to prohibit direct and indirect discrimination on grounds of sex, including by reference to marital or family status, in relation to access to employment, conditions of employment, including training, promotion, health and safety, as well as termination of employment and social security of workers, including legal protection against sexual and racial harassment;

(c) Enact and enforce laws and develop workplace policies against gender discrimination in the labour market, especially considering older women workers, in hiring and promotion, and in the extension of employment benefits and social security, as well as regarding discriminatory working conditions and sexual harassment; mechanisms should be developed for the regular review and monitoring of such laws;

(d) Eliminate discriminatory practices by employers on the basis of women's reproductive roles and functions, including refusal of employment and dismissal of women due to pregnancy and breast-feeding responsibilities;

(e) Develop and promote employment programmes and services for women entering and/or re-entering the labour market, especially poor urban, rural and young women, the self-employed and those negatively affected by structural adjustment;

(f) Implement and monitor positive public- and private-sector employment, equity and positive action programmes to address systemic discrimination against women in the labour force, in particular women with disabilities and women belonging to other disadvantaged groups, with respect to hiring, retention and promotion, and vocational training of women in all sectors;

(g) Eliminate occupational segregation, especially by promoting the equal participation of women in highly skilled jobs and senior management positions, and through other measures, such as counselling and placement, that stimulate their on-the-job career development and upward mobility in the labour market, and by stimulating the diversification of occupational choices by both women and men; encourage women to take up non-traditional jobs, especially in science and technology, and encourage men to seek employment in the social sector;

(h) Recognize collective bargaining as a right and as an important mechanism for eliminating wage inequality for women and to improve working conditions;

(i) Promote the election of women trade union officials and ensure that trade union officials elected to represent women are given job protection and physical security in connection with the discharge of their functions;

(j) Ensure access to and develop special programmes to enable women with disabilities to obtain and retain employment, and ensure access to education and training at all proper levels, in accordance with the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities; 30/ adjust working conditions, to the extent possible, in order to suit the needs of women with disabilities, who should be assured legal protection against unfounded job loss on account of their disabilities;

(k) Increase efforts to close the gap between women's and men's pay, take steps to implement the principle of equal remuneration for equal work of equal value by strengthening legislation, including compliance with international labour laws and standards, and encourage job evaluation schemes with gender-neutral criteria;

(l) Establish and/or strengthen mechanisms to adjudicate matters relating to wage discrimination;

(m) Set specific target dates for eliminating all forms of child labour that are contrary to accepted international standards and ensure the full enforcement of relevant existing laws and, where appropriate, enact the legislation necessary to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child and International Labour Organization standards, ensuring the protection of working children, in particular, street children, through the provision of appropriate health, education and other social services;

(n) Ensure that strategies to eliminate child labour also address the excessive demands made on some girls for unpaid work in their household and other households, where applicable;

(o) Review, analyse and, where appropriate, reformulate the wage structures in female-dominated professions, such as teaching, nursing and child care, with a view to raising their low status and earnings;

(p) Facilitate the productive employment of documented migrant women (including women who have been determined refugees according to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees) through greater recognition of foreign education and credentials and by adopting an integrated approach to labour market training that incorporates language training.

Strategic objective F.6. Promote harmonization of work and family responsibilities for women and men

Actions to be taken

179. By Governments:

(a) Adopt policies to ensure the appropriate protection of labour laws and social security benefits for part-time, temporary, seasonal and home-based workers; promote career development based on work conditions that harmonize work and family responsibilities;

(b) Ensure that full and part-time work can be freely chosen by women and men on an equal basis, and consider appropriate protection for atypical workers in terms of access to employment, working conditions and social security;

(c) Ensure, through legislation, incentives and/or encouragement, opportunities for women and men to take job-protected parental leave and to have parental benefits; promote the equal sharing of responsibilities for the family by men and women, including through appropriate legislation, incentives and/or encouragement, and also promote the facilitation of breast-feeding for working mothers;

(d) Develop policies, inter alia, in education to change attitudes that reinforce the division of labour based on gender in order to promote the concept of shared family responsibility for work in the home, particularly in relation to children and elder care;

(e) Improve the development of, and access to, technologies that facilitate occupational as well as domestic work, encourage self-support, generate income, transform gender-prescribed roles within the productive process and enable women to move out of low-paying jobs;

(f) Examine a range of policies and programmes, including social security legislation and taxation systems, in accordance with national priorities and policies, to determine how to promote gender equality and flexibility in the way people divide their time between and derive benefits from education and training, paid employment, family responsibilities, volunteer activity and other socially useful forms of work, rest and leisure.

180. By Governments, the private sector and non-governmental organizations, trade unions and the United Nations, as appropriate:

(a) Adopt appropriate measures involving relevant governmental bodies and employers' and employees' associations so that women and men are able to take temporary leave from employment, have transferable employment and retirement benefits and make arrangements to modify work hours without sacrificing their prospects for development and advancement at work and in their careers;

(b) Design and provide educational programmes through innovative media campaigns and school and community education programmes to raise awareness on gender equality and non-stereotyped gender roles of women and men within the family; provide support services and facilities,

such as on-site child care at workplaces and flexible working arrangements;

(c) Enact and enforce laws against sexual and other forms of harassment in all workplaces.

G. Women in power and decision-making

181. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone has the right to take part in the Government of his/her country. The empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of women's social, economic and political status is essential for the achievement of both transparent and accountable government and administration and sustainable development in all areas of life. The power relations that prevent women from leading fulfilling lives operate at many levels of society, from the most personal to the highly public. Achieving the goal of equal participation of women and men in decision-making will provide a balance that more accurately reflects the composition of society and is needed in order to strengthen democracy and promote its proper functioning. Equality in political decision-making performs a leverage function without which it is highly unlikely that a real integration of the equality dimension in government policy-making is feasible. In this respect, women's equal participation in political life plays a pivotal role in the general process of the advancement of women. Women's equal participation in decision-making is not only a demand for simple justice or democracy but can also be seen as a necessary condition for women's interests to be taken into account. Without the active participation of women and the incorporation of women's perspective at all levels of decision-making, the goals of equality, development and peace cannot be achieved.

182. Despite the widespread movement towards democratization in most countries, women are largely underrepresented at most levels of government, especially in ministerial and other executive bodies, and have made little progress in attaining political power in legislative bodies or in achieving the target endorsed by the Economic and Social Council of having 30 per cent women in positions at decision-making levels by 1995. Globally, only 10 per cent of the members of legislative bodies and a lower percentage of ministerial positions are now held by women. Indeed, some countries, including those that are undergoing fundamental political, economic and social changes, have seen a significant decrease in the number of women represented in legislative bodies. Although women make up at least half of the electorate in almost all countries and have attained the right to vote and hold office in almost all States Members of the United Nations, women continue to be seriously underrepresented as candidates for public office. The traditional working patterns of many political parties and government structures continue to be barriers to women's participation in public life. Women may be discouraged from seeking political office by discriminatory attitudes and practices, family and child-care responsibilities, and the high cost of seeking and holding public office. Women in politics and decision-making positions in Governments and legislative bodies contribute to redefining political priorities, placing new items on the political agenda that reflect and address women's gender-specific concerns, values and experiences, and providing new perspectives on mainstream political issues.

183. Women have demonstrated considerable leadership in community and informal organizations, as well as in public office. However, socialization and negative stereotyping of women and men, including stereotyping through the media, reinforces the tendency for political decision-making to remain the domain of

men. Likewise, the underrepresentation of women in decision-making positions in the areas of art, culture, sports, the media, education, religion and the law have prevented women from having a significant impact on many key institutions.

184. Owing to their limited access to the traditional avenues to power, such as the decision-making bodies of political parties, employer organizations and trade unions, women have gained access to power through alternative structures, particularly in the non-governmental organization sector. Through non-governmental organizations and grass-roots organizations, women have been able to articulate their interests and concerns and have placed women's issues on the national, regional and international agendas.

185. Inequality in the public arena can often start with discriminatory attitudes and practices and unequal power relations between women and men within the family, as defined in paragraph 29 above. The unequal division of labour and responsibilities within households based on unequal power relations also limits women's potential to find the time and develop the skills required for participation in decision-making in wider public forums. A more equal sharing of those responsibilities between women and men not only provides a better quality of life for women and their daughters but also enhances their opportunities to shape and design public policy, practice and expenditure so that their interests may be recognized and addressed. Non-formal networks and patterns of decision-making at the local community level that reflect a dominant male ethos restrict women's ability to participate equally in political, economic and social life.

186. The low proportion of women among economic and political decision makers at the local, national, regional and international levels reflects structural and attitudinal barriers that need to be addressed through positive measures. Governments, transnational and national corporations, the mass media, banks, academic and scientific institutions, and regional and international organizations, including those in the United Nations system, do not make full use of women's talents as top-level managers, policy makers, diplomats and negotiators.

187. The equitable distribution of power and decision-making at all levels is dependent on Governments and other actors undertaking statistical gender analysis and mainstreaming a gender perspective in policy development and the implementation of programmes. Equality in decision-making is essential to the empowerment of women. In some countries, affirmative action has led to 33.3 per cent or larger representation in local and national Governments.

188. National, regional and international statistical institutions still have insufficient knowledge of how to present the issues related to the equal treatment of women and men in the economic and social spheres. In particular, there is insufficient use of existing databases and methodologies in the important sphere of decision-making.

189. In addressing the inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels, Governments and other actors should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes so that before decisions are taken, an analysis is made of the effects on women and men, respectively.

Strategic objective G.1. Take measures to ensure women's equal access to and full participation in power structures and decision-making

Actions to be taken

190. By Governments:

(a) Commit themselves to establishing the goal of gender balance in governmental bodies and committees, as well as in public administrative entities, and in the judiciary, including, inter alia, setting specific targets and implementing measures to substantially increase the number of women with a view to achieving equal representation of women and men, if necessary through positive action, in all governmental and public administration positions;

(b) Take measures, including, where appropriate, in electoral systems that encourage political parties to integrate women in elective and non-elective public positions in the same proportion and at the same levels as men;

(c) Protect and promote the equal rights of women and men to engage in political activities and to freedom of association, including membership in political parties and trade unions;

(d) Review the differential impact of electoral systems on the political representation of women in elected bodies and consider, where appropriate, the adjustment or reform of those systems;

(e) Monitor and evaluate progress in the representation of women through the regular collection, analysis and dissemination of quantitative and qualitative data on women and men at all levels in various decision-making positions in the public and private sectors, and disseminate data on the number of women and men employed at various levels in Governments on a yearly basis; ensure that women and men have equal access to the full range of public appointments and set up mechanisms within governmental structures for monitoring progress in this field;

(f) Support non-governmental organizations and research institutes that conduct studies on women's participation in and impact on decision-making and the decision-making environment;

(g) Encourage greater involvement of indigenous women in decision-making at all levels;

(h) Encourage and, where appropriate, ensure that government-funded organizations adopt non-discriminatory policies and practices in order to increase the number and raise the position of women in their organizations;

(i) Recognize that shared work and parental responsibilities between women and men promote women's increased participation in public life, and take appropriate measures to achieve this, including measures to reconcile family and professional life;

(j) Aim at gender balance in the lists of national candidates nominated for election or appointment to United Nations bodies, specialized

agencies and other autonomous organizations of the United Nations system, particularly for posts at the senior level.

191. By political parties:

(a) Consider examining party structures and procedures to remove all barriers that directly or indirectly discriminate against the participation of women;

(b) Consider developing initiatives that allow women to participate fully in all internal policy-making structures and appointive and electoral nominating processes;

(c) Consider incorporating gender issues in their political agenda, taking measures to ensure that women can participate in the leadership of political parties on an equal basis with men.

192. By Governments, national bodies, the private sector, political parties, trade unions, employers' organizations, research and academic institutions, subregional and regional bodies and non-governmental and international organizations:

(a) Take positive action to build a critical mass of women leaders, executives and managers in strategic decision-making positions;

(b) Create or strengthen, as appropriate, mechanisms to monitor women's access to senior levels of decision-making;

(c) Review the criteria for recruitment and appointment to advisory and decision-making bodies and promotion to senior positions to ensure that such criteria are relevant and do not discriminate against women;

(d) Encourage efforts by non-governmental organizations, trade unions and the private sector to achieve equality between women and men in their ranks, including equal participation in their decision-making bodies and in negotiations in all areas and at all levels;

(e) Develop communications strategies to promote public debate on the new roles of men and women in society, and in the family as defined in paragraph 29 above;

(f) Restructure recruitment and career-development programmes to ensure that all women, especially young women, have equal access to managerial, entrepreneurial, technical and leadership training, including on-the-job training;

(g) Develop career advancement programmes for women of all ages that include career planning, tracking, mentoring, coaching, training and retraining;

(h) Encourage and support the participation of women's non-governmental organizations in United Nations conferences and their preparatory processes;

(i) Aim at and support gender balance in the composition of delegations to the United Nations and other international forums.

193. By the United Nations:

(a) Implement existing and adopt new employment policies and measures in order to achieve overall gender equality, particularly at the Professional level and above, by the year 2000, with due regard to the importance of recruiting staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations;

(b) Develop mechanisms to nominate women candidates for appointment to senior posts in the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system;

(c) Continue to collect and disseminate quantitative and qualitative data on women and men in decision-making and analyse their differential impact on decision-making and monitor progress towards achieving the Secretary-General's target of having women hold 50 per cent of managerial and decision-making positions by the year 2000.

194. By women's organizations, non-governmental organizations, trade unions, social partners, producers, and industrial and professional organizations:

(a) Build and strengthen solidarity among women through information, education and sensitization activities;

(b) Advocate at all levels to enable women to influence political, economic and social decisions, processes and systems, and work towards seeking accountability from elected representatives on their commitment to gender concerns;

(c) Establish, consistent with data protection legislation, databases on women and their qualification for use in appointing women to senior decision-making and advisory positions, for dissemination to Governments, regional and international organizations and private enterprise, political parties and other relevant bodies.

Strategic objective G.2. Increase women's capacity to participate in decision-making and leadership

Actions to be taken

195. By Governments, national bodies, the private sector, political parties, trade unions, employers' organizations, subregional and regional bodies, non-governmental and international organizations and educational institutions:

(a) Provide leadership and self-esteem training to assist women and girls, particularly those with special needs, women with disabilities and women belonging to racial and ethnic minorities to strengthen their self-esteem and to encourage them to take decision-making positions;

(b) Have transparent criteria for decision-making positions and ensure that the selecting bodies have a gender-balanced composition;

(c) Create a system of mentoring for inexperienced women and, in particular, offer training, including training in leadership and

decision-making, public speaking and self-assertion, as well as in political campaigning;

(d) Provide gender-sensitive training for women and men to promote non-discriminatory working relationships and respect for diversity in work and management styles;

(e) Develop mechanisms and training to encourage women to participate in the electoral process, political activities and other leadership areas.

H. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women

196. National machineries for the advancement of women have been established in almost every Member State to, inter alia, design, promote the implementation of, execute, monitor, evaluate, advocate and mobilize support for policies that promote the advancement of women. National machineries are diverse in form and uneven in their effectiveness, and in some cases have declined. Often marginalized in national government structures, these mechanisms are frequently hampered by unclear mandates, lack of adequate staff, training, data and sufficient resources, and insufficient support from national political leadership.

197. At the regional and international levels, mechanisms and institutions to promote the advancement of women as an integral part of mainstream political, economic, social and cultural development, and of initiatives on development and human rights, encounter similar problems emanating from a lack of commitment at the highest levels.

198. Successive international conferences have underscored the need to take gender factors into account in policy and programme planning. However, in many instances this has not been done.

199. Regional bodies concerned with the advancement of women have been strengthened, together with international machinery, such as the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. However, the limited resources available continue to impede full implementation of their mandates.

200. Methodologies for conducting gender-based analysis in policies and programmes and for dealing with the differential effects of policies on women and men have been developed in many organizations and are available for application but are often not being applied or are not being applied consistently.

201. A national machinery for the advancement of women is the central policy-coordinating unit inside government. Its main task is to support government-wide mainstreaming of a gender-equality perspective in all policy areas. The necessary conditions for an effective functioning of such national machineries include:

(a) Location at the highest possible level in the Government, falling under the responsibility of a Cabinet minister;

(b) Institutional mechanisms or processes that facilitate, as appropriate, decentralized planning, implementation and monitoring with a view to

involving non-governmental organizations and community organizations from the grass-roots upwards;

(c) Sufficient resources in terms of budget and professional capacity;

(d) Opportunity to influence development of all government policies.

202. In addressing the issue of mechanisms for promoting the advancement of women, Governments and other actors should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes so that, before decisions are taken, an analysis is made of the effects on women and men, respectively.

Strategic objective H.1. Create or strengthen national machineries and other governmental bodies

Actions to be taken

203. By Governments:

(a) Ensure that responsibility for the advancement of women is vested in the highest possible level of government; in many cases, this could be at the level of a Cabinet minister;

(b) Based on a strong political commitment, create a national machinery, where it does not exist, and strengthen, as appropriate, existing national machineries, for the advancement of women at the highest possible level of government; it should have clearly defined mandates and authority; critical elements would be adequate resources and the ability and competence to influence policy and formulate and review legislation; among other things, it should perform policy analysis, undertake advocacy, communication, coordination and monitoring of implementation;

(c) Provide staff training in designing and analysing data from a gender perspective;

(d) Establish procedures to allow the machinery to gather information on government-wide policy issues at an early stage and continuously use it in the policy development and review process within the Government;

(e) Report, on a regular basis, to legislative bodies on the progress of efforts, as appropriate, to mainstream gender concerns, taking into account the implementation of the Platform for Action;

(f) Encourage and promote the active involvement of the broad and diverse range of institutional actors in the public, private and voluntary sectors to work for equality between women and men.

Strategic objective H.2. Integrate gender perspectives in legislation, public policies, programmes and projects

Actions to be taken

204. By Governments:

(a) Seek to ensure that before policy decisions are taken, an analysis of their impact on women and men, respectively, is carried out;

(b) Regularly review national policies, programmes and projects, as well as their implementation, evaluating the impact of employment and income policies in order to guarantee that women are direct beneficiaries of development and that their full contribution to development, both remunerated and unremunerated, is considered in economic policy and planning;

(c) Promote national strategies and aims on equality between women and men in order to eliminate obstacles to the exercise of women's rights and eradicate all forms of discrimination against women;

(d) Work with members of legislative bodies, as appropriate, to promote a gender perspective in all legislation and policies;

(e) Give all ministries the mandate to review policies and programmes from a gender perspective and in the light of the Platform for Action; locate the responsibility for the implementation of that mandate at the highest possible level; establish and/or strengthen an inter-ministerial coordination structure to carry out this mandate, to monitor progress and to network with relevant machineries.

205. By national machinery:

(a) Facilitate the formulation and implementation of government policies on equality between women and men, develop appropriate strategies and methodologies, and promote coordination and cooperation within the central Government in order to ensure mainstreaming of a gender perspective in all policy-making processes;

(b) Promote and establish cooperative relationships with relevant branches of government, centres for women's studies and research, academic and educational institutions, the private sector, the media, non-governmental organizations, especially women's organizations, and all other actors of civil society;

(c) Undertake activities focusing on legal reform with regard, inter alia, to the family, conditions of employment, social security, income tax, equal opportunity in education, positive measures to promote the advancement of women, and the perception of attitudes and a culture favourable to equality, as well as promote a gender perspective in legal policy and programming reforms;

(d) Promote the increased participation of women as both active agents and beneficiaries of the development process, which would result in an improvement in the quality of life for all;

(e) Establish direct links with national, regional and international bodies dealing with the advancement of women;

(f) Provide training and advisory assistance to government agencies in order to integrate a gender perspective in their policies and programmes.

Strategic objective H.3. Generate and disseminate gender-disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation

Actions to be taken

206. By national, regional and international statistical services and relevant governmental and United Nations agencies, in cooperation with research and documentation organizations, in their respective areas of responsibility:

(a) Ensure that statistics related to individuals are collected, compiled, analysed and presented by sex and age and reflect problems, issues and questions related to women and men in society;

(b) Collect, compile, analyse and present on a regular basis data disaggregated by age, sex, socio-economic and other relevant indicators, including number of dependants, for utilization in policy and programme planning and implementation;

(c) Involve centres for women's studies and research organizations in developing and testing appropriate indicators and research methodologies to strengthen gender analysis, as well as in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the goals of the Platform for Action;

(d) Designate or appoint staff to strengthen gender-statistics programmes and ensure coordination, monitoring and linkage to all fields of statistical work, and prepare output that integrates statistics from the various subject areas;

(e) Improve data collection on the full contribution of women and men to the economy, including their participation in the informal sector(s);

(f) Develop a more comprehensive knowledge of all forms of work and employment by:

(i) Improving data collection on the unremunerated work which is already included in the United Nations System of National Accounts, such as in agriculture, particularly subsistence agriculture, and other types of non-market production activities;

(ii) Improving measurements that at present underestimate women's unemployment and underemployment in the labour market;

(iii) Developing methods, in the appropriate forums, for assessing the value, in quantitative terms, of unremunerated work that is outside national accounts, such as caring for dependants and preparing food, for possible reflection in satellite or other official accounts that may be produced separately from but are

consistent with core national accounts, with a view to recognizing the economic contribution of women and making visible the unequal distribution of remunerated and unremunerated work between women and men;

(g) Develop an international classification of activities for time-use statistics that is sensitive to the differences between women and men in remunerated and unremunerated work, and collect data disaggregated by sex. At the national level, subject to national constraints:

(i) Conduct regular time-use studies to measure, in quantitative terms, unremunerated work, including recording those activities that are performed simultaneously with remunerated or other unremunerated activities;

(ii) Measure, in quantitative terms, unremunerated work that is outside national accounts and work to improve methods to assess and accurately reflect its value in satellite or other official accounts that are separate from but consistent with core national accounts;

(h) Improve concepts and methods of data collection on the measurement of poverty among women and men, including their access to resources;

(i) Strengthen vital statistical systems and incorporate gender analysis into publications and research; give priority to gender differences in research design and in data collection and analysis in order to improve data on morbidity; and improve data collection on access to health services, including access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, maternal care and family planning, with special priority for adolescent mothers and for elder care;

(j) Develop improved gender-disaggregated and age-specific data on the victims and perpetrators of all forms of violence against women, such as domestic violence, sexual harassment, rape, incest and sexual abuse, and trafficking in women and girls, as well as on violence by agents of the State;

(k) Improve concepts and methods of data collection on the participation of women and men with disabilities, including their access to resources.

