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WORLD CONFERENCE of the UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN:

**Equality,
Development
and
Peace**

Copenhagen, Denmark

14-30 July 1980

REPORT OF THE REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE WORLD
CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN, ORGANIZED
BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
AND HELD AT NEW DELHI FROM 5 TO 9 NOVEMBER 1979*

Agenda items 8 and 9

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I. BACKGROUND

1. The year 1975 was proclaimed International Women's Year by the United Nations out of a growing recognition that the full and equal participation of women was essential to world development and peace. The focal point of the year was the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975. The major achievement of the Conference was the adoption of a World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year, a global consensus on what should be done to improve the conditions of women, economically, socially and politically.
2. Another direct outcome of the International Women's Year and the Conference was the General Assembly's proclamation of the period from 1976 to 1985 as the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, a time for specific action at the national, regional and international levels, geared to carrying out the recommendations in the World Plan of Action.
3. The Mexico City Conference also recommended that another international women's conference be held in the middle of the Decade, in 1980.
4. The Regional Preparatory Meeting for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women was held as a preparation for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, 1980, and in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2062 (LXII) of 12 May 1977. In that resolution, the United Nations regional commissions were invited to consider, at the earliest opportunity, ways and means of contributing effectively to the World Conference, including the possibility of holding before 1980 regional seminars or meetings on the themes of the Conference. A similar request was made at the twenty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The plan for holding the Meeting was also approved by the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) at its thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth sessions.

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING

5. The Government of India acted as host for the Regional Preparatory Meeting, which was held at New Delhi from 5 to 9 November 1979.

6. The main objectives of the Meeting were:

(a) To review and appraise the progress made in the implementation of the world and regional plans of action, with particular emphasis on the progress achieved in setting up national mechanisms for integrating women in the development process;

(b) To establish guidelines and a plan of action for the second half of the Decade;

(c) To identify urgent and critical issues and problems that affect women in the ESCAP region and determine short-range strategies and long-term plans to solve such problems.

7. The Meeting was attended by representatives of 26 member countries, namely, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Democratic Kampuchea, France, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Viet Nam. Representatives of 23 non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council also attended. In addition, 10 specialized agencies and United Nations bodies and two regional institutions were represented.

8. The representatives of Mongolia, Viet Nam and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics expressed reservations with regard to the qualifications of one country. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP explained that the representation of that country was in accordance with the relevant decision of the General Assembly.

Opening of the Meeting

9. The Meeting was inaugurated by His Excellency Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, President of India. Opening statements were made by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP and by Mrs. Lucille Mair, Secretary-General of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women. The vote of thanks on behalf of all delegations was presented by Her Excellency Mrs. Lasijah Soetanto, Associate Minister for Women's Affairs of Indonesia and head of her country's delegation.

10. In his address of welcome, President Reddy noted the keen awareness in the world of the need for fuller participation by women in the economic, social and political life of the community.

11. Strategies of development must not stop at guaranteeing equality but must seek to enable women to make use of them; women's needs should be perceived in economic,

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social and political sectors, not limited to the social and welfare sector alone. New strategies should also develop a society in which the dominance and subordination relationship between men and women should give way to equal partnerships and understanding, both in the home and outside it.

12. The Secretary-General of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women explained in her statement that the World Conference, which would be held at Copenhagen in July 1980, would evaluate the progress that had been achieved in implementing the World Plan of Action adopted at the World Conference of the International Women's Year held at Mexico City in 1975. The year 1975 had generated a wider perception of women's roles, covering not only their vital traditional function of child-bearer, but also their functions, rights, and responsibilities as citizens and as persons capable of fuller and more positive involvement in the development of societies and economies.

13. In the process of establishing a new and just international economic order, the role of women was relevant and fundamental. The experience of Asia and the Pacific was particularly relevant, since the largest proportion of the world's female population resided in that region.