207. By Governments:

(a) Ensure the regular production of a statistical publication on gender that presents and interprets topical data on women and men in a form suitable for a wide range of non-technical users;

(b) Ensure that producers and users of statistics in each country regularly review the adequacy of the official statistical system and its coverage of gender issues, and prepare a plan for needed improvements, where necessary;

(c) Develop and encourage the development of quantitative and qualitative studies by research organizations, trade unions, employers, the private sector and non-governmental organizations on the sharing of power and influence in society, including the number of women and men

in senior decision-making positions in both the public and private sectors;

(d) Use more gender-sensitive data in the formulation of policy and implementation of programmes and projects.

208. By the United Nations:

(a) Promote the development of methods to find better ways to collect, collate and analyse data that may relate to the human rights of women, including violence against women, for use by all relevant United Nations bodies;

(b) Promote the further development of statistical methods to improve data that relate to women in economic, social, cultural and political development;

(c) Prepare a new issue of The World's Women at regular five-year intervals and distribute it widely;

(d) Assist countries, upon request, in the development of gender policies and programmes;

(e) Ensure that the relevant reports, data and publications of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on progress at the national and international levels are transmitted to the Commission on the Status of Women in a regular and coordinated fashion.

209. By multilateral development institutions and bilateral donors:

Encourage and support the development of national capacity in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition by providing resources and technical assistance so that countries can fully measure the work done by women and men, including both remunerated and unremunerated work, and, where appropriate, use satellite or other official accounts for unremunerated work.

I. Human rights of women

210. Human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings; their protection and promotion is the first responsibility of Governments.

211. The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirmed the solemn commitment of all States to fulfil their obligation to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, other instruments relating to human rights, and international law. The universal nature of these rights and freedoms is beyond question.

212. The promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms must be considered as a priority objective of the United Nations, in accordance with its purposes and principles, in particular with the purpose of international cooperation. In the framework of these purposes and principles,

the promotion and protection of all human rights is a legitimate concern of the international community. The international community must treat human rights globally, in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, and with the same emphasis. The Platform for Action reaffirms the importance of ensuring the universality, objectivity and non-selectivity of the consideration of human rights issues.

213. The Platform for Action reaffirms that all human rights - civil, cultural, economic, political and social, including the right to development - are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, as expressed in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights. The Conference reaffirmed that the human rights of women and the girl child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights. The full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls is a priority for Governments and the United Nations and is essential for the advancement of women.

214. Equal rights of men and women are explicitly mentioned in the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations. All the major international human rights instruments include sex as one of the grounds upon which States may not discriminate.

215. Governments must not only refrain from violating the human rights of all women, but must work actively to promote and protect these rights. Recognition of the importance of the human rights of women is reflected in the fact that three quarters of the States Members of the United Nations have become parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

216. The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirmed clearly that the human rights of women throughout the life cycle are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights. The International Conference on Population and Development reaffirmed women's reproductive rights and the right to development. Both the Declaration of the Rights of the Child 31/ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child 11/ guarantee children's rights and uphold the principle of non-discrimination on the grounds of gender.

217. The gap between the existence of rights and their effective enjoyment derives from a lack of commitment by Governments to promoting and protecting those rights and the failure of Governments to inform women and men alike about them. The lack of appropriate recourse mechanisms at the national and international levels, and inadequate resources at both levels, compound the problem. In most countries, steps have been taken to reflect the rights guaranteed by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in national law. A number of countries have established mechanisms to strengthen women's ability to exercise their rights.

218. In order to protect the human rights of women, it is necessary to avoid, as far as possible, resorting to reservations and to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention or is otherwise incompatible with international treaty law. Unless the human rights of women, as defined by international human rights instruments, are fully recognized and effectively protected, applied, implemented and enforced in national law as well as in national practice in family, civil, penal, labour and commercial codes and administrative rules and regulations, they will exist in name only.

219. In those countries that have not yet become parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other international human rights instruments, or where reservations that are incompatible with the object or purpose of the Convention have been entered, or where national laws have not yet been revised to implement international norms and standards, women's de jure equality is not yet secured. Women's full enjoyment of equal rights is undermined by the discrepancies between some national legislation and international law and international instruments on human rights. Overly complex administrative procedures, lack of awareness within the judicial process and inadequate monitoring of the violation of the human rights of all women, coupled with the underrepresentation of women in justice systems, insufficient information on existing rights and persistent attitudes and practices perpetuate women's de facto inequality. De facto inequality is also perpetuated by the lack of enforcement of, inter alia, family, civil, penal, labour and commercial laws or codes, or administrative rules and regulations intended to ensure women's full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

220. Every person should be entitled to participate in, contribute to and enjoy cultural, economic, political and social development. In many cases women and girls suffer discrimination in the allocation of economic and social resources. This directly violates their economic, social and cultural rights.

221. The human rights of all women and the girl child must form an integral part of United Nations human rights activities. Intensified efforts are needed to integrate the equal status and the human rights of all women and girls into the mainstream of United Nations system-wide activities and to address these issues regularly and systematically throughout relevant bodies and mechanisms. This requires, inter alia, improved cooperation and coordination between the Commission on the Status of Women, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Commission on Human Rights, including its special and thematic rapporteurs, independent experts, working groups and its Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and other human rights treaty bodies, and all relevant entities of the United Nations system, including the specialized agencies. Cooperation is also needed to strengthen, rationalize and streamline the United Nations human rights system and to promote its effectiveness and efficiency, taking into account the need to avoid unnecessary duplication and overlapping of mandates and tasks.

222. If the goal of full realization of human rights for all is to be achieved, international human rights instruments must be applied in such a way as to take more clearly into consideration the systematic and systemic nature of discrimination against women that gender analysis has clearly indicated.

223. Bearing in mind the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development 14/ and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action 2/ adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, the Fourth World Conference on Women reaffirms that reproductive rights rest on the recognition of the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, and the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health. It also includes their right to make decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion and violence, as expressed in human rights documents.

224. Violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Taking into account the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and the work of Special Rapporteurs, gender-based violence, such as battering and other domestic violence, sexual abuse, sexual slavery and exploitation, and international trafficking in women and children, forced prostitution and sexual harassment, as well as violence against women, resulting from cultural prejudice, racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia, pornography, ethnic cleansing, armed conflict, foreign occupation, religious and anti-religious extremism and terrorism are incompatible with the dignity and the worth of the human person and must be combated and eliminated. Any harmful aspect of certain traditional, customary or modern practices that violates the rights of women should be prohibited and eliminated. Governments should take urgent action to combat and eliminate all forms of violence against women in private and public life, whether perpetrated or tolerated by the State or private persons.

225. Many women face additional barriers to the enjoyment of their human rights because of such factors as their race, language, ethnicity, culture, religion, disability or socio-economic class or because they are indigenous people, migrants, including women migrant workers, displaced women or refugees. They may also be disadvantaged and marginalized by a general lack of knowledge and recognition of their human rights as well as by the obstacles they meet in gaining access to information and recourse mechanisms in cases of violation of their rights.

226. The factors that cause the flight of refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women may be different from those affecting men. These women continue to be vulnerable to abuses of their human rights during and after their flight.

227. While women are increasingly using the legal system to exercise their rights, in many countries lack of awareness of the existence of these rights is an obstacle that prevents women from fully enjoying their human rights and attaining equality. Experience in many countries has shown that women can be empowered and motivated to assert their rights, regardless of their level of education or socio-economic status. Legal literacy programmes and media strategies have been effective in helping women to understand the link between their rights and other aspects of their lives and in demonstrating that cost-effective initiatives can be undertaken to help women obtain those rights. Provision of human rights education is essential for promoting an understanding of the human rights of women, including knowledge of recourse mechanisms to redress violations of their rights. It is necessary for all individuals, especially women in vulnerable circumstances, to have full knowledge of their rights and access to legal recourse against violations of their rights.

228. Women engaged in the defence of human rights must be protected. Governments have a duty to guarantee the full enjoyment of all rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by women working peacefully in a personal or organizational capacity for the promotion and protection of human rights. Non-governmental organizations, women's organizations and feminist groups have played a catalytic role in the promotion of the human rights of women through grass-roots activities, networking and advocacy and need encouragement, support and access to information from Governments in order to carry out these activities.

229. In addressing the enjoyment of human rights, Governments and other actors should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes so that, before decisions are taken, an analysis is made of the effects on women and men, respectively.

Strategic objective I.1. Promote and protect the human rights of women, through the full implementation of all human rights instruments, especially the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Actions to be taken

230. By Governments:

(a) Work actively towards ratification of or accession to and implement international and regional human rights treaties;

(b) Ratify and accede to and ensure implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women so that universal ratification of the Convention can be achieved by the year 2000;

(c) Limit the extent of any reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; formulate any such reservations as precisely and as narrowly as possible; ensure that no reservations are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention or otherwise incompatible with international treaty law and regularly review them with a view to withdrawing them; and withdraw reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women or which are otherwise incompatible with international treaty law;

(d) Consider drawing up national action plans identifying steps to improve the promotion and protection of human rights, including the human rights of women, as recommended by the World Conference on Human Rights;

(e) Create or strengthen independent national institutions for the protection and promotion of these rights, including the human rights of women, as recommended by the World Conference on Human Rights;

(f) Develop a comprehensive human rights education programme to raise awareness among women of their human rights and raise awareness among others of the human rights of women;

(g) If they are States parties, implement the Convention by reviewing all national laws, policies, practices and procedures to ensure that they meet the obligations set out in the Convention; all States should undertake a review of all national laws, policies, practices and procedures to ensure that they meet international human rights obligations in this matter;

(h) Include gender aspects in reporting under all other human rights conventions and instruments, including ILO conventions, to ensure analysis and review of the human rights of women;

(i) Report on schedule to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women regarding the implementation of the Convention, following fully the guidelines established by the Committee and involving non-governmental organizations, where appropriate, or taking into account their contributions in the preparation of the report;

(j) Enable the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women fully to discharge its mandate by allowing for adequate meeting time through broad ratification of the revision adopted by the States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on 22 May 1995 relative to article 20, paragraph 1, 32/ and by promoting efficient working methods;

(k) Support the process initiated by the Commission on the Status of Women with a view to elaborating a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women that could enter into force as soon as possible on a right of petition procedure, taking into consideration the Secretary-General's report on the optional protocol, including those views related to its feasibility;

(l) Take urgent measures to achieve universal ratification of or accession to the Convention on the Rights of the Child before the end of 1995 and full implementation of the Convention in order to ensure equal rights for girls and boys; those that have not already done so are urged to become parties in order to realize universal implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the year 2000;

(m) Address the acute problems of children, inter alia, by supporting efforts in the context of the United Nations system aimed at adopting efficient international measures for the prevention and eradication of female infanticide, harmful child labour, the sale of children and their organs, child prostitution, child pornography and other forms of sexual abuse and consider contributing to the drafting of an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

(n) Strengthen the implementation of all relevant human rights instruments in order to combat and eliminate, including through international cooperation, organized and other forms of trafficking in women and children, including trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, pornography, prostitution and sex tourism, and provide legal and social services to the victims; this should include provisions for international cooperation to prosecute and punish those responsible for organized exploitation of women and children;

(o) Taking into account the need to ensure full respect for the human rights of indigenous women, consider a declaration on the rights of indigenous people for adoption by the General Assembly within the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and encourage the participation of indigenous women in the working group elaborating the draft declaration, in accordance with the provisions for the participation of organizations of indigenous people.

231. By relevant organs, bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, all human rights bodies of the United Nations system, as well as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, while promoting greater efficiency and effectiveness through better coordination of the various bodies, mechanisms and procedures, taking into account the need to avoid unnecessary duplication and overlapping of their mandates and tasks:

(a) Give full, equal and sustained attention to the human rights of women in the exercise of their respective mandates to promote universal respect for and protection of all human rights - civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, including the right to development;

(b) Ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the World Conference on Human Rights for the full integration and mainstreaming of the human rights of women;

(c) Develop a comprehensive policy programme for mainstreaming the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system, including activities with regard to advisory services, technical assistance, reporting methodology, gender-impact assessments, coordination, public information and human rights education, and play an active role in the implementation of the programme;

(d) Ensure the integration and full participation of women as both agents and beneficiaries in the development process and reiterate the objectives established for global action for women towards sustainable and equitable development set forth in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; 18/

(e) Include information on gender-based human rights violations in their activities and integrate the findings into all of their programmes and activities;

(f) Ensure that there is collaboration and coordination of the work of all human rights bodies and mechanisms to ensure that the human rights of women are respected;

(g) Strengthen cooperation and coordination between the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the United Nations human rights treaty monitoring bodies, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and other organizations of the United Nations system, acting within their mandates, in the promotion of the human rights of women, and improve cooperation between the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Centre for Human Rights;

(h) Establish effective cooperation between the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other relevant bodies, within their respective mandates, taking into account the close link between massive

violations of human rights, especially in the form of genocide, ethnic cleansing, systematic rape of women in war situations and refugee flows and other displacements, and the fact that refugee, displaced and returnee women may be subject to particular human rights abuse;

(i) Encourage incorporation of a gender perspective in national programmes of action and in human rights and national institutions, within the context of human rights advisory services programmes;

(j) Provide training in the human rights of women for all United Nations personnel and officials, especially those in human rights and humanitarian relief activities, and promote their understanding of the human rights of women so that they recognize and deal with violations of the human rights of women and can fully take into account the gender aspect of their work;

(k) In reviewing the implementation of the plan of action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004), take into account the results of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

Strategic objective I.2. Ensure equality and non-discrimination under the law and in practice

Actions to be taken

232. By Governments:

(a) Give priority to promoting and protecting the full and equal enjoyment by women and men of all human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national or social origins, property, birth or other status;

(b) Provide constitutional guarantees and/or enact appropriate legislation to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex for all women and girls of all ages and assure women of all ages equal rights and their full enjoyment;

(c) Embody the principle of the equality of men and women in their legislation and ensure, through law and other appropriate means, the practical realization of this principle;

(d) Review national laws, including customary laws and legal practices in the areas of family, civil, penal, labour and commercial law in order to ensure the implementation of the principles and procedures of all relevant international human rights instruments by means of national legislation, revoke any remaining laws that discriminate on the basis of sex and remove gender bias in the administration of justice;

(e) Strengthen and encourage the development of programmes to protect the human rights of women in the national institutions on human rights that carry out programmes, such as human rights commissions or ombudspersons, according them appropriate status, resources and access to the Government to assist individuals, in particular women, and ensure that these institutions pay adequate attention to problems involving the violation of the human rights of women;

(f) Take action to ensure that the human rights of women, including the rights referred to in paragraphs 94 to 96 above, are fully respected and protected;

(g) Take urgent action to combat and eliminate violence against women, which is a human rights violation, resulting from harmful traditional or customary practices, cultural prejudices and extremism;

(h) Prohibit female genital mutilation wherever it exists and give vigorous support to efforts among non-governmental and community organizations and religious institutions to eliminate such practices;

(i) Provide gender-sensitive human rights education and training to public officials, including, inter alia, police and military personnel, corrections officers, health and medical personnel, and social workers, including people who deal with migration and refugee issues, and teachers at all levels of the educational system, and make available such education and training also to the judiciary and members of parliament in order to enable them to better exercise their public responsibilities;

(j) Promote the equal right of women to be members of trade unions and other professional and social organizations;

(k) Establish effective mechanisms for investigating violations of the human rights of women perpetrated by any public official and take the necessary punitive legal measures in accordance with national laws;

(l) Review and amend criminal laws and procedures, as necessary, to eliminate any discrimination against women in order to ensure that criminal law and procedures guarantee women effective protection against, and prosecution of, crimes directed at or disproportionately affecting women, regardless of the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim, and ensure that women defendants, victims and/or witnesses are not revictimized or discriminated against in the investigation and prosecution of crimes;

(m) Ensure that women have the same right as men to be judges, advocates or other officers of the court, as well as police officers and prison and detention officers, among other things;

(n) Strengthen existing or establish readily available and free or affordable alternative administrative mechanisms and legal aid programmes to assist disadvantaged women seeking redress for violations of their rights;

(o) Ensure that all women and non-governmental organizations and their members in the field of protection and promotion of all human rights - civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, including the right to development - enjoy fully all human rights and freedoms in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and all other human rights instruments and the protection of national laws;

(p) Strengthen and encourage the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, 30/ paying special attention to ensure non-discrimination and equal enjoyment of all human rights and

fundamental freedoms by women and girls with disabilities, including their access to information and services in the field of violence against women, as well as their active participation in and economic contribution to all aspects of society;

(q) Encourage the development of gender-sensitive human rights programmes.

Strategic objective I.3. Achieve legal literacy

Actions to be taken

233. By Governments and non-governmental organizations, the United Nations and other international organizations, as appropriate:

(a) Translate, whenever possible, into local and indigenous languages and into alternative formats appropriate for persons with disabilities and persons at lower levels of literacy, publicize and disseminate laws and information relating to the equal status and human rights of all women, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 33/ the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Declaration on the Right to Development 34/ and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, as well as the outcomes of relevant United Nations conferences and summits and national reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

(b) Publicize and disseminate such information in easily understandable formats and alternative formats appropriate for persons with disabilities, and persons at low levels of literacy;

(c) Disseminate information on national legislation and its impact on women, including easily accessible guidelines on how to use a justice system to exercise one's rights;

(d) Include information about international and regional instruments and standards in their public information and human rights education activities and in adult education and training programmes, particularly for groups such as the military, the police and other law enforcement personnel, the judiciary, and legal and health professionals to ensure that human rights are effectively protected;

(e) Make widely available and fully publicize information on the existence of national, regional and international mechanisms for seeking redress when the human rights of women are violated;

(f) Encourage, coordinate and cooperate with local and regional women's groups, relevant non-governmental organizations, educators and the media, to implement programmes in human rights education to make women aware of their human rights;

(g) Promote education on the human and legal rights of women in school curricula at all levels of education and undertake public campaigns, including in the most widely used languages of the country, on the equality of women and men in public and private life, including their rights within the family and relevant human rights instruments under national and international law;

(h) Promote education in all countries in human rights and international humanitarian law for members of the national security and armed forces, including those assigned to United Nations peace-keeping operations, on a routine and continuing basis, reminding them and sensitizing them to the fact that they should respect the rights of women at all times, both on and off duty, giving special attention to the rules on the protection of women and children and to the protection of human rights in situations of armed conflict;

(i) Take appropriate measures to ensure that refugee and displaced women, migrant women and women migrant workers are made aware of their human rights and of the recourse mechanisms available to them.

J. Women and the media

234. During the past decade, advances in information technology have facilitated a global communications network that transcends national boundaries and has an impact on public policy, private attitudes and behaviour, especially of children and young adults. Everywhere the potential exists for the media to make a far greater contribution to the advancement of women.

235. More women are involved in careers in the communications sector, but few have attained positions at the decision-making level or serve on governing boards and bodies that influence media policy. The lack of gender sensitivity in the media is evidenced by the failure to eliminate the gender-based stereotyping that can be found in public and private local, national and international media organizations.

236. The continued projection of negative and degrading images of women in media communications - electronic, print, visual and audio - must be changed. Print and electronic media in most countries do not provide a balanced picture of women's diverse lives and contributions to society in a changing world. In addition, violent and degrading or pornographic media products are also negatively affecting women and their participation in society. Programming that reinforces women's traditional roles can be equally limiting. The world-wide trend towards consumerism has created a climate in which advertisements and commercial messages often portray women primarily as consumers and target girls and women of all ages inappropriately.

237. Women should be empowered by enhancing their skills, knowledge and access to information technology. This will strengthen their ability to combat negative portrayals of women internationally and to challenge instances of abuse of the power of an increasingly important industry. Self-regulatory mechanisms for the media need to be created and strengthened and approaches developed to eliminate gender-biased programming. Most women, especially in developing countries, are not able to access effectively the expanding electronic information highways and therefore cannot establish networks that will provide them with alternative sources of information. Women therefore need to be

involved in decision-making regarding the development of the new technologies in order to participate fully in their growth and impact.

238. In addressing the issue of the mobilization of the media, Governments and other actors should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in policies and programmes.

Strategic objective J.1. Increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision-making in and through the media and new technologies of communication

Actions to be taken

239. By Governments:

(a) Support women's education, training and employment to promote and ensure women's equal access to all areas and levels of the media;

(b) Support research into all aspects of women and the media so as to define areas needing attention and action and review existing media policies with a view to integrating a gender perspective;

(c) Promote women's full and equal participation in the media, including management, programming, education, training and research;

(d) Aim at gender balance in the appointment of women and men to all advisory, management, regulatory or monitoring bodies, including those connected to the private and State or public media;

(e) Encourage, to the extent consistent with freedom of expression, these bodies to increase the number of programmes for and by women to see to it that women's needs and concerns are properly addressed;

(f) Encourage and recognize women's media networks, including electronic networks and other new technologies of communication, as a means for the dissemination of information and the exchange of views, including at the international level, and support women's groups active in all media work and systems of communications to that end;

(g) Encourage and provide the means or incentives for the creative use of programmes in the national media for the dissemination of information on various cultural forms of indigenous people and the development of social and educational issues in this regard within the framework of national law;

(h) Guarantee the freedom of the media and its subsequent protection within the framework of national law and encourage, consistent with freedom of expression, the positive involvement of the media in development and social issues.

240. By national and international media systems:

Develop, consistent with freedom of expression, regulatory mechanisms, including voluntary ones, that promote balanced and diverse portrayals of women by the media and international communication systems and that

promote increased participation by women and men in production and decision-making.

241. By Governments, as appropriate, or national machinery for the advancement of women:

(a) Encourage the development of educational and training programmes for women in order to produce information for the mass media, including funding of experimental efforts, and the use of the new technologies of communication, cybernetics space and satellite, whether public or private;

(b) Encourage the use of communication systems, including new technologies, as a means of strengthening women's participation in democratic processes;

(c) Facilitate the compilation of a directory of women media experts;

(d) Encourage the participation of women in the development of professional guidelines and codes of conduct or other appropriate self-regulatory mechanisms to promote balanced and non-stereotyped portrayals of women by the media.

242. By non-governmental organizations and media professional associations:

(a) Encourage the establishment of media watch groups that can monitor the media and consult with the media to ensure that women's needs and concerns are properly reflected;

(b) Train women to make greater use of information technology for communication and the media, including at the international level;

(c) Create networks among and develop information programmes for non-governmental organizations, women's organizations and professional media organizations in order to recognize the specific needs of women in the media, and facilitate the increased participation of women in communication, in particular at the international level, in support of South-South and North-South dialogue among and between these organizations, inter alia, to promote the human rights of women and equality between women and men;

(d) Encourage the media industry and education and media training institutions to develop, in appropriate languages, traditional, indigenous and other ethnic forms of media, such as story-telling, drama, poetry and song, reflecting their cultures, and utilize these forms of communication to disseminate information on development and social issues.

Strategic objective J.2. Promote a balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the media

Actions to be taken

243. By Governments and international organizations, to the extent consistent with freedom of expression:

(a) Promote research and implementation of a strategy of information, education and communication aimed at promoting a balanced portrayal of women and girls and their multiple roles;

(b) Encourage the media and advertising agencies to develop specific programmes to raise awareness of the Platform for Action;

(c) Encourage gender-sensitive training for media professionals, including media owners and managers, to encourage the creation and use of non-stereotyped, balanced and diverse images of women in the media;

(d) Encourage the media to refrain from presenting women as inferior beings and exploiting them as sexual objects and commodities, rather than presenting them as creative human beings, key actors and contributors to and beneficiaries of the process of development;

(e) Promote the concept that the sexist stereotypes displayed in the media are gender discriminatory, degrading in nature and offensive;

(f) Take effective measures or institute such measures, including appropriate legislation against pornography and the projection of violence against women and children in the media.

244. By the mass media and advertising organizations:

(a) Develop, consistent with freedom of expression, professional guidelines and codes of conduct and other forms of self-regulation to promote the presentation of non-stereotyped images of women;

(b) Establish, consistent with freedom of expression, professional guidelines and codes of conduct that address violent, degrading or pornographic materials concerning women in the media, including advertising;

(c) Develop a gender perspective on all issues of concern to communities, consumers and civil society;

(d) Increase women's participation in decision-making at all levels of the media.

245. By the media, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in collaboration, as appropriate, with national machinery for the advancement of women:

(a) Promote the equal sharing of family responsibilities through media campaigns that emphasize gender equality and non-stereotyped gender roles of women and men within the family and that disseminate information aimed at eliminating spousal and child abuse and all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence;

(b) Produce and/or disseminate media materials on women leaders, inter alia, as leaders who bring to their positions of leadership many different life experiences, including but not limited to their experiences in balancing work and family responsibilities, as mothers, as professionals, as managers and as entrepreneurs, to provide role models, particularly to young women;

(c) Promote extensive campaigns, making use of public and private educational programmes, to disseminate information about and increase awareness of the human rights of women;

(d) Support the development of and finance, as appropriate, alternative media and the use of all means of communication to disseminate information to and about women and their concerns;

(e) Develop approaches and train experts to apply gender analysis with regard to media programmes.

K. Women and the environment

246. Human beings are at the centre of concern for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature. Women have an essential role to play in the development of sustainable and ecologically sound consumption and production patterns and approaches to natural resource management, as was recognized at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the International Conference on Population and Development and reflected throughout Agenda 21. Awareness of resource depletion, the degradation of natural systems and the dangers of polluting substances has increased markedly in the past decade. These worsening conditions are destroying fragile ecosystems and displacing communities, especially women, from productive activities and are an increasing threat to a safe and healthy environment. Poverty and environmental degradation are closely interrelated. While poverty results in certain kinds of environmental stress, the major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment is the unsustainable pattern of consumption and production, particularly in industrialized countries, which is a matter of grave concern, aggravating poverty and imbalances. Rising sealevels as a result of global warming cause a grave and immediate threat to people living in island countries and coastal areas. The use of ozone-depleting substances, such as products with chlorofluorocarbons, halons and methyl bromides (from which plastics and foams are made), are severely affecting the atmosphere, thus allowing excessive levels of harmful ultraviolet rays to reach the Earth's surface. This has severe effects on people's health such as higher rates of skin cancer, eye damage and weakened immune systems. It also has severe effects on the environment, including harm to crops and ocean life.

247. All States and all people shall cooperate in the essential task of eradicating poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in order to decrease the disparities in standards of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people of the world. Hurricanes, typhoons and other natural disasters and, in addition, the destruction of resources, violence, displacements and other effects associated with war, armed and other conflicts, the use and testing of nuclear weaponry, and foreign occupation can also contribute to environmental degradation. The deterioration of natural resources displaces communities, especially women, from income-generating activities while greatly adding to unremunerated work. In both urban and rural areas, environmental degradation results in negative effects on the health, well-being and quality of life of the population at large, especially girls and women of all ages. Particular attention and recognition should be given to the role and special situation of women living in rural areas and those working in the agricultural sector, where access to training, land, natural and productive resources, credit, development programmes and cooperative structures can help them increase their participation in sustainable development. Environmental

risks in the home and workplace may have a disproportionate impact on women's health because of women's different susceptibilities to the toxic effects of various chemicals. These risks to women's health are particularly high in urban areas, as well as in low-income areas where there is a high concentration of polluting industrial facilities.

248. Through their management and use of natural resources, women provide sustenance to their families and communities. As consumers and producers, caretakers of their families and educators, women play an important role in promoting sustainable development through their concern for the quality and sustainability of life for present and future generations. Governments have expressed their commitment to creating a new development paradigm that integrates environmental sustainability with gender equality and justice within and between generations as contained in chapter 24 of Agenda 21. 19/

249. Women remain largely absent at all levels of policy formulation and decision-making in natural resource and environmental management, conservation, protection and rehabilitation, and their experience and skills in advocacy for and monitoring of proper natural resource management too often remain marginalized in policy-making and decision-making bodies, as well as in educational institutions and environment-related agencies at the managerial level. Women are rarely trained as professional natural resource managers with policy-making capacities, such as land-use planners, agriculturalists, foresters, marine scientists and environmental lawyers. Even in cases where women are trained as professional natural resource managers, they are often underrepresented in formal institutions with policy-making capacities at the national, regional and international levels. Often women are not equal participants in the management of financial and corporate institutions whose decision-making most significantly affects environmental quality. Furthermore, there are institutional weaknesses in coordination between women's non-governmental organizations and national institutions dealing with environmental issues, despite the recent rapid growth and visibility of women's non-governmental organizations working on these issues at all levels.

250. Women have often played leadership roles or taken the lead in promoting an environmental ethic, reducing resource use, and reusing and recycling resources to minimize waste and excessive consumption. Women can have a particularly powerful role in influencing sustainable consumption decisions. In addition, women's contributions to environmental management, including through grass-roots and youth campaigns to protect the environment, have often taken place at the local level, where decentralized action on environmental issues is most needed and decisive. Women, especially indigenous women, have particular knowledge of ecological linkages and fragile ecosystem management. Women in many communities provide the main labour force for subsistence production, including production of seafood; hence, their role is crucial to the provision of food and nutrition, the enhancement of the subsistence and informal sectors and the preservation of the environment. In certain regions, women are generally the most stable members of the community, as men often pursue work in distant locations, leaving women to safeguard the natural environment and ensure adequate and sustainable resource allocation within the household and the community.

251. The strategic actions needed for sound environmental management require a holistic, multidisciplinary and intersectoral approach. Women's participation and leadership are essential to every aspect of that approach. The recent United Nations global conferences on development, as well as regional preparatory conferences for the Fourth World Conference on Women, have all acknowledged that sustainable development policies that do not involve women and

men alike will not succeed in the long run. They have called for the effective participation of women in the generation of knowledge and environmental education in decision-making and management at all levels. Women's experiences and contributions to an ecologically sound environment must therefore be central to the agenda for the twenty-first century. Sustainable development will be an elusive goal unless women's contribution to environmental management is recognized and supported.

252. In addressing the lack of adequate recognition and support for women's contribution to conservation and management of natural resources and safeguarding the environment, Governments and other actors should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes, including, as appropriate, an analysis of the effects on women and men, respectively, before decisions are taken.

Strategic objective K.1. Involve women actively in environmental decision-making at all levels

Actions to be taken

253. By Governments, at all levels, including municipal authorities, as appropriate:

(a) Ensure opportunities for women, including indigenous women, to participate in environmental decision-making at all levels, including as managers, designers and planners, and as implementers and evaluators of environmental projects;

(b) Facilitate and increase women's access to information and education, including in the areas of science, technology and economics, thus enhancing their knowledge, skills and opportunities for participation in environmental decisions;

(c) Encourage, subject to national legislation and consistent with the Convention on Biological Diversity, 35/ the effective protection and use of the knowledge, innovations and practices of women of indigenous and local communities, including practices relating to traditional medicines, biodiversity and indigenous technologies, and endeavour to ensure that these are respected, maintained, promoted and preserved in an ecologically sustainable manner, and promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge; in addition, safeguard the existing intellectual property rights of these women as protected under national and international law; work actively, where necessary, to find additional ways and means for the effective protection and use of such knowledge, innovations and practices, subject to national legislation and consistent with the Convention on Biological Diversity and relevant international law, and encourage fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovation and practices;

(d) Take appropriate measures to reduce risks to women from identified environmental hazards at home, at work and in other environments, including appropriate application of clean technologies, taking into account the precautionary approach agreed to in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; 18/

(e) Take measures to integrate a gender perspective in the design and implementation of, among other things, environmentally sound and sustainable resource management mechanisms, production techniques and infrastructure development in rural and urban areas;

(f) Take measures to empower women as producers and consumers so that they can take effective environmental actions, along with men, in their homes, communities and workplaces;

(g) Promote the participation of local communities, particularly women, in identification of public service needs, spatial planning and the provision and design of urban infrastructure.

254. By Governments and international organizations and private sector institutions, as appropriate:

(a) Take gender impact into consideration in the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and other appropriate United Nations bodies and in the activities of international financial institutions;

(b) Promote the involvement of women and the incorporation of a gender perspective in the design, approval and execution of projects funded under the Global Environment Facility and other appropriate United Nations organizations;

(c) Encourage the design of projects in the areas of concern to the Global Environment Facility that would benefit women and projects managed by women;

(d) Establish strategies and mechanisms to increase the proportion of women, particularly at grass-roots levels, involved as decision makers, planners, managers, scientists and technical advisers and as beneficiaries in the design, development and implementation of policies and programmes for natural resource management and environmental protection and conservation;

(e) Encourage social, economic, political and scientific institutions to address environmental degradation and the resulting impact on women.

255. By non-governmental organizations and the private sector:

(a) Assume advocacy of environmental and natural resource management issues of concern to women and provide information to contribute to resource mobilization for environmental protection and conservation;

(b) Facilitate the access of women agriculturists, fishers and pastoralists to knowledge, skills, marketing services and environmentally sound technologies to support and strengthen their crucial roles and their expertise in resource management and the conservation of biological diversity.

Strategic objective K.2. Integrate gender concerns and perspectives in policies and programmes for sustainable development

Actions to be taken

256. By Governments:

(a) Integrate women, including indigenous women, their perspectives and knowledge, on an equal basis with men, in decision-making regarding sustainable resource management and the development of policies and programmes for sustainable development, including in particular those designed to address and prevent environmental degradation of the land;

(b) Evaluate policies and programmes in terms of environmental impact and women's equal access to and use of natural resources;

(c) Ensure adequate research to assess how and to what extent women are particularly susceptible or exposed to environmental degradation and hazards, including, as necessary, research and data collection on specific groups of women, particularly women with low income, indigenous women and women belonging to minorities;

(d) Integrate rural women's traditional knowledge and practices of sustainable resource use and management in the development of environmental management and extension programmes;

(e) Integrate the results of gender-sensitive research into mainstream policies with a view to developing sustainable human settlements;

(f) Promote knowledge of and sponsor research on the role of women, particularly rural and indigenous women, in food gathering and production, soil conservation, irrigation, watershed management, sanitation, coastal zone and marine resource management, integrated pest management, land-use planning, forest conservation and community forestry, fisheries, natural disaster prevention, and new and renewable sources of energy, focusing particularly on indigenous women's knowledge and experience;

(g) Develop a strategy for change to eliminate all obstacles to women's full and equal participation in sustainable development and equal access to and control over resources;

(h) Promote the education of girls and women of all ages in science, technology, economics and other disciplines relating to the natural environment so that they can make informed choices and offer informed input in determining local economic, scientific and environmental priorities for the management and appropriate use of natural and local resources and ecosystems;

(i) Develop programmes to involve female professionals and scientists, as well as technical, administrative and clerical workers, in environmental management, develop training programmes for girls and women in these fields, expand opportunities for the hiring and promotion of women in these fields and implement special measures to advance women's expertise and participation in these activities;

(j) Identify and promote environmentally sound technologies that have been designed, developed and improved in consultation with women and that are appropriate to both women and men;

(k) Support the development of women's equal access to housing infrastructure, safe water, and sustainable and affordable energy technologies, such as wind, solar, biomass and other renewable sources, through participatory needs assessments, energy planning and policy formulation at the local and national levels;

(l) Ensure that clean water is available and accessible to all by the year 2000 and that environmental protection and conservation plans are designed and implemented to restore polluted water systems and rebuild damaged watersheds.

257. By international organizations, non-governmental organizations and private sector institutions:

(a) Involve women in the communication industries in raising awareness regarding environmental issues, especially on the environmental and health impacts of products, technologies and industry processes;

(b) Encourage consumers to use their purchasing power to promote the production of environmentally safe products and encourage investment in environmentally sound and productive agricultural, fisheries, commercial and industrial activities and technologies;

(c) Support women's consumer initiatives by promoting the marketing of organic food and recycling facilities, product information and product labelling, including labelling of toxic chemical and pesticide containers with language and symbols that are understood by consumers, regardless of age and level of literacy.

Strategic objective K.3. Strengthen or establish mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels to assess the impact of development and environmental policies on women

Actions to be taken

258. By Governments, regional and international organizations and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate:

(a) Provide technical assistance to women, particularly in developing countries, in the sectors of agriculture, fisheries, small enterprises, trade and industry to ensure the continuing promotion of human resource development and the development of environmentally sound technologies and of women's entrepreneurship;

(b) Develop gender-sensitive databases, information and monitoring systems and participatory action-oriented research, methodologies and policy analyses, with the collaboration of academic institutions and local women researchers, on the following:

(i) Knowledge and experience on the part of women concerning the management and conservation of natural resources for

incorporation in the databases and information systems for sustainable development;

(ii) The impact on women of environmental and natural resource degradation, deriving from, inter alia, unsustainable production and consumption patterns, drought, poor quality water, global warming, desertification, sealevel rise, hazardous waste, natural disasters, toxic chemicals and pesticide residues, radioactive waste, armed conflicts and its consequences;

(iii) Analysis of the structural links between gender relations, environment and development, with special emphasis on particular sectors, such as agriculture, industry, fisheries, forestry, environmental health, biological diversity, climate, water resources and sanitation;

(iv) Measures to develop and include environmental, economic, cultural, social and gender-sensitive analyses as an essential step in the development and monitoring of programmes and policies;

(v) Programmes to create rural and urban training, research and resource centres that will disseminate environmentally sound technologies to women;

(c) Ensure the full compliance with relevant international obligations, including where relevant, the Basel Convention and other conventions relating to the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes (which include toxic wastes) and the Code of Practice of the International Atomic Energy Agency relating to the movement of radioactive waste; enact and enforce regulations for environmentally sound management related to safe storage and movements; consider taking action towards the prohibition of those movements that are unsafe and insecure; ensure the strict control and management of hazardous wastes and radioactive waste, in accordance with relevant international and regional obligations and eliminate the exportation of such wastes to countries that, individually or through international agreements, prohibit their importation;

(d) Promote coordination within and among institutions to implement the Platform for Action and chapter 24 of Agenda 21 by, inter alia, requesting the Commission on Sustainable Development, through the Economic and Social Council, to seek input from the Commission on the Status of Women when reviewing the implementation of Agenda 21 with regard to women and the environment.

L. The girl child

259. The Convention on the Rights of the Child recognizes that "States Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or status" (art. 2, para. 1). 11/ However, in many countries available indicators show that the girl child is discriminated against from the earliest stages of life, through her childhood and into

adulthood. In some areas of the world, men outnumber women by 5 in every 100. The reasons for the discrepancy include, among other things, harmful attitudes and practices, such as female genital mutilation, son preference - which results in female infanticide and prenatal sex selection - early marriage, including child marriage, violence against women, sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, discrimination against girls in food allocation and other practices related to health and well-being. As a result, fewer girls than boys survive into adulthood.

260. Girls are often treated as inferior and are socialized to put themselves last, thus undermining their self-esteem. Discrimination and neglect in childhood can initiate a lifelong downward spiral of deprivation and exclusion from the social mainstream. Initiatives should be taken to prepare girls to participate actively, effectively and equally with boys at all levels of social, economic, political and cultural leadership.

261. Gender-biased educational processes, including curricula, educational materials and practices, teachers' attitudes and classroom interaction, reinforce existing gender inequalities.

262. Girls and adolescents may receive a variety of conflicting and confusing messages on their gender roles from their parents, teachers, peers and the media. Women and men need to work together with children and youth to break down persistent gender stereotypes, taking into account the rights of the child and the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents as stated in paragraph 267 below.

263. Although the number of educated children has grown in the past 20 years in some countries, boys have proportionately fared much better than girls. In 1990, 130 million children had no access to primary school; of these, 81 million were girls. This can be attributed to such factors as customary attitudes, child labour, early marriages, lack of funds and lack of adequate schooling facilities, teenage pregnancies and gender inequalities in society at large as well as in the family as defined in paragraph 29 above. In some countries the shortage of women teachers can inhibit the enrolment of girls. In many cases, girls start to undertake heavy domestic chores at a very early age and are expected to manage both educational and domestic responsibilities, often resulting in poor scholastic performance and an early drop-out from schooling.

264. The percentage of girls enrolled in secondary school remains significantly low in many countries. Girls are often not encouraged or given the opportunity to pursue scientific and technological training and education, which limits the knowledge they require for their daily lives and their employment opportunities.

265. Girls are less encouraged than boys to participate in and learn about the social, economic and political functioning of society, with the result that they are not offered the same opportunities as boys to take part in decision-making processes.

266. Existing discrimination against the girl child in her access to nutrition and physical and mental health services endangers her current and future health. An estimated 450 million adult women in developing countries are stunted as a result of childhood protein-energy malnutrition.

267. The International Conference on Population and Development recognized, in paragraph 7.3 of the Programme of Action, 14/ that "full attention should be given to the promotion of mutually respectful and equitable gender relations and

particularly to meeting the educational and service needs of adolescents to enable them to deal in a positive and responsible way with their sexuality", taking into account the rights of the child to access to information, privacy, confidentiality, respect and informed consent, as well as the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents and legal guardians to provide, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child, appropriate direction and guidance in the exercise by the child of the rights recognized in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and in conformity with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. In all actions concerning children, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration. Support should be given to integral sexual education for young people with parental support and guidance that stresses the responsibility of males for their own sexuality and fertility and that help them exercise their responsibilities.

268. More than 15 million girls aged 15 to 19 give birth each year. Motherhood at a very young age entails complications during pregnancy and delivery and a risk of maternal death that is much greater than average. The children of young mothers have higher levels of morbidity and mortality. Early child-bearing continues to be an impediment to improvements in the educational, economic and social status of women in all parts of the world. Overall, early marriage and early motherhood can severely curtail educational and employment opportunities and are likely to have a long-term adverse impact on their and their children's quality of life.

269. Sexual violence and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, have a devastating effect on children's health, and girls are more vulnerable than boys to the consequences of unprotected and premature sexual relations. Girls often face pressures to engage in sexual activity. Due to such factors as their youth, social pressures, lack of protective laws, or failure to enforce laws, girls are more vulnerable to all kinds of violence, particularly sexual violence, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, trafficking, possibly the sale of their organs and tissues, and forced labour.

270. The girl child with disabilities faces additional barriers and needs to be ensured non-discrimination and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities. 30/

271. Some children are particularly vulnerable, especially the abandoned, homeless and displaced, street children, children in areas in conflict, and children who are discriminated against because they belong to an ethnic or racial minority group.

272. All barriers must therefore be eliminated to enable girls without exception to develop their full potential and skills through equal access to education and training, nutrition, physical and mental health care and related information.

273. In addressing issues concerning children and youth, Governments should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes so that before decisions are taken, an analysis is made of the effects on girls and boys, respectively.