14. She stressed the need for political will and a clear recognition of the urgency to accord the highest priority to measures designed to improve the situation of women and their contribution to development. Only in that way could the critical problems of development, relating to population, food, the environment, energy, rural urban migration, better income distribution and social justice, be solved.

15. In his opening statement, the Executive Secretary of ESCAP indicated that during the period 1981-1985 ESCAP aimed at giving greater emphasis to three specific areas, namely advocacy, i.e., advocating the urgent need for women's integration and participation in development and creating a suitable environment for their contribution to society, the establishment of mechanisms within government structures for the initiation and implementation of programmes for women, and identification of critical areas that were priority concerns of Governments in order that the thrust of programmes and activities should be on critical issues that would enable women to enjoy an enriched and more satisfying life.

16. The dynamics of development constantly affected women, favourably or unfavourably. In the rural areas, for instance, changes occurred all the time which had important implications for the functions performed by women and more generally for the tenor and quality of their everyday lives. Obviously, sometimes the impact on women was quite negative, as, for example, when their traditional employment activities connected with planting and harvesting of crops were affected by the introduction of machines. The situation was made more complex as the bodies that were entrusted with decision-making and operational responsibilities rarely had enough women representatives who could present their point of view effectively and ensure that the consequences were not adverse to their interests.

17. In delivering the vote of thanks to President Reddy, the Associate Minister for Women's Affairs of Indonesia expressed appreciation to the President of India for inaugurating the Meeting and for the generosity of the Government of India in acting as host. She stated the common purpose of the Meeting, which was to review what had been achieved in ESCAP countries since the Mexico Conference in 1975, when the World Plan of Action had been adopted to provide basic guidelines for raising the status of women and accelerating their integration and participation in development.

Election of officers

18. Her Excellency Mrs. Sathiavani Muthu, Minister of Social Welfare (India) was elected Chairman; Mrs. Lasijah Soetanto (Indonesia), Mrs. Carolyn M. Wiltshire (Australia) and Mrs. B. Khenmedekh (Mongolia) were elected Vice-Chairmen; Mrs. Rashida Patel (Pakistan) and Miss Felicia Dobunaba (Papua New Guinea) were elected Rapporteur and Co-Rapporteur respectively.

Agenda

19. The following agenda was adopted:

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Formation of committees and organization of work
5. Review and appraisal of progress made in attaining the objectives of the Decade at the national level, with particular emphasis on the progress achieved in setting up national mechanisms for integrating women in the development process, keeping in view the main targets to be achieved in the first half of the Decade
6. (a) Identification of urgent and critical issues and problems affecting women in the ESCAP region

(b) Determination of short-range strategies and long-term plans to solve such problems during the second half of the Decade with special emphasis on the objectives of the Decade "equality, development and peace" and the subthemes "employment, education and health"
7. Establishment of guidelines and a plan of action for the second half of the Decade (1981-1985)
8. Identification of measures to be taken by agencies within the United Nations system to promote the objectives of the Decade.

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20. It was decided to convene four workshops for the deliberation of four substantive subjects as follows: Group I: Employment; Group II: Health; Group III: Education; and Group IV: (a) Equality, development and peace; (b) Policy, mechanisms, finance at national planning level, monitoring and appraisal.

Country papers

21. Country papers were presented or circulated by Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Democratic Kampuchea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America and Viet Nam.

22. It was evident from the country papers that the proclamation by the United Nations of 1975 as the International Women's Year and the holding of the World Conference of the International Women's Year at Mexico City had had a considerable influence in focusing attention on (a) the integration of women in development and (b) the adoption of concrete programmes in that area in the countries of the region.

23. The country papers dealt with existing conditions in the countries, the progress made and obstacles encountered in their national efforts to integrate women in the development process during the first half of the United Nations Decade for Women, and contained proposals and plans for the integration of women in development for the second half of the Decade. The papers also quoted the constitutional provisions for equality and non-discrimination against women: many of the countries had set up special governmental machinery for the integration of women in development.

24. To provide substantive reference for the Conference's deliberations, the secretariat introduced two documents. The first, entitled "Review and appraisal of progress made and obstacles encountered at the national level in Asia and the Pacific in attaining the minimum objectives set forth in paragraph 4 of the World Plan of Action and Objectives of the Asian Plan of Action", was prepared by the secretariat on the basis of the nine replies received to the questionnaire on implementation during the period 1975-1978 of the World Plan of Action, issued by United Nations Headquarters. The second document, also prepared by the secretariat as a working paper, was based on replies received from 11 countries, and was entitled "Draft programme of action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, 1981-1985, designed to implement the World Plan of Action and the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development of the Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific".

III. THEME OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

A. Discussion of the theme

25. The participants were of the opinion that the meaning of "Equality, Development and Peace", the theme of the United Nations Decade for Women, must be made clear to all levels of society if its goals were to be realized. It was therefore felt necessary to define the terms of the theme.

26. "Equality" should not mean mere legal equality or elimination of discrimination, or that men and women were the same, but must include equality of rights, responsibility and opportunities for participation in development by women not only as beneficiaries but as active agents. That presupposed equality of access to resources and power, including power to participate effectively in the allocation of resources and other decision-making activities at all levels of society.

27. "Development" meant total development, including economic, social, political, cultural and all other dimensions of human life. Women's lives were affected even more than those of men by all changes, economic, social and cultural, sometimes positively, sometimes negatively. Women's development should not, therefore, be viewed only as a concern for social development but as an essential component of all dimensions of development, in order that development could result in equality, justice and prosperity.

28. Of "peace" it must be said that there could be no development without peace; nor could peace be lasting without development and the removal of inequalities and discrimination at all levels. Women's equality and full participation in all aspects of development and decision-making would help to secure peace. Particular attention must be given to means that could ensure the full participation of women at policy levels and in decision-making activities.

B. Recommendations

29. To that end, the following recommendations were made, to be implemented at the national level in the areas of policy, mechanisms, legislation, resource allocation, monitoring and appraisal, data collection and attitudinal changes.

1. Policy

30. Political will on the part of national Governments was imperative for increasing the participation of women in development. While national mechanisms could perform extremely valuable functions in translating that will into action, the sustainment of the political will was equally imperative. The national experience of countries in the region indicated that the existence of organizations of women, particularly at the grass-roots level, provided a powerful force in the

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generation and sustainment of that political will. The Conference therefore recommended that national Governments should, as a matter of policy, promote organizations of women at the grass roots. Since most of the female population in the region lived in rural areas, the highest priority should be given to assisting such grass-roots organizations among rural women for the following reasons:

- (a) To mobilize women so that they might articulate their needs and concerns;
- (b) To encourage women to organize themselves for learning and pursuing productive activities and for obtaining access to the developmental resources needed; and
- (c) To ensure the protection of women against exploitation, discrimination and oppression.

2. Mechanisms

31. Experience in a number of countries of the ESCAP region had shown that national mechanisms or a nucleus created within national Governments had been an important instrument in promoting women's participation in development as active agents and beneficiaries. It had also shown that to make those mechanisms more effective further support, resources and definition of roles and functions would be needed. Those mechanisms should safeguard the participation and integration of women in all spheres of national life, with special reference to the subtheme "Employment, Health and Education" of the Programme of Action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. The following recommendations were therefore made:

- (a) The national mechanisms already established in the countries of the region should be strengthened by the allocation of more human, physical and financial resources.
- (b) Their functions should be clearly defined and should include the following:
 - (i) Information and data collection;
 - (ii) The sensitizing of all agencies and institutions to women's needs and to the necessity for the promotion of women's participation in development;
 - (iii) The monitoring and co-ordination of policies and programmes for women's development in all sectors;
 - (iv) Planning for the full participation of women in decision making and development, including the establishment of institutions when required;
 - (v) Liaison with non-governmental organizations and women at all levels to determine their needs;

(c) In order to perform those functions effectively, the national mechanism should have adequate human and financial resources and strive for a central institutional arrangement at the highest possible executive level in a suitable department/ministry. Small units dealing with women's development should be established in the various departments or ministries of national Governments, especially those concerned with agriculture, industry, employment, education, health, legal reforms, legislation and conditions of work, supplemented by institutional arrangements at the subnational level and suitable institutional arrangements at the local level and by independent advisory bodies where necessary.