Strategic objective L.1. Eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child

Actions to be taken

274. By Governments:

(a) By States that have not signed or ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, take urgent measures towards signing and ratifying the Convention, bearing in mind the strong exhortation made at the World Conference on Human Rights to sign it before the end of 1995, and by States that have signed and ratified the Convention, ensure its full implementation through the adoption of all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures and by fostering an enabling environment that encourages full respect for the rights of children;

(b) Consistent with article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 11/ take measures to ensure that a child is registered immediately after birth and has the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents;

(c) Take steps to ensure that children receive appropriate financial support from their parents, by, among other measures, enforcing child-support laws;

(d) Eliminate the injustice and obstacles in relation to inheritance faced by the girl child so that all children may enjoy their rights without discrimination, by, inter alia, enacting, as appropriate, and enforcing legislation that guarantees equal right to succession and ensures equal right to inherit, regardless of the sex of the child;

(e) Enact and strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage is only entered into with the free and full consent of the intending spouses; in addition, enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage and raise the minimum age for marriage where necessary;

(f) Develop and implement comprehensive policies, plans of action and programmes for the survival, protection, development and advancement of the girl child to promote and protect the full enjoyment of her human rights and to ensure equal opportunities for girls; these plans should form an integral part of the total development process;

(g) Ensure the disaggregation by sex and age of all data related to children in the health, education and other sectors in order to include a gender perspective in planning, implementation and monitoring of such programmes.

275. By Governments and international and non-governmental organizations:

(a) Disaggregate information and data on children by sex and age, undertake research on the situation of girls and integrate, as appropriate, the results in the formulation of policies, programmes and decision-making for the advancement of the girl child;

(b) Generate social support for the enforcement of laws on the minimum legal age for marriage, in particular by providing educational opportunities for girls.

Strategic objective L.2. Eliminate negative cultural attitudes and practices against girls

Actions to be taken

276. By Governments:

(a) Encourage and support, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations in their efforts to promote changes in negative attitudes and practices towards girls;

(b) Set up educational programmes and develop teaching materials and textbooks that will sensitize and inform adults about the harmful effects of certain traditional or customary practices on girl children;

(c) Develop and adopt curricula, teaching materials and textbooks to improve the self-image, lives and work opportunities of girls, particularly in areas where women have traditionally been underrepresented, such as mathematics, science and technology;

(d) Take steps so that tradition and religion and their expressions are not a basis for discrimination against girls.

277. By Governments and, as appropriate, international and non-governmental organizations:

(a) Promote an educational setting that eliminates all barriers that impede the schooling of married and/or pregnant girls and young mothers, including, as appropriate, affordable and physically accessible child-care facilities and parental education to encourage those who have responsibilities for the care of their children and siblings during their school years to return to, or continue with, and complete schooling;

(b) Encourage educational institutions and the media to adopt and project balanced and non-stereotyped images of girls and boys, and work to eliminate child pornography and degrading and violent portrayals of the girl child;

(c) Eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child and the root causes of son preference, which result in harmful and unethical practices such as prenatal sex selection and female infanticide; this is often compounded by the increasing use of technologies to determine foetal sex, resulting in abortion of female foetuses;

(d) Develop policies and programmes, giving priority to formal and informal education programmes that support girls and enable them to acquire knowledge, develop self-esteem and take responsibility for their own lives; and place special focus on programmes to educate women and men, especially parents, on the importance of girls' physical and mental health and well-being, including the elimination

of discrimination against girls in food allocation, early marriage, violence against girls, female genital mutilation, child prostitution, sexual abuse, rape and incest.

Strategic objective L.3. Promote and protect the rights of the girl child and increase awareness of her needs and potential

Actions to be taken

278. By Governments and international and non-governmental organizations:

(a) Generate awareness of the disadvantaged situation of girls among policy makers, planners, administrators and implementors at all levels, as well as within households and communities;

(b) Make the girl child, particularly the girl child in difficult circumstances, aware of her own potential, educate her about the rights guaranteed to her under all international human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, legislation enacted for her and the various measures undertaken by both governmental and non-governmental organizations working to improve her status;

(c) Educate women, men, girls and boys to promote girls' status and encourage them to work towards mutual respect and equal partnership between girls and boys;

(d) Facilitate the equal provision of appropriate services and devices to girls with disabilities and provide their families with related support services, as appropriate.

Strategic objective L.4. Eliminate discrimination against girls in education, skills development and training

Actions to be taken

279. By Governments:

(a) Ensure universal and equal access to and completion of primary education by all children and eliminate the existing gap between girls and boys, as stipulated in article 28 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; 11/ similarly, ensure equal access to secondary education by the year 2005 and equal access to higher education, including vocational and technical education, for all girls and boys, including the disadvantaged and gifted;

(b) Take steps to integrate functional literacy and numeracy programmes, particularly for out-of-school girls in development programmes;

(c) Promote human rights education in educational programmes and include in human rights education the fact that the human rights of women and the girl child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights;

(d) Increase enrolment and improve retention rates of girls by allocating appropriate budgetary resources and by enlisting the support of the community and parents through campaigns and flexible school schedules, incentives, scholarships, access programmes for out-of-school girls and other measures;

(e) Develop training programmes and materials for teachers and educators, raising awareness about their own role in the educational process, with a view to providing them with effective strategies for gender-sensitive teaching;

(f) Take actions to ensure that female teachers and professors have the same possibilities and status as male teachers and professors.

280. By Governments and international and non-governmental organizations:

(a) Provide education and skills training to increase girls' opportunities for employment and access to decision-making processes;

(b) Provide education to increase girls' knowledge and skills related to the functioning of economic, financial and political systems;

(c) Ensure access to appropriate education and skills-training for girl children with disabilities for their full participation in life;

(d) Promote the full and equal participation of girls in extracurricular activities, such as sports, drama and cultural activities.

Strategic objective L.5. Eliminate discrimination against girls in health and nutrition

Actions to be taken

281. By Governments and international and non-governmental organizations:

(a) Provide public information on the removal of discriminatory practices against girls in food allocation, nutrition and access to health services;

(b) Sensitize the girl child, parents, teachers and society concerning good general health and nutrition and raise awareness of the health dangers and other problems connected with early pregnancies;

(c) Strengthen and reorient health education and health services, particularly primary health care programmes, including sexual and reproductive health, and design quality health programmes that meet the physical and mental needs of girls and that attend to the needs of young, expectant and nursing mothers;

(d) Establish peer education and outreach programmes with a view to strengthening individual and collective action to reduce the vulnerability of girls to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, as agreed to in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and as established in the report of that Conference, recognizing the parental roles referred to in paragraph 267 of the present Platform for Action;

(e) Ensure education and dissemination of information to girls, especially adolescent girls, regarding the physiology of reproduction, reproductive and sexual health, as agreed to in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and as established in the report of that Conference, responsible family planning practice, family life, reproductive health, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV infection and AIDS prevention, recognizing the parental roles referred to in paragraph 267;

(f) Include health and nutritional training as an integral part of literacy programmes and school curricula starting at the primary level for the benefit of the girl child;

(g) Emphasize the role and responsibility of adolescents in sexual and reproductive health and behaviour through the provision of appropriate services and counselling, as discussed in paragraph 267;

(h) Develop information and training programmes for health planners and implementors on the special health needs of the girl child;

(i) Take all the appropriate measures with a view to abolishing traditional practices prejudicial to the health of children, as stipulated in article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. 11/

Strategic objective L.6. Eliminate the economic exploitation of child labour and protect young girls at work

Actions to be taken

282. By Governments:

(a) In conformity with article 32 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 11/ protect children from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development;

(b) Define a minimum age for a child's admission to employment in national legislation, in conformity with existing international labour standards and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including girls in all sectors of activity;

(c) Protect young girls at work, inter alia, through:

(i) A minimum age or ages for admission to employment;

(ii) Strict monitoring of work conditions (respect for work time, prohibition of work by children not provided for by national legislation, and monitoring of hygiene and health conditions at work);

(iii) Application of social security coverage;

(iv) Establishment of continuous training and education;

(d) Strengthen, where necessary, legislation governing the work of children and provide for appropriate penalties or other sanctions to ensure effective enforcement of the legislation;

(e) Use existing international labour standards, including, as appropriate, ILO standards for the protection of working children, to guide the formulation of national labour legislation and policies.

Strategic objective L.7. Eradicate violence against the girl child

Actions to be taken

283. By Governments and, as appropriate, international and non-governmental organizations:

(a) Take effective actions and measures to enact and enforce legislation to protect the safety and security of girls from all forms of violence at work, including training programmes and support programmes, and take measures to eliminate incidents of sexual harassment of girls in educational and other institutions;

(b) Take appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the girl child, in the household and in society, from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse;

(c) Undertake gender sensitization training for those involved in healing and rehabilitation and other assistance programmes for girls who are victims of violence and promote programmes of information, support and training for such girls;

(d) Enact and enforce legislation protecting girls from all forms of violence, including female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, genital mutilation, incest, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, child prostitution and child pornography, and develop age-appropriate safe and confidential programmes and medical, social and psychological support services to assist girls who are subjected to violence.

Strategic objective L.8. Promote the girl child's awareness of and participation in social, economic and political life

Actions to be taken

284. By Governments and international and non-governmental organizations:

(a) Provide access for girls to training, information and the media on social, cultural, economic and political issues and enable them to articulate their views;

(b) Support non-governmental organizations, in particular youth non-governmental organizations, in their efforts to promote the equality and participation of girls in society.

Strategic objective L.9. Strengthen the role of the family* in improving the status of the girl child

Actions to be taken

285. By Governments, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations:

(a) Formulate policies and programmes to help the family, as defined in paragraph 29 above, in its supporting, educating and nurturing roles, with particular emphasis on the elimination of intra-family discrimination against the girl child;

(b) Provide an environment conducive to the strengthening of the family, as defined in paragraph 29 above, with a view to providing supportive and preventive measures which protect, respect and promote the potential of the girl child;

(c) Educate and encourage parents and caregivers to treat girls and boys equally and to ensure shared responsibilities between girls and boys in the family, as defined in paragraph 29 above.

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* As defined in para. 29 above.

Chapter V

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

286. The Platform for Action establishes a set of actions that should lead to fundamental change. Immediate action and accountability are essential if the targets are to be met by the year 2000. Implementation is primarily the responsibility of Governments, but is also dependent on a wide range of institutions in the public, private and non-governmental sectors at the community, national, subregional/regional and international levels.

287. During the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985), many institutions specifically devoted to the advancement of women were established at the national, regional and international levels. At the international level, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and the Committee to monitor the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women were established. These entities, along with the Commission on the Status of Women and its secretariat, the Division for the Advancement of Women, became the main institutions in the United Nations specifically devoted to women's advancement globally. At the national level, a number of countries established or strengthened national mechanisms to plan, advocate for and monitor progress in the advancement of women.

288. Implementation of the Platform for Action by national, subregional/regional and international institutions, both public and private, would be facilitated by transparency, by increased linkages between networks and organizations and by a consistent flow of information among all concerned. Clear objectives and accountability mechanisms are also required. Links with other institutions at the national, subregional/regional and international levels and with networks and organizations devoted to the advancement of women are needed.

289. Non-governmental and grass-roots organizations have a specific role to play in creating a social, economic, political and intellectual climate based on equality between women and men. Women should be actively involved in the implementation and monitoring of the Platform for Action.

290. Effective implementation of the Platform will also require changes in the internal dynamics of institutions and organizations, including values, behaviour, rules and procedures that are inimical to the advancement of women. Sexual harassment should be eliminated.

291. National, subregional/regional and international institutions should have strong and clear mandates and the authority, resources and accountability mechanisms needed for the tasks set out in the Platform for Action. Their methods of operation should ensure efficient and effective implementation of the Platform. There should be a clear commitment to international norms and standards of equality between women and men as a basis for all actions.

292. To ensure effective implementation of the Platform for Action and to enhance the work for the advancement of women at the national, subregional/regional and international levels, Governments, the United Nations system and all other relevant organizations should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective, inter alia, in the monitoring and evaluation of all policies and programmes.

A. National level

293. Governments have the primary responsibility for implementing the Platform for Action. Commitment at the highest political level is essential to its implementation, and Governments should take a leading role in coordinating, monitoring and assessing progress in the advancement of women. The Fourth World Conference on Women is a conference of national and international commitment and action. This requires commitment from Governments and the international community. The Platform for Action is part of a continuing process and has a catalytic effect as it will contribute to programmes and practical outcomes for girls and women of all ages. States and the international community are encouraged to respond to this challenge by making commitments for action. As part of this process, many States have made commitments for action as reflected, inter alia, in their national statements.

294. National mechanisms and institutions for the advancement of women should participate in public policy formulation and encourage the implementation of the Platform for Action through various bodies and institutions, including the private sector, and, where necessary, should act as a catalyst in developing new programmes by the year 2000 in areas that are not covered by existing institutions.

295. The active support and participation of a broad and diverse range of other institutional actors should be encouraged, including legislative bodies, academic and research institutions, professional associations, trade unions, cooperatives, local community groups, non-governmental organizations, including women's organizations and feminist groups, the media, religious groups, youth organizations and cultural groups, as well as financial and non-profit organizations.

296. In order for the Platform for Action to be implemented, it will be necessary for Governments to establish or improve the effectiveness of national machineries for the advancement of women at the highest political level, appropriate intra- and inter-ministerial procedures and staffing, and other institutions with the mandate and capacity to broaden women's participation and integrate gender analysis into policies and programmes. The first step in this process for all institutions should be to review their objectives, programmes and operational procedures in terms of the actions called for in the Platform. A key activity should be to promote public awareness and support for the goals of the Platform for Action, inter alia, through the mass media and public education.

297. As soon as possible, preferably by the end of 1995, Governments, in consultation with relevant institutions and non-governmental organizations, should begin to develop implementation strategies for the Platform and, preferably by the end of 1996, should have developed their strategies or plans of action. This planning process should draw upon persons at the highest level of authority in government and relevant actors in civil society. These implementation strategies should be comprehensive, have time-bound targets and benchmarks for monitoring, and include proposals for allocating or reallocating resources for implementation. Where necessary, the support of the international community could be enlisted, including resources.

298. Non-governmental organizations should be encouraged to contribute to the design and implementation of these strategies or national plans of action. They should also be encouraged to develop their own programmes to complement government efforts. Women's organizations and feminist groups, in collaboration

with other non-governmental organizations, should be encouraged to organize networks, as necessary, and to advocate for and support the implementation of the Platform for Action by Governments and regional and international bodies.

299. Governments should commit themselves to gender balance, inter alia, through the creation of special mechanisms, in all government-appointed committees, boards and other relevant official bodies, as appropriate, as well as in all international bodies, institutions and organizations, notably by presenting and promoting more women candidates.

300. Regional and international organizations, in particular development institutions, especially INSTRAW, UNIFEM and bilateral donors, should provide financial and advisory assistance to national machinery in order to increase its ability to gather information, develop networks and carry out its mandate, in addition to strengthening international mechanisms to promote the advancement of women through their respective mandates, in cooperation with Governments.

B. Subregional/regional level

301. The regional commissions of the United Nations and other subregional/regional structures should promote and assist the pertinent national institutions in monitoring and implementing the global Platform for Action within their mandates. This should be done in coordination with the implementation of the respective regional platforms or plans of action and in close collaboration with the Commission on the Status of Women, taking into account the need for a coordinated follow-up to United Nations conferences in the economic, social, human rights and related fields.

302. In order to facilitate the regional implementation, monitoring and evaluation process, the Economic and Social Council should consider reviewing the institutional capacity of the United Nations regional commissions within their mandates, including their women's units/focal points, to deal with gender issues in the light of the Platform for Action, as well as the regional platforms and plans of action. Consideration should be given, inter alia, and, where appropriate, to strengthening capacity in this respect.

303. Within their existing mandates and activities, the regional commissions should mainstream women's issues and gender perspectives and should also consider the establishment of mechanisms and processes to ensure the implementation and monitoring of both the Platform for Action and the regional platforms and plans of action. The regional commissions should, within their mandates, collaborate on gender issues with other regional intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, financial and research institutions and the private sector.

304. Regional offices of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system should, as appropriate, develop and publicize a plan of action for implementing the Platform for Action, including the identification of time-frames and resources. Technical assistance and operational activities at the regional level should establish well-identified targets for the advancement of women. To this end, regular coordination should be undertaken among United Nations bodies and agencies.

305. Non-governmental organizations within the region should be supported in their efforts to develop networks to coordinate advocacy and dissemination of

information about the global Platform for Action and the respective regional platforms or plans of action.

C. International level

1. United Nations

306. The Platform for Action needs to be implemented through the work of all of the bodies and organizations of the United Nations system during the period 1995-2000, specifically and as an integral part of wider programming. An enhanced framework for international cooperation for gender issues must be developed during the period 1995-2000 in order to ensure the integrated and comprehensive implementation, follow-up and assessment of the Platform for Action, taking into account the results of global United Nations summits and conferences. The fact that at all of these summits and conferences, Governments have committed themselves to the empowerment of women in different areas, makes coordination crucial to the follow-up strategies for this Platform for Action. The Agenda for Development and the Agenda for Peace should take into account the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

307. The institutional capacity of the United Nations system to carry out and coordinate its responsibility for implementing the Platform for Action, as well as its expertise and working methods to promote the advancement of women, should be improved.

308. Responsibility for ensuring the implementation of the Platform for Action and the integration of a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system must rest at the highest levels.

309. To improve the system's efficiency and effectiveness in providing support for equality and women's empowerment at the national level and to enhance its capacity to achieve the objectives of the Platform for Action, there is a need to renew, reform and revitalize various parts of the United Nations system. This would include reviewing and strengthening the strategies and working methods of different United Nations mechanisms for the advancement of women with a view to rationalizing and, as appropriate, strengthening their advisory, catalytic and monitoring functions in relation to mainstream bodies and agencies. Women/gender units are important for effective mainstreaming, but strategies must be further developed to prevent inadvertent marginalization as opposed to mainstreaming of the gender dimension throughout all operations.

310. In following up the Fourth World Conference on Women, all entities of the United Nations system focusing on the advancement of women should have the necessary resources and support to carry out follow-up activities. The efforts of gender focal points within organizations should be well integrated into overall policy, planning, programming and budgeting.

311. Action must be taken by the United Nations and other international organizations to eliminate barriers to the advancement of women within their organizations in accordance with the Platform for Action.

General Assembly

312. The General Assembly, as the highest intergovernmental body in the United Nations, is the principal policy-making and appraisal organ on matters relating to the follow-up to the Conference, and as such, should integrate gender issues

throughout its work. It should appraise progress in the effective implementation of the Platform for Action, recognizing that these issues cut across social, political and economic policy. At its fiftieth session, in 1995, the General Assembly will have before it the report of the Fourth World Conference on Women. In accordance with its resolution 49/161, it will also examine a report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Conference, taking into account the recommendations of the Conference. The General Assembly should include the follow-up to the Conference as part of its continuing work on the advancement of women. In 1996, 1998 and 2000, it should review the implementation of the Platform for Action.

Economic and Social Council

313. The Economic and Social Council, in the context of its role under the Charter of the United Nations and in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 45/264, 46/235 and 48/162, would oversee system-wide coordination in the implementation of the Platform for Action and make recommendations in this regard. The Council should be invited to review the implementation of the Platform for Action, giving due consideration to the reports of the Commission on the Status of Women. As coordinating body, the Council should be invited to review the mandate of the Commission on the Status of Women, taking into account the need for effective coordination with other related commissions and Conference follow-up. The Council should incorporate gender issues into its discussion of all policy questions, giving due consideration to recommendations prepared by the Commission. It should consider dedicating at least one high-level segment before the year 2000 to the advancement of women and implementation of the Platform for Action with the active involvement and participation, inter alia, of the specialized agencies, including the World Bank and IMF.

314. The Council should consider dedicating at least one coordination segment before the year 2000 to coordination of the advancement of women, based on the revised system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women.

315. The Council should consider dedicating at least one operational activities segment before the year 2000 to the coordination of development activities related to gender, based on the revised system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, with a view to instituting guidelines and procedures for implementation of the Platform for Action by the funds and programmes of the United Nations system.

316. The Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) should consider how its participating entities might best coordinate their activities, inter alia, through existing procedures at the inter-agency level for ensuring system-wide coordination to implement and help follow up the objectives of the Platform for Action.

Commission on the Status of Women

317. The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with their respective mandates, are invited to review and strengthen the mandate of the Commission on the Status of Women, taking into account the Platform for Action as well as the need for synergy with other related commissions and Conference follow-up, and for a system-wide approach to its implementation.

318. As a functional commission assisting the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on the Status of Women should have a central role in monitoring,

within the United Nations system, the implementation of the Platform for Action and advising the Council thereon. It should have a clear mandate with sufficient human and financial resources, through the reallocation of resources within the regular budget of the United Nations to carry the mandate out.

319. The Commission on the Status of Women should assist the Economic and Social Council in its coordination of the reporting on the implementation of the Platform for Action with the relevant organizations of the United Nations system. The Commission should draw upon inputs from other organizations of the United Nations system and other sources, as appropriate.

320. The Commission on the Status of Women, in developing its work programme for the period 1996-2000, should review the critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action and consider how to integrate in its agenda the follow-up to the World Conference on Women. In this context, the Commission on the Status of Women could consider how it could further develop its catalytic role in mainstreaming a gender perspective in United Nations activities.

Other functional commissions

321. Within their mandates, other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council should also take due account of the Platform for Action and ensure the integration of gender aspects in their respective work.

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and other treaty bodies

322. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, in implementing its responsibilities under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, should, within its mandate, take into account the Platform for Action when considering the reports submitted by States parties.

323. States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women are invited, when reporting under article 18 of the Convention, to include information on measures taken to implement the Platform for Action in order to facilitate the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in monitoring effectively women's ability to enjoy the rights guaranteed by the Convention.

324. The ability of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to monitor implementation of the Convention should be strengthened through the provision of human and financial resources within the regular budget of the United Nations, including expert legal assistance and, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/164 and the decision made by the meeting of States parties to the Convention held in May 1995, sufficient meeting time for the Committee. The Committee should increase its coordination with other human rights treaty bodies, taking into account the recommendations in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

325. Within their mandate, other treaty bodies should also take due account of the implementation of the Platform for Action and ensure the integration of the equal status and human rights of women in their work.

United Nations Secretariat

Office of the Secretary-General

326. The Secretary-General is requested to assume responsibility for coordination of policy within the United Nations for the implementation of the Platform for Action and for the mainstreaming of a system-wide gender perspective in all activities of the United Nations, taking into account the mandates of the bodies concerned. The Secretary-General should consider specific measures for ensuring effective coordination in the implementation of these objectives. To this end, the Secretary-General is invited to establish a high-level post in the office of the Secretary-General, using existing human and financial resources, to act as the Secretary-General's adviser on gender issues and to help ensure system-wide implementation of the Platform for Action in close cooperation with the Division for the Advancement of Women.

Division for the Advancement of Women

327. The primary function of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development is to provide substantive servicing to the Commission on the Status of Women and other intergovernmental bodies when they are concerned with the advancement of women, as well as to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. It has been designated a focal point for the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. In the light of the review of the mandate of the Commission on the Status of Women, as set out in paragraph 313 above, the functions of the Division for the Advancement of Women will also need to be assessed. The Secretary-General is requested to ensure more effective functioning of the Division by, inter alia, providing sufficient human and financial resources within the regular budget of the United Nations.

328. The Division should examine the obstacles to the advancement of women through the application of gender-impact analysis in policy studies for the Commission on the Status of Women and through support to other subsidiary bodies. After the Fourth World Conference on Women it should play a coordinating role in preparing the revision of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001 and should continue serving as the secretariat for inter-agency coordination for the advancement of women. It should continue to maintain a flow of information with national commissions, national institutions for the advancement of women and non-governmental organizations with regard to implementation of the Platform for Action.

Other units of the United Nations Secretariat

329. The various units of the United Nations Secretariat should examine their programmes to determine how they can best contribute to the coordinated implementation of the Platform for Action. Proposals for implementation of the Platform need to be reflected in the revision of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001, as well as in the proposed United Nations medium-term plan for the period 1998-2002. The content of the actions will depend on the mandates of the bodies concerned.

330. Existing and new linkages should be developed throughout the Secretariat in order to ensure that the gender perspective is introduced as a central dimension in all activities of the Secretariat.

331. The Office of Human Resources Management should, in collaboration with programme managers world wide, and in accordance with the strategic plan of action for the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (1995-2000), continue to accord priority to the recruitment and promotion of women in posts subject to geographical distribution, particularly in senior policy-level and decision-making posts, in order to achieve the goals set out in General Assembly resolutions 45/125 and 45/239 C and reaffirmed in General Assembly resolutions 46/100, 47/93, 48/106 and 49/167. The training service should design and conduct regular gender-sensitivity training or include gender-sensitivity training in all of its activities.

332. The Department of Public Information should seek to integrate a gender perspective in its general information activities and, within existing resources, strengthen and improve its programmes on women and the girl child. To this end, the Department should formulate a multimedia communications strategy to support the implementation of the Platform for Action, taking new technology fully into account. Regular outputs of the Department should promote the goals of the Platform, particularly in developing countries.

333. The Statistical Division of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis should have an important coordinating role in international work in statistics, as described above in chapter IV, strategic objective H.3.

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

334. INSTRAW has a mandate to promote research and training on women's situation and development. In the light of the Platform for Action, INSTRAW should review its work programme and develop a programme for implementing those aspects of the Platform for Action that fall within its mandate. It should identify those types of research and research methodologies to be given priority, strengthen national capacities to carry out women's studies and gender research, including that on the status of the girl child, and develop networks of research institutions that can be mobilized for that purpose. It should also identify those types of education and training that can be effectively supported and promoted by the Institute.

United Nations Development Fund for Women

335. UNIFEM has the mandate to increase options and opportunities for women's economic and social development in developing countries by providing technical and financial assistance to incorporate the women's dimension into development at all levels. Therefore, UNIFEM should review and strengthen, as appropriate, its work programme in the light of the Platform for Action, focusing on women's political and economic empowerment. Its advocacy role should concentrate on fostering a multilateral policy dialogue on women's empowerment. Adequate resources for carrying out its functions should be made available.

Specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system

336. To strengthen their support for actions at the national level and to enhance their contributions to coordinated follow-up by the United Nations, each organization should set out the specific actions they will undertake, including goals and targets to realign priorities and redirect resources to meet the global priorities identified in the Platform for Action. There should be a clear delineation of responsibility and accountability. These proposals should

in turn be reflected in the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001.

337. Each organization should commit itself at the highest level and, in pursuing its targets, should take steps to enhance and support the roles and responsibilities of its focal points on women's issues.

338. In addition, specialized agencies with mandates to provide technical assistance in developing countries, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries, should cooperate more to ensure the continuing promotion of the advancement of women.

339. The United Nations system should consider and provide appropriate technical assistance and other forms of assistance to the countries with economies in transition in order to facilitate solution of their specific problems regarding the advancement of women.

340. Each organization should accord greater priority to the recruitment and promotion of women at the Professional level to achieve gender balance, particularly at decision-making levels. The paramount consideration in the employment of the staff and in the determination of the conditions of service should be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. Due regard should be paid to the importance of recruiting the staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible. Organizations should report regularly to their governing bodies on progress towards this goal.

341. Coordination of United Nations operational activities for development at the country level should be improved through the resident coordinator system in accordance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular General Assembly resolution 47/199, to take full account of the Platform for Action.

2. Other international institutions and organizations

342. In implementing the Platform for Action, international financial institutions are encouraged to review and revise policies, procedures and staffing to ensure that investments and programmes benefit women and thus contribute to sustainable development. They are also encouraged to increase the number of women in high-level positions, increase staff training in gender analysis and institute policies and guidelines to ensure full consideration of the differential impact of lending programmes and other activities on women and men. In this regard, the Bretton Woods institutions, the United Nations, as well as its funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, should establish regular and substantive dialogue, including dialogue at the field level, for more efficient and effective coordination of their assistance in order to strengthen the effectiveness of their programmes for the benefit of women and their families.

343. The General Assembly should give consideration to inviting the World Trade Organization to consider how it might contribute to the implementation of the Platform for Action, including activities in cooperation with the United Nations system.

344. International non-governmental organizations have an important role to play in implementing the Platform for Action. Consideration should be given to establishing a mechanism for collaborating with non-governmental organizations to promote the implementation of the Platform at various levels.

Chapter VI

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

345. Financial and human resources have generally been insufficient for the advancement of women. This has contributed to the slow progress to date in implementing the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. Full and effective implementation of the Platform for Action, including the relevant commitments made at previous United Nations summits and conferences, will require a political commitment to make available human and financial resources for the empowerment of women. This will require the integration of a gender perspective in budgetary decisions on policies and programmes, as well as the adequate financing of specific programmes for securing equality between women and men. To implement the Platform for Action, funding will need to be identified and mobilized from all sources and across all sectors. The reformulation of policies and reallocation of resources may be needed within and among programmes, but some policy changes may not necessarily have financial implications. Mobilization of additional resources, both public and private, including resources from innovative sources of funding, may also be necessary.

A. National level

346. The primary responsibility for implementing the strategic objectives of the Platform for Action rests with Governments. To achieve these objectives, Governments should make efforts to systematically review how women benefit from public sector expenditures; adjust budgets to ensure equality of access to public sector expenditures, both for enhancing productive capacity and for meeting social needs; and achieve the gender-related commitments made in other United Nations summits and conferences. To develop successful national implementation strategies for the Platform for Action, Governments should allocate sufficient resources, including resources for undertaking gender-impact analysis. Governments should also encourage non-governmental organizations and private-sector and other institutions to mobilize additional resources.

347. Sufficient resources should be allocated to national machineries for the advancement of women as well as to all institutions, as appropriate, that can contribute to the implementation and monitoring of the Platform for Action.

348. Where national machineries for the advancement of women do not yet exist or where they have not yet been established on a permanent basis, Governments should strive to make available sufficient and continuing resources for such machineries.

349. To facilitate the implementation of the Platform for Action, Governments should reduce, as appropriate, excessive military expenditures and investments for arms production and acquisition, consistent with national security requirements.

350. Non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other actors of civil society should be encouraged to consider allocating the resources necessary for the implementation of the Platform for Action. Governments should create a supportive environment for the mobilization of resources by non-governmental organizations, particularly women's organizations and networks, feminist groups, the private sector and other actors of civil society, to enable

them to contribute towards this end. The capacity of non-governmental organizations in this regard should be strengthened and enhanced.

B. Regional level

351. Regional development banks, regional business associations and other regional institutions should be invited to contribute to and help mobilize resources in their lending and other activities for the implementation of the Platform for Action. They should also be encouraged to take account of the Platform for Action in their policies and funding modalities.

352. The subregional and regional organizations and the United Nations regional commissions should, where appropriate and within their existing mandates, assist in the mobilization of funds for the implementation of the Platform for Action.

C. International level

353. Adequate financial resources should be committed at the international level for the implementation of the Platform for Action in the developing countries, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries. Strengthening national capacities in developing countries to implement the Platform for Action will require striving for the fulfilment of the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of the gross national product of developed countries for overall official development assistance as soon as possible, as well as increasing the share of funding for activities designed to implement the Platform for Action. Furthermore, countries involved in development cooperation should conduct a critical analysis of their assistance programmes so as to improve the quality and effectiveness of aid through the integration of a gender approach.

354. International financial institutions, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the regional development banks, should be invited to examine their grants and lending and to allocate loans and grants to programmes for implementing the Platform for Action in developing countries, especially in Africa and the least developed countries.

355. The United Nations system should provide technical cooperation and other forms of assistance to the developing countries, in particular in Africa and the least developed countries, in implementing the Platform for Action.

356. Implementation of the Platform for Action in the countries with economies in transition will require continued international cooperation and assistance. The organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the technical and sectoral agencies, should facilitate the efforts of those countries in designing and implementing policies and programmes for the advancement of women. To this end, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank should be invited to assist those efforts.

357. The outcome of the World Summit for Social Development regarding debt management and reduction as well as other United Nations world summits and conferences should be implemented in order to facilitate the realization of the objectives of the Platform for Action.

358. To facilitate implementation of the Platform for Action, interested developed and developing country partners, agreeing on a mutual commitment to allocate, on average, 20 per cent of official development assistance and 20 per cent of the national budget to basic social programmes should take into account a gender perspective.

359. Development funds and programmes of the United Nations system should undertake an immediate analysis of the extent to which their programmes and projects are directed to implementing the Platform for Action and, for the next programming cycle, should ensure the adequacy of resources targeted towards eliminating disparities between women and men in their technical assistance and funding activities.

360. Recognizing the roles of United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, in particular the special roles of UNIFEM and INSTRAW, in the promotion of the empowerment of women, and therefore in the implementation of the Platform for Action within their respective mandates, inter alia, in research, training and information activities for the advancement of women as well as technical and financial assistance to incorporate a gender perspective in development efforts, the resources provided by the international community need to be sufficient and should be maintained at an adequate level.

361. To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations system in its efforts to promote the advancement of women and to enhance its capacity to further the objectives of the Platform for Action, there is a need to renew, reform and revitalize various parts of the United Nations system, especially the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat, as well as other units and subsidiary bodies that have a specific mandate to promote the advancement of women. In this regard, relevant governing bodies within the United Nations system are encouraged to give special consideration to the effective implementation of the Platform for Action and to review their policies, programmes, budgets and activities in order to achieve the most effective and efficient use of funds to this end. Allocation of additional resources from within the United Nations regular budget in order to implement the Platform for Action will also be necessary.

Notes

1/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

2/ Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I)), chap. III.

3/ General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

4/ General Assembly resolution 45/164.

5/ General Assembly resolution 44/82.

6/ General Assembly resolution 48/126.

7/ A/47/308-E/1992/97, annex.

8/ General Assembly resolution 48/104.

9/ Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, Report of the World Conference on Human Rights ..., chap. III, para. 5.

10/ See The Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations: The Legal Texts (Geneva, GATT secretariat, 1994).

11/ General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

12/ Final Report of the World Conference on Education for All: Meeting Basic Learning Needs, Jomtien, Thailand, 5-9 March 1990, Inter-Agency Commission (UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank) for the World Conference on Education for All, New York, 1990, appendix 1.

13/ General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

14/ Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

15/ Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (A/CONF.166/9), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

16/ Unsafe abortion is defined as a procedure for terminating an unwanted pregnancy either by persons lacking the necessary skills or in an environment lacking the minimal medical standards or both (based on World Health Organization, The Prevention and Management of Unsafe Abortion, Report of a Technical Working Group, Geneva, April 1992 (WHO/MSM/92.5)).

17/ Final Report of the International Conference on Nutrition, Rome, 5-11 December 1992 (Rome, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 1993), Part II.

18/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex I.

19/ Ibid., resolution 1, annex II.

20/ General Assembly resolution 317 (IV), annex.

21/ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

22/ General Assembly resolution 39/46, annex.

23/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/47/38), chap. I.

24/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973, p. 287.

25/ Report of the World Conference on Human Rights ..., chap. III, sect. II, para. 38.

26/ See The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, vol. 5: 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.IX.4), appendix VII.

27/ General Assembly resolution 260 A (III), annex.

28/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2545.

29/ Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

30/ General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex.

31/ General Assembly resolution 1386 (XIV).

32/ See CEDAW/SP/1995/2.

33/ General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

34/ General Assembly resolution 41/128, annex.

35/ United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institutions Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

Resolution 2

Expression of thanks to the people and Government of the People's Republic of China*

The Fourth World Conference on Women,

Having met in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995 at the invitation of the Government of the People's Republic of China,

1. Expresses its deep appreciation to Her Excellency Madame Chen Muhua, Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, for her outstanding contribution, as President of the Fourth World Conference on Women, to the successful outcome of the Conference;

2. Expresses its profound gratitude to the Government of the People's Republic of China for having made it possible for the Conference to be held in Beijing and for the excellent facilities, staff and services so graciously placed at its disposal;

3. Requests the Government of the People's Republic of China to convey to the City of Beijing and to the people of the People's Republic of China the gratitude of the Conference for the hospitality and warm welcome extended to the participants.

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* Adopted at the 16th plenary meeting, on 15 September 1995; for the discussion, see chapter VIII.

Resolution 3

Credentials of representatives to the Fourth World Conference on Women*

The Fourth World Conference on Women,

Having considered the report of the Credentials Committee 1/ and the recommendation contained therein,

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee.

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* Adopted at the 12th plenary meeting, on 12 September 1995; for the discussion, see chapter VI.

1/ A/CONF.177/14.

Chapter II

ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. Date and place of the Conference

1. The Fourth World Conference on Women was held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995 in conformity with General Assembly resolutions 45/129 and 46/98. During that period the Conference held 16 plenary meetings.

B. Pre-Conference consultations

2. Pre-Conference consultations open to all States invited to participate in the Conference were held at Beijing on 2 and 3 September 1995 to consider a number of procedural and organizational matters. These and other informal consultations were conducted under the chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Li Zhaoxing, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. The report on the consultations (A/CONF.177/L.4) was submitted to the Conference and the recommendations contained in it were accepted as the basis for the organization of the Conference's work.

C. Attendance

3. The following States and regional economic integration organization were represented at the Conference:

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Andorra
Angola
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Armenia
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bahamas
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belarus
Belgium
Belize
Benin
Bhutan
Bolivia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Botswana
Brazil
Brunei Darussalam
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Cameroon
Canada
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
China
Colombia
Comoros
Congo
Cook Islands
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Denmark
Djibouti
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea

Estonia
Ethiopia
European Community
Fiji
Finland
France
Gabon
Gambia
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana
Haiti
Holy See
Honduras
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kazakstan
Kenya
Kiribati
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Latvia
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liberia
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Malta
Marshall Islands
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Micronesia (Federated States of)
Monaco
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia
Nauru
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Niue
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Palau
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Rwanda
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Samoa
San Marino
Sao Tome and Principe
Senegal
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
Solomon Islands
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Suriname
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Tajikistan
Thailand
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Togo

Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Tuvalu
Uganda
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Yemen
Zaire
Zambia
Zimbabwe

4. The observer for Palestine attended the Conference.

5. The following associate members of the regional commissions were represented by observers:

American Samoa
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Guam
Macau
Netherlands Antilles
Puerto Rico

6. The secretariats of the following regional commissions were represented:

Economic Commission for Africa
Economic Commission for Europe
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

7. The following United Nations bodies and programmes were represented:

United Nations Children's Fund
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
United Nations Development Fund for Women
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Population Fund
United Nations University
World Food Programme
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Office of the
International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
International Trade Centre
Joint Inspection Unit
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

8. The following specialized agencies and related organizations were represented:

International Labour Organization
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
World Health Organization
World Bank
International Monetary Fund
World Meteorological Organization
International Maritime Organization
World Intellectual Property Organization
International Fund for Agricultural Development
United Nations Industrial Development Organization
International Atomic Energy Agency

9. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

African Development Bank
African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development
Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation
Asian Development Bank
Caribbean Community
Commission of the European Communities
Commonwealth of Independent States
Commonwealth Secretariat
Council of Europe
Eastern and Southern African Management Institute
Inter-American Development Bank
International Committee of the Red Cross
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
International Organization for Migration
Latin American Economic System
Latin American Parliament
League of Arab States
Nordic Council
Nordic Council of Ministers
Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
Organization of African Unity
Organization of American States
Organization of the Islamic Conference
Preparatory Commission for the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
South Pacific Commission
South Pacific Forum

10. A large number of non-governmental organizations were accredited to the Conference by the Commission on the Status of Women in decision 39/2 and the Economic and Social Council in decision 1995/229.

D. Opening of the Conference and election of the President

11. The Conference was declared open by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who read out the address of the Secretary-General.

12. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 4 September, the Conference elected, by acclamation, as President of the Conference, Her Excellency Madame Chen Muhua, Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China.

13. The Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Mrs. Gertrude Mongella, addressed the Conference.

14. Opening statements were made by Her Excellency Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan; Her Excellency Mrs. Vigdis Finnbogadottir, President of Iceland; Her Excellency Begum Khaleda Zia, Prime Minister of Bangladesh; Her Excellency Dr. Speciosa Wandira Kazibwe, Vice-President and Minister of Gender and Community Development of Uganda; and Her Excellency Madame Nguyen Thi Binh, Vice-President of Viet Nam.

E. Messages from Heads of State or Government

15. The Conference received messages wishing it success from His Excellency Mr. Heydor Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan; His Excellency Mr. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Ethiopia; His Excellency Flight Lieutenant J. J. Rawlings, President of Ghana; His Excellency Mr. Fidel V. Ramos, President of the Philippines; His Excellency Mr. Boris Yeltsin, President of the Russian Federation; His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of Senegal; and Her Excellency Professor Tansu Ciller, Prime Minister of Turkey.

F. Adoption of the rules of procedure

16. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 4 September, the Conference adopted the provisional rules of procedure (A/CONF.177/2) as approved by the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-ninth session, acting as the preparatory body for the Conference, and by the General Assembly in its decision 49/482 of 21 April 1995.

G. Adoption of the agenda

17. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 4 September, the Conference adopted as its agenda the provisional agenda (A/CONF.177/1) recommended by the Commission on the Status of Women, acting as the preparatory body for the Conference, in annex I of its resolution 39/1. The agenda as adopted was as follows:

1. Opening of the Conference.

2. Election of the President.

3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.

4. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

5. Election of officers other than the President.

6. Organization of work, including the establishment of the Main Committee.

7. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:

   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;

   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.

8. General exchange of views:

   (a) Second review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the year 2000;

   (b) Main conclusions and recommendations of regional preparatory conferences;

   (c) National priorities and commitments.

9. Platform for Action.

10. Adoption of the Declaration and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

11. Adoption of the report of the Conference.

H. Election of officers other than the President

18. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 4 September, the Conference endorsed the recommendations concerning the composition of the General Committee and the distribution of posts as set out in paragraph 4 of document A/CONF.177/3.

19. At the same meeting, the Conference elected Vice-Presidents from the following regional groups:

African States (7 Vice-Presidents): Botswana, Congo, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal and Sudan;

Asian States (6 Vice-Presidents): Bangladesh, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Pakistan and the Syrian Arab Republic;

Eastern European States (3 Vice-Presidents): Azerbaijan, Romania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;

Latin American and Caribbean States (5 Vice-Presidents): Bahamas, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba and Panama;

Western European and other States (6 Vice-Presidents): Australia, Greece, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.

20. At the same meeting, the Conference elected an ex officio Vice-President from the host country, His Excellency Mr. Li Zhaoxing, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

21. At the same meeting, the Conference elected Mrs. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah (Namibia) Rapporteur-General of the Conference.

22. Also at the same meeting, the Conference elected Ms. Patricia B. Licuanan (Philippines) Chairperson of the Main Committee.

I. Organization of work, including the establishment of the Main Committee of the Conference

23. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 4 September, the Conference, in accordance with the recommendations of the pre-Conference consultations contained in paragraphs 15 to 18 of document A/CONF.177/L.4, approved its organization of work.

J. Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

24. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 4 September, in conformity with rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Conference and the recommendation of the pre-Conference consultations contained in paragraph 19 of document A/CONF.177/L.4, the Conference established a Credentials Committee composed of China, Fiji, Honduras, Namibia, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Suriname, Togo and the United States of America, on the understanding that, if one of those States did not participate in the Conference, it would be replaced by another State from the same regional group.

Chapter III

GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

1. The Conference held a general exchange of views on (a) the second review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000; (b) the main conclusions and recommendations of regional preparatory conferences; and (c) national priorities and commitments (item 8) at the 2nd to 15th plenary meetings, from 5 to 15 September 1995. Representatives of States, observers, specialized agencies, United Nations bodies, programmes and offices, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations and observers for associate members of the regional commissions addressed the Conference. All speakers expressed their appreciation of the efforts made by the host Government and the secretariat in preparing for the Conference.

2. At the 2nd plenary meeting, on 5 September, the Conference heard statements by the First Ladies of Panama and Brazil and the representatives of the Philippines, Spain, Turkey, Indonesia, Japan, Italy, New Zealand, Belgium, Mexico and Sri Lanka.

3. At the 3rd plenary meeting, on 5 September, the Conference heard statements by the First Ladies of the Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Ghana and Benin, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Bint Talal of Jordan and the representatives of Ukraine, Namibia, China, Iceland, India, Thailand, the United Republic of Tanzania, Senegal, Chile, Portugal, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Antigua and Barbuda, Tunisia, the Holy See and Nepal.

4. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Directors-General of the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Statements were also made by the Deputy United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Executive Directors of the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Her Majesty Queen Fabiola of Belgium, the representative of the International Steering Committee on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women, made a statement. Statements were also made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: NGO Forum in Beijing, National Organization of Arab/American Women and Committee for Asian Women.

5. At the 4th plenary meeting, on 6 September, statements were made by the First Lady of Egypt, His Royal Highness Prince Sobandla Dlamini of Swaziland and the representatives of Ireland, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Germany, Zimbabwe, Malta, Morocco, Gabon, Peru and Algeria.

6. At the same meeting, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme made a statement. A statement was also made by the representative of the Commission of the European Communities.

7. At the 5th plenary meeting, on 6 September, the Conference heard statements by the First Ladies of El Salvador, Suriname, Djibouti and Equatorial Guinea, Her Royal Highness Princess Norodom Marie Ranariddh of Cambodia and the representatives of the United States of America, Australia, Denmark, South Africa, Guinea, Lithuania, Canada, Zambia, Fiji, Finland, Malaysia, Luxembourg, Sweden, Poland, Mongolia, Guyana, Singapore, Pakistan, Mozambique and Togo.

8. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Deputy Director-General of the International Labour Organization. The Executive Director of the World Food Programme, an Inspector of the Joint Inspection Unit, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific made statements. The representatives of the International Organization for Migration and the Commonwealth Secretariat, intergovernmental organizations, made statements. Statements were also made by the following non-governmental organizations: International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, Family Life Counselling and All India Women's Conference.

9. At the 6th plenary meeting, on 7 September, the Conference heard a statement by the First Lady of Lebanon and the representatives of Austria, Hungary, Argentina, Slovakia, Latvia, the United Arab Emirates, Norway, France and Saint Lucia.

10. At the same meeting, the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization made a statement. A statement was also made by the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

11. At the 7th plenary meeting, on 7 September, the Conference heard statements by Her Majesty Queen Halaevalu Mata'aho of Tonga and the representatives of Greece, Nicaragua, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Switzerland, Bulgaria, Venezuela, Cameroon, Trinidad and Tobago, Rwanda, Paraguay, the Central African Republic, Vanuatu, the Czech Republic, Niger, Bahrain and Georgia. The observer for Macau made a statement. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

12. At the same meeting, the Rector of the United Nations University, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe and the Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) made statements. Statements were also made by the representatives of the League of Arab States, the Council of Europe and the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation. Statements were also made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: International Cooperative Alliance, International Coalition on Women and Credit, Acción Familiar, Women's International Democratic Federation, International Right to Life Federation, Network for Women in Development: Europe, and World Muslim Congress.

13. At the 8th meeting, on 8 September, statements were made by the First Lady of Burundi and the representatives of Kenya, Liechtenstein, Cuba, Estonia, Croatia, Jamaica, the Bahamas, Belize, Romania and Viet Nam.

14. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The Director of the Division of Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries and Special Programmes of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development also made a statement.

15. At the 9th plenary meeting, on 8 September, the Conference heard statements by the First Ladies of Nigeria and Bolivia, Her Royal Highness Princess Sonam Chodron Wangchuck of Bhutan and the representatives of Honduras, Angola, Oman, Mauritania, the Russian Federation, the Netherlands, Israel, Dominica, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Guinea-Bissau. The observer for the Netherlands Antilles made a statement.

16. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the World Meteorological Organization. Statements were also made by the Executive Director of the International Trade Centre, the Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Volunteers, the Under-Secretary-General for Development Support and Management Services of the United Nations Secretariat, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women. The representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations made statements: Organization of the Islamic Conference and Asian Development Bank. Statements were also made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: International Planned Parenthood Federation, Inter-Parliamentary Union, Muslim World League, National Council of Negro Women, Disabled Peoples International and Centre for International Cooperation.

17. At the 10th plenary meeting, on 11 September, the Conference heard statements by the representatives of Colombia, Maldives, Liberia, Barbados, the Republic of Moldova, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea, Burkina Faso and Uruguay.

18. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representative of the International Monetary Fund and the representative of the World Health Organization, on behalf of the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Virus. The Acting Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women made a statement. A statement was also made by the representative of the Inter-American Development Bank, an intergovernmental organization.

19. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 11 September, statements were made by the representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Malawi, the Congo, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Belarus, Tuvalu, the Sudan, Guatemala, Iraq, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Armenia, San Marino, Myanmar, the Comoros, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Qatar and Cape Verde.

20. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Statements were also made by the representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: Organization of American States, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Organization of African Unity, African Development Bank and Nordic Council. The representative of the Global Commission on Women's Health also made a statement. Statements were made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: International Federation of Agricultural Producers, Commission on Global Governance, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood and Women and Fisheries Network.

21. At the 12th plenary meeting, on 12 September, the Conference heard statements by the First Ladies of the Gambia and Kazakstan, the representatives of Sao Tome and Principe, Bangladesh, Turkmenistan, Haiti, Eritrea, Sierra Leone, Samoa, Lesotho and Madagascar and the observer for Guam.

22. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

23. At the 13th plenary meeting, on 12 September, statements were made by the representatives of Botswana, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Dominican Republic, Mali, Azerbaijan, the Marshall Islands, Zaire, the Federated States of

Micronesia, Yemen, Ethiopia, Chad, Costa Rica, Brunei Darussalam, Slovenia, Uzbekistan, Albania, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tajikistan, Cook Islands, Kiribati and Kuwait.

24. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the International Maritime Organization. A statement was also made by the representative of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. The President of the Comité ministériel de coordination "femmes et développement" made a statement. The representative of the Latin American Parliament, an intergovernmental organization, also made a statement. Statements were made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: Agence de recherches d'information et formation pour les femmes, Women's Environment and Development Organization, Somali Women's Trust, Association pour le progrès et la défense des droits des femmes maliennes and Forum of African Women Educationalists.

25. At the 14th plenary meeting, on 13 September, the Conference heard a statement by the representative of Palau.

26. At the same meeting, the representative of the Office of Human Resources Management of the United Nations Secretariat made a statement. Statements were also made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era, Interaction: American Council for Voluntary International Action, Flora Tristan, Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations, African Caucus of Femnet, Housewives in Dialogue, Global Network Women and Politics, International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, Older Women's Network Australia, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, Network of African Rural Women's Associations, Polish Federation for Women and Family Planning, International Human Rights Law Group, Centre for Women's Global Leadership, Fédération européenne des femmes actives au foyer, Anglican Communion, Arab Organization for Human Rights, Education International, World Federation of United Nations Associations, World Federation of Trade Unions, Choisir and International Federation of University Women.

27. At the 15th plenary meeting, on 15 September, the President of Peru made a statement.

28. At the same meeting, the Conference heard a statement by the President of the World Bank. A statement was also made by the representative of the Coalition of Youth Non-Governmental Organizations accredited to the Fourth World Conference on Women.

Chapter IV

REPORT OF THE MAIN COMMITTEE

A. Organization of work

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 4 September 1995, the Conference approved the organization of its work, as set out in document A/CONF.177/3, and decided to allocate agenda item 9 (Platform for Action) to the Main Committee, which was to submit its recommendations to the Conference.

2. The Main Committee held six meetings, from 5 to 14 September 1995. It also held a number of informal meetings.

3. The Main Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on proposals for consideration in the preparation of a draft declaration and on the draft platform for action (A/CONF.177/L.1);

(b) Note by the Secretariat transmitting the report of the informal contact group on gender (A/CONF.177/L.2);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General containing amendments to the text of the draft platform for action agreed upon at the informal consultations convened by the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women from 31 July to 4 August 1995 (A/CONF.177/L.3).

4. The Chairperson of the Main Committee was Patricia B. Licuanan (Philippines), who was elected by acclamation at the 1st plenary meeting of the Conference, on 4 September.

5. The Main Committee, at its 1st meeting, on 5 September, elected the following officers by acclamation:

Vice-Chairpersons: Zelmira Regazolli (Argentina)

Irene Freudenschuss-Reichl (Austria)

Natalia Drozd (Belarus)

Rapporteur: Selma Ashipala (Namibia)

6. Also at its 1st meeting, the Main Committee established two working groups and designated Amma Yeboaa (Ghana) Chairperson of Working Group I and Irene Freudenschuss-Reichl (Austria) Chairperson of Working Group II.

7. At the 2nd meeting, on 11 September, statements were made by the representatives of Mauritius, Spain, France, Benin, Mauritania, Tunisia, Paraguay, Latvia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Holy See, Iraq, Guatemala, Canada and Chile. The Chairperson of the Committee and the Secretary of the Conference also made statements.

8. At the 3rd meeting, on 12 September, statements were made by the representatives of Egypt, Peru, the Syrian Arab Republic, Bahrain, Malta, Paraguay, Kuwait, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Mauritania.

B. Consideration of the draft platform for action

9. At the 3rd to 6th meetings, on 12 and 14 September, the Main Committee considered amendments and corrections to the draft platform for action (A/CONF.177/L.1 and A/CONF.177/L.3) that had been agreed upon by Working Groups I and II and during informal consultations.

Strategic objectives and actions: women and armed conflict*

10. At the 3rd meeting, on 12 September, the Main Committee approved an amended text for chapter IV (Strategic objectives and actions), section E (Women and armed conflict) of the draft platform for action. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Norway, Benin, Canada, Nigeria, the Philippines (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77), Spain, Guatemala, Cameroon, Indonesia, the Holy See, Jamaica, Bolivia, Ecuador, the Sudan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the United States of America, Malta, Algeria, Australia, Peru, the Syrian Arab Republic, Namibia, Chile, Kuwait, Belize, Equatorial Guinea and Liberia. The Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Ms. Freudenschuss-Reichl, also made a statement.

11. At the 5th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved corrections to chapter IV, section E, and recommended the text to the Conference for adoption as amended and corrected (see A/CONF.177/L.5/Add.9 and Corr.1). Statements were made by the representatives of Malta, Cyprus, the Holy See, Spain (on behalf of the European Community), Fiji, India, the Syrian Arab Republic and Cuba. The Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Ms. Freudenschuss-Reichl, also made a statement.

Strategic objectives and actions: women in power and decision-making*

12. At the 3rd meeting, on 12 September, the Main Committee approved an amended text for chapter IV, section G (Women in power and decision-making) of the draft platform for action. Statements were made by the representatives of Benin, Algeria, Nigeria, Spain (on behalf of the European Community), Peru, Mauritania and Argentina. The Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Ms. Freudenschuss-Reichl, also made a statement.

13. At the 5th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved corrections to chapter IV, section G, and recommended the text to the Conference for adoption as amended and corrected (see A/CONF.177/L.5/Add.11 and Corr.1). The representative of Japan made a statement.

Strategic objectives and actions: women and poverty*

14. At the 3rd meeting, on 12 September, the Main Committee approved an amended text for chapter IV, section A (Women and poverty) of the draft platform for action. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Pakistan Benin, the United States of America, Algeria and the Philippines. The Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Ms. Freudenschuss-Reichl, also made a statement.

15. At the 4th and 5th meetings, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved corrections to chapter IV, section A.

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* At the 5th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved amendments and corrections to the section titles and strategic objectives contained in chapter IV of the draft platform for action (see para. 48 below).

16. At the 6th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved oral revisions to chapter IV, section A, and recommended the text to the Conference for adoption as amended, corrected and orally revised (see A/CONF.177/L.5/Add.5 and Corr.1 and A/CONF.177/L.5/Add.21).

Strategic objectives and actions: women and the media*

17. At the 3rd meeting, on 12 September, the Main Committee approved an amended text for chapter IV, section J (Women and the media) of the draft platform for action. Statements were made by the representatives of Paraguay, Argentina, Peru, Mauritius and the United States of America. The Chairperson of Working Group I, Ms. Yeboaa, also made a statement.

18. At the 5th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved corrections to chapter IV, section J, and recommended the text to the Conference for adoption as amended and corrected (see A/CONF.177/L.5/Add.14 and Corr.1).

Institutional arrangements

19. At the 3rd meeting, on 12 September, the Main Committee approved an amended text for chapter V (Institutional arrangements) of the draft platform for action. Statements were made by the representatives of Spain (on behalf of the European Community), Kuwait and the United States of America.

20. At the 5th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved corrections to chapter V. Statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America and Spain.

21. At the 6th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved oral revisions to chapter V and recommended the text to the Conference for adoption as amended, corrected and orally revised (see A/CONF.177/L.5/Add.17 and Corr.1 and A/CONF.177/L.5/Add.21). Statements were made by the representatives of the Holy See, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Philippines (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Spain (on behalf of the European Community), Egypt, Kuwait, Canada, Namibia, Nigeria, Malta, Bahrain, Norway, Yemen, Switzerland, Oman, Australia, Suriname, Botswana, Cuba, South Africa, Benin, Belize, Estonia, Morocco, Bolivia, Israel, Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Jamaica, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Chile, Senegal and the Sudan. The Secretary-General of the Conference and the Chairperson of the Committee also made statements.

Financial arrangements

22. At the 3rd meeting, on 12 September, the Main Committee considered an amended and corrected text for chapter VI (Financial arrangements) of the draft platform for action. Statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Spain (on behalf of the European Community), Nigeria and Tunisia.

23. At the 4th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved the text of chapter VI and recommended it to the Conference for adoption as amended and corrected (see A/CONF.177/L.5/Add.18).

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* At the 5th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved amendments and corrections to the section titles and strategic objectives contained in chapter IV of the draft platform for action (see para. 48 below).

Mission statement

24. At the 4th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee considered an amended text for chapter I (Mission statement) of the draft platform for action. Statements were made by the representatives of the Philippines (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77), Latvia (on behalf of the Eastern European States), China, Colombia, Benin, Spain (on behalf of the European Community), the United States of America, Algeria, Cuba, Ecuador, Bolivia and India. The Chairperson of the Committee also made a statement.

25. At the 6th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee, after accepting an oral revision to chapter I, approved the text and recommended it to the Conference for adoption as amended and orally revised (see A/CONF.177/L.5/Add.1). Statements were made by the representatives of the Philippines (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), the Sudan, the United States of America, Norway, Spain (on behalf of the European Community) and Japan.

Global framework

26. At the 4th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved an amended text and corrections to chapter II (Global framework) of the draft platform for action. Statements were made by the representatives of Guatemala, the Holy See, Bulgaria, the Russian Federation, India, Pakistan, the United States of America, Canada, the Sudan, Malta, Spain (on behalf of the European Community), Malaysia, Mauritania and Israel. The Chairperson of Working Group I, Ms. Yeboaa, also made a statement.

27. At the 6th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved oral revisions to chapter II and recommended the text to the Conference for adoption as amended, corrected and orally revised (see A/CONF.177/L.5/Add.2 and Corr.1).

Critical areas of concern*

28. At the 4th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved an amended text for chapter III (Critical areas of concern) of the draft platform for action. Statements were made by the representatives of Pakistan, the United States of America, Bulgaria and the Russian Federation.

29. At the 6th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved oral revisions to chapter III and recommended the text to the Conference for adoption as amended and orally revised (see A/CONF.177/L.5/Add.3 and A/CONF.177/L.5/Add.21). Statements were made by the representatives of the Holy See, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Philippines (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Spain (on behalf of the European Community), Egypt, Kuwait, Canada, Namibia, Nigeria, Malta, Bahrain, Norway, Yemen, Switzerland, Oman, Australia, Suriname, Botswana, Cuba, South Africa, Benin, Belize, Estonia, Morocco, Bolivia, Israel, Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Jamaica, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Chile, Senegal and the Sudan. The Secretary-General of the Conference and the Chairperson of the Committee also made statements.

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* At the 5th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved amendments and corrections to the critical areas of concern listed in chapter III of the draft platform for action (see para. 48 below).

Strategic objectives and actions: education and training of women*

30. At the 4th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved an amended text and corrections to chapter IV, section B (Education and training of women) of the draft platform for action. Statements were made by the representatives of the Sudan, Benin, China, the Russian Federation, Spain (on behalf of the European Community), Yemen and the Syrian Arab Republic. The Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Ms. Freudenschuss-Reichl, also made a statement.

31. At the 5th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved further corrections to chapter IV, section B, and recommended the text to the Conference for adoption as amended and corrected (see A/CONF.177/L.5/Add.6 and Corr.1). Statements were made by the representatives of Spain, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Benin and the United States of America. The Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Ms. Freudenschuss-Reichl, also made a statement.

Strategic objectives and actions: women and health*

32. At the 4th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved an amended text for chapter IV, section C (Women and health) of the draft platform for action. Statements were made by the representatives of Barbados, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Malta, Mauritania, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Sudan, Honduras, the Holy See, Morocco, Yemen, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Nigeria, Kuwait, Benin, the Syrian Arab Republic, Jordan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tunisia, Oman, Bahrain, Japan, Senegal, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Belize. The Secretary-General of the Conference and the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Ms. Freudenschuss-Reichl, also made statements.

33. At the 6th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved corrections to chapter IV, section C, and recommended the text to the Conference for adoption as amended and corrected (see A/CONF.177/L.5/Add.7 and A/CONF.177/L.5/Add.21).

Strategic objectives and actions: violence against women*

34. At the 4th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved an amended text for chapter IV, section D (Violence against women) of the draft platform for action. Statements were made by the representatives of Jamaica, Haiti and the Russian Federation.

35. At the 5th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved corrections to chapter IV, section D, and recommended the text to the Conference for adoption as amended and corrected (see A/CONF.177/L.5/Add.8 and Corr.1). Statements were made by the representatives of Spain (on behalf of the European Community), the Russian Federation, the Philippines (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Argentina and Azerbaijan. The Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Ms. Freudenschuss-Reichl, also made a statement.

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* At the 5th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved amendments and corrections to the section titles and strategic objectives contained in chapter IV of the draft platform for action (see para. 48 below).

Strategic objectives and actions: human rights of women*

36. At the 4th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved an amended text for chapter IV, section I (Human rights of women) of the draft platform for action. Statements were made by the representative of Spain and the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Ms. Freudenschuss-Reichl.

37. At the 5th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved corrections to chapter IV, section I.

38. At the 6th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved oral revisions to chapter IV, section I, and recommended the text to the Conference for adoption as amended, corrected and orally revised (see A/CONF.177/L.5/Add.13 and Corr.1 and A/CONF.177/L.5/Add.21). Statements were made by the representatives of the Sudan and Canada.

Strategic objectives and actions: women and the economy*

39. At the 4th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved an amended text for chapter IV, section F (Women and the economy) of the draft platform for action. Statements were made by the representatives of Yemen, Spain, the United States of America, Benin and Vanuatu. The Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Ms. Freudenschuss-Reichl, also made a statement.

40. At the 6th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved oral revisions to chapter IV, section F, and recommended the text to the Conference for adoption as amended and orally revised (see A/CONF.177/L.5/Add.10 and A/CONF.177/L.5/Add.21).

Strategic objectives and actions: women and the environment*

41. At the 4th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved an amended text for chapter IV, section K (Women and the environment) of the draft platform for action. Statements were made by the representatives of Belize, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United States of America, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

42. At the 5th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved corrections to chapter IV, section K, and recommended the text to the Conference for adoption as amended and corrected (see A/CONF.177/L.5/Add.15 and Corr.1). Statements were made by the representatives of India, Australia, Spain (on behalf of the European Community), the Philippines (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), the United States of America and the Russian Federation.

43. At the 6th meeting, on 14 September, the representative of the United States of America and the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Ms. Freudenschuss-Reichl, made statements.

Strategic objectives and actions: the girl child*

44. At the 4th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved an amended text for chapter IV, section L (The girl child) of the draft platform for action and recommended the text to the Conference for adoption as amended (see

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* At the 5th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved amendments and corrections to the section titles and strategic objectives contained in chapter IV of the draft platform for action (see para. 48 below).

A/CONF.177/L.5/Add.16). Statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Spain (on behalf of the European Community), the Sudan, the Holy See, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the United Arab Emirates, Mauritania, the Syrian Arab Republic, Oman, Iraq, Kuwait, Zimbabwe, Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, Bangladesh, Morocco and Yemen. The Chairperson of Working Group I, Ms. Yeboaa, also made a statement.

Strategic objectives and actions: institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women*

45. At the 4th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved an amended text for chapter IV, section H (Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women) of the draft platform for action. Statements were made by the representatives of Spain (on behalf of the European Community), the United States of America and Nepal. The Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Ms. Freudenschuss-Reichl, also made a statement.

46. At the 5th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved corrections to chapter IV, section H.

47. At the 6th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved oral revisions to chapter IV, section H, and recommended the text to the Conference for adoption as amended, corrected and orally revised (see A/CONF.177/L.5/Add.12 and Corr.1 and A/CONF.177/L.5/Add.21). Statements were made by the representatives of the Holy See, the Philippines (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and Spain (on behalf of the European Community).

Critical areas of concern listed in chapter III and section titles and strategic objectives in chapter IV

48. At the 5th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved amendments and corrections to the critical areas of concern listed in chapter III of the draft platform for action and the section titles and strategic objectives contained in chapter IV and recommended them to the Conference for adoption as amended and corrected (see A/CONF.177/L.5/Add.19). Statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Jamaica, Spain, the Philippines, the Holy See, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic and Malta.

Strategic objectives and actions: introduction

49. At the 6th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved an amended and orally revised text for the introductory paragraphs of chapter IV (Strategic objectives and actions) of the draft platform for action and recommended the text to the Conference for adoption (see A/CONF.177/L.5/Add.4). Statements were made by the representatives of Canada, Benin, Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Spain, Ecuador, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, New Zealand, Israel, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Jordan, Uganda, Belize, South Africa, Kuwait, Senegal, Slovenia, Ghana, Australia, Bangladesh, Cuba, Côte d'Ivoire, Algeria, the Sudan, the United States of America, Nigeria, Guatemala, Barbados, Chile, Latvia, the United Arab Emirates, Jamaica, Brazil, Colombia, Yemen, Bolivia, Norway, Venezuela and the Cook Islands.

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* At the 5th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved amendments and corrections to the section titles and strategic objectives contained in chapter IV of the draft platform for action (see para. 48 below).

C. Consideration of the draft declaration

50. At the 6th meeting, on 14 September, the Main Committee approved the text of the draft declaration as orally revised on the basis of informal consultations and recommended it to the Conference for adoption (see A/CONF.177/L.5/Add.20). Statements were made by the representatives of Yemen, the Philippines (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77), Paraguay, Tunisia, Colombia and China.

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51. After the Main Committee approved the draft declaration and draft platform for action, statements were made by the representatives of Paraguay, Uruguay, the United States of America, Morocco, Jordan, Lithuania (also on behalf of Estonia and Latvia), Mauritania, Slovenia, the Sudan, Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic, Oman, Tunisia, Yemen, Ghana, India, Benin, the Philippines (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and Spain (on behalf of the European Community). The Chairperson of the Committee made a concluding statement.

Chapter V

ADOPTION OF THE BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION

1. At the 16th plenary meeting, on 15 September 1995, the Conference considered agenda item 10 (Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women). The Chairperson of the Main Committee of the Conference, Patricia B. Licuanan (Philippines), made a statement.

2. At the same meeting, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft resolution (A/CONF.177/L.9) whereby the Conference would adopt the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and recommend them to the General Assembly for endorsement at its fiftieth session. The Conference then adopted the draft resolution (for the text, see chap. I, resolution 1).

3. After the draft resolution was adopted, representatives of the following States made general and interpretative statements or expressed reservations on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Peru, Kuwait, Egypt, Philippines, Holy See, Malaysia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Ecuador, Indonesia, Mauritania, Oman, Malta, Argentina, Brunei Darussalam, France, Yemen, Sudan, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, Bahrain, Lebanon, Tunisia, Mali, Benin, Guatemala, India, Algeria, Iraq, Vanuatu, Ethiopia, Morocco, Djibouti, Qatar, Nicaragua, Togo, Liberia, Syrian Arab Republic, Pakistan, Nigeria, Comoros, Bolivia, Colombia, Bangladesh, Honduras, Jordan, Ghana, Central African Republic, Cambodia, Maldives, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Brazil, Panama, El Salvador, Madagascar, Chad, Cameroon, Niger, Gabon, United States of America and Canada. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

Reservations and interpretative statements on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

4. The representatives of a number of countries made statements which they requested the secretariat of the Conference to place on record. Those statements are set out below.

5. The representative of Argentina submitted the following written statement:

> The concept of family as used in the Conference documents is understood to mean the union of a man and a woman, who produce, nourish and educate their children. No definition or recommendation contained in these documents weakens the parents' primary responsibility for bringing up their children, including providing education on sexual matters, a responsibility which should be respected by States pursuant to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
>
> No reference in these documents to the right to control matters related to sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, may be interpreted as restricting the right to life or abrogating the condemnation of abortion as a method of birth control or an instrument of population policy (in accordance with article 75, paragraph 23, of the Constitution of Argentina, article 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and paragraph 42 of the Vienna Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights). No proposal

contained in the documents may be interpreted to justify programmes of female or male sterilization as an adjustment variable in eradicating poverty.

The Argentine delegation participated in the consensus on paragraph 106 (k) of the Platform for Action, which recommends that Governments should consider reviewing laws containing punitive measures against women who have undergone abortions. This position was taken in view of the legal tradition of Argentina, the practice of our courts and the attenuating circumstances that have generally been considered; this does not constitute, however, a proposal to decriminalize abortion or exempt from criminal responsibility those who may be accomplices or participants in this offence.

The references to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development contained in the documents of the Fourth World Conference on Women should be understood in the context of the reservations formulated by the Government of the Argentine Republic and included in the report of that Conference (A/CONF.171/13 and Add.1).

With regard to all that is relevant to the documents of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Argentine delegation maintains the same reservations which it submitted concerning the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted in Santiago, Chile, in June 1995.

6. The representative of Costa Rica submitted the following written statement:

Costa Rica is a State in which the strict rule of law prevails; it is respectful of the law, being fully devoted to respect for human rights and the promotion of tolerance; and it participates in the world-wide consensus that inequalities exist which place women at a disadvantage, and that this situation should be rectified.

Accordingly, Costa Rica has adopted, signed and ratified all the instruments which promote equality of rights and opportunities between women and men, and it has been adapting its national legislation to these instruments, especially in relation to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Nevertheless, we are aware that new challenges exist in our country, that much remains to be resolved with regard to improving the situation of women and that the advancement of women is crucial to the achievement of sustainable human development.

Aware that the series of measures contained in the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women is consistent with the policies promoted in our country for the advancement of women, we wish to confirm to the international community that we support the Platform, that this support is respectful of the socio-cultural diversity of nations and that the Platform will be incorporated at the national level into the current legal system, in strict concordance with our best traditions, beliefs and values.

From this point of view, Costa Rica wishes to state that, in matters relating to sexuality, it understands any references in the Platform to women's rights to mean, as in the case of men, the capacity of women or men

to achieve and maintain their sexual and reproductive health in a framework of relations of equality and mutual respect.

In relation to the strategic objective of the Platform which proposes the reduction in military expenditure and limiting the available arms, which is based on chapter IV, paragraph 70, subparagraph 12, of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development on the topic of social integration, Costa Rica reiterates its devotion to peace and the statement it made at that Conference concerning the need for conflicts and differences among nations and peoples and among social groups to be resolved through negotiation, dialogue and the quest for consensus, and that the resources being spent for weapons could be much better spent on the social development of peoples.

Lastly, we wish to confirm and reiterate to the international community that it is a priority task of both women and men to seek to eliminate all forms of discrimination in accordance with the principle of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

7. The representative of the Dominican Republic submitted the following written statement:

Pursuant to the rules of procedure of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Dominican Republic supports the general agreement reached on the Platform for Action and reaffirms its commitment to comply with that agreement.

The Dominican Republic, as a signatory to the American Convention on Human Rights, and in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the Republic, confirms that every person has the right to life, and that life begins at the moment of conception.

Consequently, it accepts the content of the terms "reproductive health", "sexual health", "maternity without risk", "reproductive rights", "sexual rights" and "regulation of fertility" in the Platform for Action, but it makes an express reservation to the content of these terms, or any others, if they include abortion or interruption of pregnancy as a component.

We confirm the position taken by our country at the International Conference on Population and Development, and these reservations apply to all regional and international agreements referring to these concepts.

In accordance with the above-mentioned rules of procedure, we request that this statement of reservations be included in full in the final report of this Conference.

8. The representative of Egypt submitted the following written statement:

The participation of Egypt in the Fourth World Conference on Women reflects its conviction of the importance of women's issues and their promotion. It is an extension of Egypt's participation in the three preceding conferences on women, in addition to its having been host to one of the most important international conferences, the International Conference on Population and Development.

The Egyptian delegation would like to register the fact that its understanding of the texts included in the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women that refer to sexual and reproductive relations rests on the basis that these relations are within the framework of a marital bond and that the family is understood to be the basic unit of society. Egypt's compliance with the recommendations contained in the Platform for Action will be conditional on complete respect for the rights of national sovereignty and various moral and religious values and conformity to our Constitution and the precepts of law and with the divine guidance of our true and tolerant religious law.

The Egyptian delegation would also like to register the fact that its reading and understanding of the paragraphs relating to inheritance rights in the Platform for Action, particularly paragraph 274 (d), will be against the background of complete respect for the laws of inheritance in the Islamic Shariah and in accordance with the provisions of the law and the Constitution.

The Egyptian delegation requests that this statement in its entirety should be included in the official report of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

9. The representatives of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania submitted the following written statement:

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania wish to express a reservation regarding paragraph 5 of the Platform for Action. We feel it is essential that the mission statement reflect a strong commitment by the international community to all the world's women and that the message should be all-encompassing. Paragraph 5 in its present form is exclusionary and contradicts the principle of universality, which should apply to all States Members of the United Nations.

The changes in the present paragraph are also a violation of the rules of procedure in light of the fact that new language was introduced to unbracketed text already agreed to in document A/CONF.177/L.1 at the preparatory meeting for the Conference in March 1995.

The concerns and needs of countries with economies in transition have been marginalized by paragraph 5, thus weakening the Platform for Action. For this reason, our delegations regrettably feel obligated to place this reservation on record.

10. The representative of Guatemala submitted the following written statement:

My delegation wishes to state that, consistent with the national interest of Guatemala, it is submitting the following reservation, with the request that it be included in the final report of the Fourth World Conference on Women:

(a) Guatemala has the sovereign right to implement the recommendations contained in the Platform for Action in accordance with the provisions of its Political Constitution, national legislation and international treaties and conventions to which it is a party, and therefore none of the provisions and recommendations of this Conference and of the Platform for Action may or should be interpreted as contradicting the aforesaid legal instruments. In addition, these recommendations will

be implemented in accordance with the development priorities of our country, in full respect for the diverse religious, ethical and cultural values and philosophical beliefs of our multi-ethnic, multilingual and multicultural people, and in accordance with universally recognized international human rights;

(b) Guatemala confirms all its reservations to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its reservations to the Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, especially in relation to the topics, terms, conditions and provisions contained in the aforesaid documents which are repeated and re-utilized in this Platform for Action.

In addition, the Government of Guatemala reserves the right to interpret the Platform for Action expressly in accordance with its unconditional respect for the right to life from the moment of conception and its unconditional respect for the right of parents to choose the upbringing of their children. It endorses and guarantees the social, economic and juridical protection of the family on the legal basis of marriage, equal rights of spouses, responsible parenthood, the right of persons to decide freely the number and spacing of their children, and the dignity of motherhood.

In conformity with the ethical, moral, legal, cultural and natural criteria of the Guatemalan people, Guatemala interprets the concept of gender solely as female and male gender in reference to women and men and reserves its position on the interpretation of the term "lifestyle", because its meaning is not clear in these documents.

11. The representative of the Holy See submitted the following written statement:

"When one looks at the great process of women's liberation," one sees that the journey has been a difficult one, with its "share of mistakes," but headed toward a better future for women. Those are the words of Pope John Paul II. And he goes on to say: "This journey must go on!" The Holy See delegation joins its voice to his: This great journey must go on!

Women's voyage has been marked by false starts and disappointments, as well as by luminous achievements. There have been times, as in the industrial revolution, when old forms of oppression were exchanged for new, as well as times when intelligence and good will have triumphed.

The documents before us reflect that complex and uneven history of women's search. They are full of promise, but often short on concrete commitment, and in certain respects one could ask if the long-term consequences will really serve the good of women.

The delegation of the Holy See has worked hard, in a constructive way and in a spirit of good will to make the documents more responsive to women. Certainly, the living heart of these documents lies in their sections on the needs of women in poverty, on strategies for development, on literacy and education, on ending violence against women, on a culture of peace, and on access to employment, land, capital and technology. My delegation is pleased to note a close correspondence between these points and Catholic social teaching.

My delegation would be remiss in its duty to women, however, if it did not also indicate several critical areas where it strongly disagrees with the text.

My delegation regrets to note in the text an exaggerated individualism, in which key, relevant, provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are slighted - for example, the obligation to provide "special care and assistance" to motherhood. This selectivity thus marks another step in the colonization of the broad and rich discourse of universal rights by an impoverished, libertarian rights dialect. Surely this international gathering could have done more for women and girls than to leave them alone with their rights!

Surely we must do more for the girl child in poor nations than give lip service to providing access to education, health and social services while carefully avoiding any concrete commitment of new and additional resources to that end.

Surely we can do better than to address the health needs of girls and women by paying disproportionate attention to sexual and reproductive health. Moreover, ambiguous language concerning unqualified control over sexuality and fertility could be interpreted as including societal endorsement of abortion and homosexuality.

A document that respects women's dignity should address the health of the whole woman. A document that respects women's intelligence should devote at least as much attention to literacy as to fertility.

Because my delegation is hopeful that out of these documents, which are in some ways at odds with themselves, the good for women will ultimately prevail, it wishes to associate itself with the consensus only on those above-mentioned aspects of the documents that the Holy See considers to be positive and at the service of the real well-being of women.

Unfortunately, the Holy See's participation in the consensus can be only a partial one because of numerous points in the documents which are incompatible with what the Holy See and other countries deem favourable to the true advancement of women. These points are indicated in the reservations which my delegation has set out below.

My delegation is confident that women themselves will overcome the limitations of and bring out what is best in these documents. As John Paul II has so well put it, "The path that lies ahead will be long and difficult, nevertheless we must have courage to set out on that path and the courage to go on to the end."

I would ask that the text of this statement, the reservations formally indicated below, as well as the statement of interpretation of the term "gender" be included in the report of the Conference.

Reservations and statements of interpretation

The Holy See, in conformity with its nature and particular mission, in partially joining the consensus on the documents of the Fourth World Conference on Women, wishes to express its position regarding those documents and make reservations on some of the concepts used in them.

The Holy See wishes to reaffirm the dignity and worth of women and the equal rights of men and women and regrets the failure of the Platform for Action to explicitly reassert this concept.

The Holy See, in line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, stresses that the family is the basic unit of society and is based on marriage as an equal partnership between husband and wife, to which the transmission of life is entrusted. It regrets that in the Platform for Action references were not made to such a fundamental societal unit without banal qualifying language (see, for example, strategic objective L.9).

The Holy See can only interpret such terms as "women's right to control their sexuality", "women's right to control ... their fertility" or "couples and individuals" as referring to the responsible use of sexuality within marriage. At the same time, the Holy See firmly condemns all forms of violence against and exploitation of women and girls.

The Holy See reaffirms the reservations it expressed at the conclusion of the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994, which are included in the report of that Conference, concerning the interpretation given to the terms "reproductive health", "sexual health" and "reproductive rights". In particular, the Holy See reiterates that it does not consider abortion or abortion services to be a dimension of reproductive health or reproductive health services. The Holy See does not endorse any form of legislation which gives legal recognition to abortion.

With regard to the terms "family planning" or "widest range of family planning services" and other terms concerning family-planning services or regulation of fertility, the Holy See's actions during this Conference should in no way be interpreted as changing its well-known position concerning those family planning methods that the Catholic Church considers morally unacceptable or concerning family planning services that do not respect the liberty of spouses, the human dignity or the human rights of those concerned. The Holy See in no way endorses contraception or the use of condoms, either as a family planning measure or in HIV/AIDS prevention programmes.

The Holy See maintains that nothing in the Platform for Action or in other documents referenced therein is to be interpreted as requiring any health professional or health facility to perform, cooperate with, refer or arrange for services to which they have objections on the basis of religious belief or moral or ethical conviction.

The Holy See interprets all references to the term "forced pregnancy" as a specific instrument of armed conflict, in the context in which that term appears in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, part II, paragraph 38.

The Holy See interprets the term "gender" as described in the statement set out below.

The Holy See does not associate itself with the consensus on the entire chapter IV, section C, concerning health; it wishes to place a general reservation on the entire section and it would ask that this general reservation be noted in the chapter. This section devotes a totally unbalanced attention to sexual and reproductive health in

comparison to women's other health needs, including means to address maternal mortality and morbidity. Furthermore, the Holy See cannot accept ambiguous terminology concerning unqualified control over sexuality and fertility, particularly as it could be interpreted as a societal endorsement of abortion or homosexuality. The reservation on this chapter does not, however, indicate any reduction in the Holy See's commitment towards the promotion of the health of women and the girl child.

The Holy See does not join the consensus and expresses a reservation on paragraph 232 (f), with its reference to a text (para. 96) on a right of women to "control over ... their sexuality". This ambiguous term could be understood as endorsing sexual relationships outside heterosexual marriage. It asks that this reservation be noted on the paragraph. On the other hand, however, the Holy See wishes to associate itself with the condemnation of violence against women asserted in paragraph 96, as well as with the importance of mutuality and shared responsibility, respect and free consent in conjugal relations as stated in that paragraph.

The Holy See, with regard to the entire section on human rights, with the exception of quotations from or restatements of already existing human rights instruments, expresses its concern about an excessive individualism in its treatment of human rights. The Holy See further recalls that the mandate of the Fourth World Conference on Women did not include the affirmation of new human rights.

With regard to the phrase "Women's rights are human rights", the Holy See interprets this phrase to mean that women should have the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

With regard to all references to international agreements, the Holy See reserves its position in this regard, in particular on any existing international agreements mentioned in the documents, consistent with its manner of acceptance or non-acceptance of them.

The Holy See requests that these reservations, together with the following statement of interpretation on the term "gender", be included in the report of the Conference.

Statement of interpretation of the term "gender"

In accepting that the word "gender" in this document is to be understood according to ordinary usage in the United Nations context, the Holy See associates itself with the common meaning of that word, in languages where it exists.

The term "gender" is understood by the Holy See as grounded in biological sexual identity, male or female. Furthermore, the Platform for Action itself clearly uses the term "Both genders".

The Holy See thus excludes dubious interpretations based on world views which assert that sexual identity can be adapted indefinitely to suit new and different purposes.

It also dissociates itself from the biological determinist notion that all the roles and relations of the two sexes are fixed in a single, static pattern.

Pope John Paul insists on the distinctiveness and complementarity of women and men. At the same time, he has applauded the assumption of new roles by women, stressed the degree to which cultural conditioning has been an obstacle to women's progress, and exhorted men to assist in "the great process of women's liberation" ("Letter to Women", 6).

In his recent "Letter to Women", the Pope explained the Church's nuanced view in the following way: "One can also appreciate that the presence of a certain diversity of roles is in no way prejudicial to women, provided that this diversity is not the result of an arbitrary imposition, but is rather an expression of what is specific to being male and female."

12. The representative of Honduras submitted the following written statement:

The Government of the Republic of Honduras, in accordance with its belief in democracy, joins the consensus of all the peoples of the world in adopting the Platform for Action, regarding it as an effective instrument for the promotion and advancement of women to the year 2001 and in the new millennium. Accordingly, it reaffirms its desire and commitment to take the necessary actions to bring about the implementation of the Platform.

The Constitution of Honduras provides that all men and women are born free and equal before the law, that there are no privileged classes and that all Hondurans are equal before the law (article 60).

Articles 65, 111 and 112 provide that the right to life is inviolable and that the family, marriage and de facto union are under the protection of the State.

The American Convention on Human Rights, of which our country is a signatory, reaffirms that every individual has the right to life from the moment of conception, on the basis of the moral, ethical, religious and cultural principles that should govern human behaviour.

Accordingly, Honduras shares the concepts relating to reproductive health, sexual health and family planning in the Platform for Action, provided that abortion or interruption of pregnancy is not included as a family planning method.

The Government of the Republic reaffirms that the family is the basic unit of society and therefore commits itself to strengthening all actions aimed at achieving greater levels of well-being, bringing into harmony the various segments of society.

Lastly, we invite the international community to support Governments and peoples in their efforts to ensure that the implementation of the Platform for Action is as successful as anticipated and that our women will finally achieve equity, development and peace, which are so necessary to the advancement of our peoples.

13. The representative of Indonesia submitted the following written statement:

While expressing our delegation's satisfaction on the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action by consensus, my delegation at the same time feels unhappy about the fact that there have been numerous reservations made by the delegations attending the Conference. This may give the public the false impression that our joint commitment to implement

the Platform for Action, which is crucial to the goals of equality, development and peace for all women, will be difficult to realize.

The concerns reflected in the reservations - and my delegation also has reservations on certain paragraphs which are not consistent with the national interest of Indonesia - should not in any way constitute an obstacle to our genuine endeavour to implement the Platform for Action, since we all know that the spirit and objective of international cooperation in this regard is indeed a matter of mutual respect and support for our common cause.

Finally, my delegation wishes to request that its reservation be duly recorded in the report of the Conference.

14. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran submitted the following written statement:

I would like to register the reservation of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the following issues:

Although the family is the basic unit of society and as such plays a significant role in the advancement of women and promotion of human development, the Platform for Action falls short in recognizing its contribution and the importance of its stability and integrity.

Concerning paragraphs 96 and 232 (f), our understanding is that the provisions of those paragraphs can only be interpreted in the context of health and the framework of marital relations between men and women. The Islamic Republic of Iran holds that the rights referred to in those paragraphs fall in the category of existing human rights and do not establish any new rights.

The Islamic Republic of Iran upholds the principle that safe and responsible sexual relationships between men and women can only be legitimized within the framework of marriage. Moreover, the phrase "couples and individuals" should also be interpreted in that context.

Concerning programmes aimed at sexual and reproductive health, education and services, the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that such education and services should be guided by ethical and moral values and respect the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents, taking into account the evolving capacities of adolescents.

With respect to the issue of inheritance, the Islamic Republic of Iran interprets the references in the Platform for Action to this matter in accordance with the principles of the economic system of Islam.

The concept of equality in our interpretation takes into account the fact that although women are equal in their human rights and dignity with men, their different roles and responsibilities underline the need for an equitable system of rights, where the particular priorities and requirements of the woman in her multiple roles are accounted for.

The Islamic Republic of Iran affirms its commitment to the implementation of the Platform for Action with full respect for Islam and the ethical values of our society.

15. The representative of Iraq submitted the following written statement:

The delegation of Iraq has reservations with regard to paragraph 96 of the Platform for Action because it is incompatible with our social and religious values. Our reservation also applies to paragraph 232 (f) because of its allusion to paragraph 96.

The delegation of Iraq accepts the text of paragraph 274 (d) on the basis of its understanding that this does not conflict with the Islamic Shariah.

16. The representative of Israel submitted the following written statement:

The delegation of Israel to the Fourth World Conference on Women wishes to submit the following interpretative statement on paragraph 46 of the Platform for Action.

Israel would have preferred that explicit reference be made to the particular barriers faced by women because of their sexual orientation. However, in light of the interpretation given to the words "other status" by, inter alia, the United Nations Human Rights Committee, we interpret the words "other status" to include sexual orientation.

17. The representative of Japan submitted the following written statement:

My delegation would like to confirm its interpretation concerning paragraph 106 (k). The delegation of Japan joined the consensus on paragraph 106 (k) on the following understanding.

There has been a continuing debate on this issue in many countries. Some countries, including Japan, have undertaken a review of the relevant laws, while others have not. Bearing this in mind, my delegation confirms its understanding that relevant national laws can only be reviewed at the national or local level with due regard to national and legislative circumstances.

18. The representative of Kuwait submitted the following written statement:

My country's delegation attaches great importance to the Platform for Action adopted by this Conference and believes in its significant contribution to the advancement of women. However, at the same time, it would like to register a reservation to anything which constitutes a contravention of the Islamic Shariah and the customs and practices of our Islamic society, particularly paragraphs 232 (f), 106 (k) and 94 to 96.

The delegation of Kuwait would like to have its reservation recorded in the report of the Conference.

19. The representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya submitted the following written statement:

My delegation greatly appreciates the efforts made by the Main Committee and working groups of the Conference towards producing formulas which represent the common positions of the participating delegations and respect the beliefs of different societies and their private affairs. In this context, the Libyan delegation has made every possible effort in its

discussions with all the working groups and in meetings to join in the global consensus towards which this Platform for Action is directed.

In view of our belief in the importance of the dialogue between the different cultures and civilizations of the peoples of the world for the achievement of universal social peace, we do not accept the right of any nation or civilization to impose its culture or political, economic or social orientations on any other nation or people. In view also of our belief in the sovereign right of every State to draw up domestic policies in keeping with its religious beliefs, local laws and priorities for social and economic development, it is our understanding that the terms and expressions which appear in this document and their application will be within the limits of what is permitted by our beliefs and the laws and traditions which shape our behaviour as a society. On this basis, our country's delegation would like to express reservations with regard to the following:

(a) The expression "sexual relations and sexual behaviour" between men and women, adult or otherwise, outside of a lawful marital relationship, which has appeared in a number of articles;

(b) The expression "sexual education and reproductive health" used with reference to the unmarried and outside the ambit of parental responsibility, supervision and care;

(c) The term "individuals" linked with the basic right of all couples to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children. This right is not accorded in our society outside the framework of a lawful marital relationship. This expression appears in paragraphs 95 and 223;

(d) The entire text of paragraph 96 because it is inconsistent with our social and cultural values. The same applies to paragraph 232 (f);

(e) Everything included in and intended by the text appearing in paragraph 106 (k), since it is contrary to local laws based on the Islamic Shariah. The same applies to the text appearing in paragraph 106 (j) regarding abortion, since local laws do not permit the performance of abortion except to save the mother's life;

(f) The text of paragraph 274 (d), which will be interpreted and implemented in accordance with the Islamic Shariah, which guarantees females the right of inheritance.

We hope that this statement and these reservations will be included in the official report of the Conference.

20. The representative of Malaysia submitted the following written statement:

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action are an achievement for all women world wide. My delegation is gratified to join the international community in expressing our commitment to the Platform, especially on those provisions dealing with poverty, education, health, the elimination of violence against women in civil and armed conflicts, and the active participation of women in decision-making and economic development for their advancement and empowerment. However, we cannot help noting a number of differences among delegations arising from the stand on certain issues

by one group of countries. While this group may adopt their own cultural standards and priorities, their insistence on others has inevitably resulted in the Platform for Action being accompanied by a number of reservations.

I wish to state that certain provisions within the Platform for Action remain unacceptable to us, but in the interest of achieving a consensus, we do not wish to stand in the way of its adoption. Nevertheless, in view of the differing cultural norms and the lack of clarity of certain words and phrases in the Platform, I wish to make the following reservations and clarifications on behalf of the Malaysian delegation.

First, the interpretation of the term "family", and the terms "individual and couples" throughout the document refer to the traditional family formed out of a marriage or a registered union between a man and a woman and comprising children and extended family members.

Second, we are of the conviction that reproductive rights should be applicable only to married couples formed of the union between a man and a woman.

Third, we wish to state that the adoption of paragraph 96 does not signify endorsement by the Government of Malaysia of sexual promiscuity, any form of sexual perversion or sexual behaviour that is synonymous with homosexuality or lesbianism.

Fourth, in the context of paragraph 106 (k) we wish to support the view that attention should be given to the prevention of unsafe abortions and the provision of humane management of complications from abortions as part of reproductive health care. However, abortion is not legal or permissible in Malaysia and can only be performed on medical grounds.

Fifth, in the context of paragraph 108 (k), while agreeing that adolescent health is an area requiring attention due to the increasing problems of unwanted teenage pregnancies, unsafe abortions, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS, we believe that parental guidance should not be abdicated and that sexual permissiveness and unhealthy sexual and reproductive practices by adolescents should not be condoned.

May I request that these reservations be entered into the records of this Conference.

21. The representative of Malta submitted the following written statement:

In joining the consensus on the Platform for Action, the delegation of Malta would like to state that it reserves its position on the use of such terms as "reproductive health", "reproductive rights" and "control of fertility" as used in different parts of the document. The interpretation given by Malta is consistent with its national legislation, which considers the termination of pregnancy through induced abortion as illegal.

The delegation of Malta further reserves its position on those parts of the Platform for Action wherein reference is made to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. In this respect the delegation of Malta reaffirms its reservations as contained in the report of that Conference (A/CONF.171/13 and Add.1).

In particular the delegation of Malta cannot accept without reservation the expression "circumstances in which abortion is not against the law", the termination of pregnancy through procedures of induced abortion being illegal in Malta.

The delegation of Malta reserves its position on the wording "such abortion should be safe" since it feels that this phrase could lend itself to multiple interpretations, implying among other things that abortion can be completely free of medical and other psychological risks while ignoring altogether the rights of the unborn.

Furthermore, the delegation of Malta reserves its position on the use of the wording "international human rights instruments" and "United Nations consensus documents" wherever used in the Platform for Action consistent with its previous acceptance or non-acceptance of them.

We request that these reservations be recorded in the report of the Conference.

22. The representative of Mauritania submitted the following written statement:

My country's delegation would like to enter reservations with regard to any matter that conflicts with the Islamic Shariah and Islamic values, especially paragraph 96 concerning sexual rights, paragraph 232 (f), paragraph 106 (j) concerning illegal abortions, and paragraph 274 (d) concerning inheritance.

23. The representative of Morocco submitted the following written statement:

The delegation of Morocco reserves its position on paragraphs 96 and 106 (k) of the Platform for Action, whose content is in contradiction with the precepts of Islam and is not in conformity with its spiritual values and cultural traditions. Morocco also expresses its reservations on paragraph 232 (f), which refers to paragraph 96, and on paragraph 274 (d).

The delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco requests that its reservations be included in the report of the Conference.

24. The representative of Nepal submitted the following written statement:

The interpretation of paragraph 26 for Nepal shall preclude the freedom of conversion of one's own or someone else's religion.

25. The representative of Paraguay submitted the following written statement:

The Government of Paraguay expresses its satisfaction that chapter IV, section C, of the Platform for Action is in conformity with the content of its National Constitution, especially article 61 thereof, which provides that "the State recognizes the right of everyone to freely and responsibly decide the number of children they plan to have, as well as the time span between one child and another. Through a coordinated effort with the appropriate organizations, they are also entitled to receive education, scientific guidance, and adequate services. Special plans will be implemented to ensure reproductive health and maternal-child health care for low-income people."

The delegation of Paraguay points out that the concept of "methods ... for regulation of fertility which are not against the law", as referred to in paragraph 94 of the Platform for Action, will be interpreted in conformity with its national legislation.

The Government of Paraguay interprets the term "gender", which is used in the documents adopted at this Conference, as referring to both sexes, man and woman, and has incorporated this term, as defined, into its national documents.

26. The representative of Peru submitted the following written statement:

Pursuant to article 34 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, the delegation of Peru joins in the general agreement on the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in so far as the principles and commitments established by this Conference are compatible with those embodied in the Political Constitution of Peru. However, in accordance with the position it took at the International Conference on Population and Development and reaffirmed at the World Summit for Social Development, and at the sixth session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, the delegation of Peru wishes to express its reservation with regard to the interpretation of the following points:

The community and the State protect the family and promote marriage, recognizing them as natural and basic institutions of society. The family and marriage essentially derive from the personal relation that is established between a man and a woman.

The right to life and the consideration of a person from the moment of conception as a subject of law in every respect are fundamental human rights. Therefore, the terms "reproductive health", "reproductive rights" and "sexual or reproductive health" as used in the Platform for Action must not include abortion as a method of birth control or family planning.

The concepts referring to population policy must always be understood within the context of the protection and promotion of the family and marriage, responsible fatherhood and motherhood and the freedom of choice of the family and the individual.

It is understood that sexual rights refer solely to heterosexual relationships.

The criteria established for allocating resources can in no way be understood as restricting the right of Governments to have access to such resources.

The reference to "existing" intellectual property rights with regard to the knowledge, innovations and practices of women of indigenous and local communities, including practices relating to traditional medicines, biological diversity and indigenous technologies, may in no way be construed as restricting the rights of countries and their inhabitants under national and international law.

27. The representative of the Russian Federation submitted the following written statement:

Paragraph 83 (p)

The Russian Federation takes the word "respected" in paragraph 83 (p) to mean that gender equality and cultural, religious and other diversity should be respected in educational institutions.

Paragraph 191 (c)

The Russian Federation understands paragraph 191 (c) to mean that political parties shall themselves determine the procedure for appointing women to their leadership bodies and that the State shall not put pressure on them to do so, while at the same time creating equal opportunities for the activities of political parties. Under Russian law, this provision applies not only to political parties but also to political movements.

Paragraph 204 (e)

The Russian Federation understands paragraph 204 (e) regarding mandates to review policies and programmes in the context of ensuring equal rights and equal opportunities. The basic principles for implementing this policy are enshrined in the Constitution of the Russian Federation.

Paragraph 258 (c)

The delegation of the Russian Federation takes it that paragraph 258 (c) relates to no other question than the transboundary movement of hazardous and radioactive waste. The Russian Federation believes that it is necessary to aim for full compliance of Governments, international governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations with existing international principles and rules governing the transboundary movement of hazardous and radioactive waste through the adoption of special measures, including the establishment of a national legal framework and the definition of the various categories of waste. The movement of such materials should not pose a threat to public health.

28. The representative of South Africa submitted the following written statement:

The South African delegation interprets paragraph 96, which reads, "The human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence", to include the right to be free from coercion, discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation.

The South African delegation wants to make it very clear that it does not want to be associated with any form of discrimination.

29. The representative of Tunisia submitted the following written statement:

The Tunisian delegation, by virtue of the powers vested in it, has the honour to confirm that Tunisia will interpret paragraphs 96, 232 (f) and 274 (d) of the Platform for Action within its fundamental laws and texts.

The foregoing was stated at the meetings of the Main Committee held on 13 and 14 September 1995. Tunisia will reject any provision that is contrary to its fundamental laws and texts. The delegation of Tunisia requests that this reservation be included in the documents of the Conference.

30. The representative of the United States of America submitted the following written statement:

Interpretative statement on the Beijing Declaration

The United States understands that the phrase "hereby adopt and commit ourselves as Governments to implement the ... Platform for Action" contained in the Beijing Declaration, and other similar references throughout the texts, are consistent with the fact that the Platform, Declaration and commitments made by States (unless such States indicate to the contrary) are not legally binding, and that they consist of recommendations concerning how States can and should promote the objectives of the Conference. The commitment referred to in the Declaration, therefore, constitutes a general commitment to undertake meaningful implementation of the Platform's recommendations overall, rather than a specific commitment to implement each element of the Platform. Accordingly, the United States accepts this phrase on this basis, on the understanding that it does not alter the status of the documents or the recommendations contained therein.

The United States understands that the references in the Declaration and Platform for Action to "sustainable development" are to be interpreted consistently with established principles and policies on this matter. As was recognized in Agenda 21, our long-term objective of enabling all people to achieve sustainable livelihoods involves integration simultaneously of policies related to issues of development, sustainable resource management and poverty eradication. At the World Summit for Social Development, States further acknowledged that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development.

Reservation on paragraph 5 of the Platform for Action

As the United States has stated on a number of occasions during the Conference and in the preparations for it, as a result of domestic funding constraints it cannot agree to an increase in funding for matters dealt with in the Platform for Action other than in the context of reallocation of existing resources, or unless sources of funding other than governmental assessments are involved. Accordingly, the United States reserves on paragraph 5 of the Platform for Action. The United States fully supports the objectives of the Conference and is willing to work with others to ensure that there is a proper allocation of resources within the United Nations system and other international organizations, to address commitments made in the Platform. In this context, the United States notes as well that many of the most critical actions to be taken in accordance with the Platform do not require additional funds from the international community and can be accomplished through actions at the national and local level.

Interpretative statements on individual paragraphs in the Platform for Action

Paragraph 17

The United States understands that the phrase "radical transformation of the relationship between women and men in paragraph 17 is a reference to the realization of full equality between women and men. It is in that context that the United States accepts this paragraph.

Paragraph 26

Paragraph 26 of the Platform recognizes the important role that non-governmental organizations play and the importance of working with them for progress. The United States recognizes the need for Governments to create an enabling environment for non-governmental organizations and that such an environment is critical to the successful implementation of the Platform. The United States understands that Governments, in requesting that non-governmental organizations take action to implement the Platform, are thereby committing themselves to facilitating the efforts of such organizations in this regard.

Paragraph 46

The United States Government has a firm policy of non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and considers that the omission of this reference in paragraph 46 and elsewhere in the Platform for Action in no way justifies such discrimination in any country.

Paragraph 96

The United States understands and accepts that paragraph 96, which concerns, inter alia, equal relationships between women and men, applies existing norms of human rights law to these important areas of the lives of women and men, and thus emphasizes the importance of freedom from coercion, discrimination and violence in relations between men and women.

Paragraph 131

While the United States recognizes that human rights violations can and do occur in situations of foreign occupation around the world, the United States continues to have reservations, as it did at the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, about any implication that foreign occupation is a human rights violation per se.

Paragraph 166 (l)

The United States understands the intention of the inclusion of "equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal value" to be to promote pay equity between men and women and accepts the recommendation on that basis. The United States implements it by observing the principle of "equal pay for equal work".

Paragraph 206 (b), (e) and (f)

With respect to paragraph 206 (b), (e) and (f), the United States will seek to develop more comprehensive knowledge as well as to improve data collection on the issue of unwaged work, to the extent that funds are available. We plan to consult, in a cooperative manner, with appropriate research and documentation organizations.

Paragraphs 234-245

A number of institutions, organizations and others have been requested to take actions to implement the Platform. Although many institutions have participated here as observers, and non-governmental organizations have provided helpful inputs into the deliberations, Governments alone will adopt the Platform. As a result, it is necessary to underscore the fact that when the Platform mentions the actions these other actors may take, it thereby invites and encourages the suggested actions; it does not, and cannot, require such actions.

In this context, we understand that references to actions the media may take (such as those in chapter IV, section J, and in paragraph 33) are in the nature of suggestions and recommendations, and may not be construed to impinge on the freedom of the press, speech and expression, which are fundamental democratic freedoms.

Paragraph 247

The United States would like to underscore that it interprets the second sentence in paragraph 247 to mean that these listed occurrences can cause environmental degradation in certain circumstances but not in others. The United States also remains concerned about the reference to "the use and testing of nuclear weaponry" in this paragraph, which appears not to have been reviewed fully in the working group.

Paragraph 293

The United States understands and accepts that references to commitments in paragraph 293, references to what the Platform "requires" in paragraphs 4 and 5, and other similar references throughout the texts, including the Declaration, are consistent with the fact that the Platform, Declaration and commitments made by States (unless such States indicate to the contrary) are not legally binding, and that they consist of recommendations concerning how States can and should promote the human rights of women. Accordingly, the United States understands and accepts that such terms as used in these documents suggest practical measures to help promote the human rights of women, and do not alter the status of the documents or the recommendations contained therein.

Paragraph 353

The United States reiterates that, with respect to paragraph 353, it is not one of the countries that have accepted an "agreed target" for official development assistance or have made a commitments to fulfil such a target. We believe that national Governments, not international donors, must have primary responsibility for their country's development. Targets detract from the more important issues of the effectiveness and quality of aid and the policies of the recipient country. The United States has

traditionally been one of the largest aid donors in volume terms and will continue to work with developing countries to provide aid in support of their efforts.

In addition, the United States understands and accepts the reference in paragraph 353 to increasing the share of official development assistance for social development programmes to apply to only those countries that have accepted the target.

31. The representative of Vanuatu submitted the following written statement:

The Republic of Vanuatu has come to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing for two purposes: first, to show solidarity with the world community concerning the advancement and rights of women, and second, to learn from other countries about what can be done to improve the situation of women.

In this respect, the delegation of Vanuatu has fully participated in the plenary meetings of the Conference as well as in the Main Committee and the working groups.

The delegation of Vanuatu recognizes the spirit of conciliation and compromise that has gone into the finalization of the Platform for Action. At the same time, the delegation notes that Vanuatu is a small country which has grown out of a strong fundamental traditional past and which now is changing in the midst of modern social, economic and political evolution.

While therefore endorsing the Platform for Action of this important Conference, the Vanuatu delegation wishes to state that its endorsement of the Platform is made with full respect for the constitutional, religious and traditional principles which the sovereign State has inherited and kept for the good government of our nation.

32. The representative of Venezuela submitted the following written statement:

With a view to speeding up the general debate in order to arrive at a consensus on the Platform for Action, the official delegation of Venezuela makes the following statement of reservations and requests that it be included in full in the final report of the Conference.

The concepts of family planning, sexual health, reproductive health, maternity without risk, regulation of fertility, reproductive rights and sexual rights are acceptable provided that they do not include abortion or voluntary interruption of pregnancy.

Similarly, Venezuela expresses a reservation with regard to the concept of unwanted pregnancy, since the reference to "unwanted pregnancy" could be argued in the opposite sense, as implying acceptance of the right of a woman who has become pregnant against her will to terminate the pregnancy (by abortion), an act which is illegal in Venezuela.

Venezuela also expresses a reservation with regard to references to "unsafe abortion", because abortion under any circumstances is illegal in Venezuela, except when it is essential in order to save a woman's life.

Chapter VI

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 4 September 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women, in accordance with rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, appointed a Credentials Committee, based on the composition of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its forty-ninth session, consisting of the following nine members: China, Fiji, Honduras, Namibia, Portugal, Russian Federation, Suriname, Togo and United States of America.

2. The Credentials Committee held one meeting, on 8 September 1995.

3. Mr. Pedro Catarino (Portugal) was unanimously elected Chairperson of the Committee.

4. The Committee had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General dated 7 September 1995 on the status of credentials of representatives participating in the Conference. Additional information on credentials received by the Secretary-General after the issuance of the memorandum was provided to the Committee by its Secretary.

5. As noted in paragraph 1 of the memorandum by the Secretary-General, as updated by the additional information received, formal credentials issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as provided for in rule 3 of the rules of procedure, were received by the Secretary-General for the representatives of the following 106 States participating in the Conference: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Australia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Congo, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, India, Iraq, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and Uzbekistan.

6. As also noted in paragraph 1 of the memorandum by the Secretary-General, in the case of the European Community, credentials were submitted for its representatives by the President of the European Commission, as provided for in rule 3 of the rules of procedure.

7. As noted in paragraph 2 of the memorandum, as updated by the additional information received, information concerning the appointment of representatives participating in the Conference was communicated by means of facsimile or in the form of letters or notes verbales from Ministries, Embassies, Permanent Missions to the United Nations or other government offices or authorities, or through local United Nations offices, by the following 83 States participating in the

Conference: Afghanistan, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Holy See, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Kazakstan, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Mali, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Niue, Palau, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

8. The Chairperson proposed that the Committee accept the credentials of all the representatives mentioned in the memorandum by the Secretary-General, on the understanding that formal credentials for representatives referred to in paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's memorandum, would be communicated to the Secretary-General as soon as possible. The following draft resolution was proposed by the Chairperson for adoption by the Committee:

"The Credentials Committee,

"Having examined the credentials of the representatives to the Fourth World Conference on Women referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the memorandum by the Secretary-General dated 7 September 1995,

"Accepts the credentials of the representatives concerned."

9. The draft resolution was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

10. Subsequently, the Chairperson proposed that the Committee recommend to the Conference the adoption of a draft resolution approving the report of the Credentials Committee. The proposal was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Action taken by the Conference

11. At the 12th plenary meeting, on 12 September 1995, the Conference considered the report of the Credentials Committee (A/CONF.177/14).

12. The Conference adopted the draft resolution recommended by the Committee in its report (for the text, see chap. I, resolution 3). The States and the regional economic integration organization that participated in the Conference are listed in chapter II, paragraph 3.