3. Legislation

32. Although legislation in itself could not change attitudes, it represented an important step towards the achievement of real equality for women by providing a legal basis for a change in behaviour.

33. Thus, recognizing the importance of legislation, the strategy of removing discrimination in the social, economic and political spheres through enactment of appropriate laws must be maintained. In addition, steps should be taken to ensure the following:

(a) The introduction of reforms in laws and procedures, especially those laws that affect special courts dealing with family and matrimonial disputes in order that those courts can adjudicate within a prescribed time, thus ensuring speedy dispensation of justice;

(b) Creation of an awareness of legal rights and responsibilities among all women through educational and communication programmes;

(c) The organization of discussions regarding the socio-economic implications of laws among different professional groups of women and men, particularly within the legal and judicial professions, since it was through their interpretations that the laws acquire concrete meaning;

(d) The provision of institutionalized legal aid and counselling services for women to enable them to exercise their legal rights;

(e) The provision of supportive and rehabilitative services for women who lost family or community support in trying to obtain their legal rights;

(f) The investigation of the degree of protection/oppression and equality/discrimination affecting women under non-statutory customary laws in order to incorporate/reject them in the statutory framework, as large sections of the population in the region continued to be governed by these customs, on which statutory laws had little impact; the differences between statutory and customary laws as they affected the roles and status of women at different levels of society should be articulated to provide the needed stimulus for attitudinal and value change at all levels of society;

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(g) The repeal of those laws which discriminated against women with respect to rights of inheritance, ownership and control of property;

(h) The re-examination of existing legislation and the taking of positive steps to enact new legislation which would promote the interests of women;

(i) The repeal of laws and regulations which inhibited effective participation by women in economic spheres:

(j) The promotion of ownership rights for women, including joint ownership and co-ownership of land in entirety, to give women producers with absentee husbands effective legal rights to take decisions on the land they managed;

(k) The adoption of measures to ensure that women had equitable access to land, livestock and other productive assets;

(l) Full membership and equal voting rights and responsibilities for women in organizations such as tenants associations, labour unions, co-operatives, credit unions and organizations of the beneficiaries of land reform and other rural development programmes.

4. Resource allocation

34. The needs and problems of women cut across a number of sectors. Hence the integration of women in development must take into account its intersectoral and multidimensional nature. It was therefore necessary that the solutions to women's problems and the allocation of resources to meet their needs should not be confined to any particular sector and should include the following:

(a) The earmarking of an adequate and effective proportion of resources for programmes for women's development within each sector at the national and local levels; sufficient resources should be allocated to allow separate monitoring and evaluation of those general sectoral development programmes:

(b) The assignment of physical and financial targets to implementing agencies of all development programmes to ensure that the intended benefits of all programmes were made available to women and men alike.

5. Monitoring and appraisal

35. The national mechanism for planning for women should also be responsible for the monitoring and appraisal of programmes to ensure that the intended benefits accrued to women and to eliminate any negative effects on women.

6. Data collection

36. In the area of data collection, tabulation, compilation, review and analysis of data, the practice had been that women and their contribution were not counted or considered. It was, therefore, necessary that:

(a) A breakdown of data by sex should be made in order to ensure that in planning policies and programmes affecting women such statistics were used to identify areas for planning for women;

(b) Such data should be made available and information on women disseminated;

(c) In the enumeration, collection and analysis of data, more women should be actively involved;

(d) The definition of "worker" should include "unpaid family workers" and all workers engaged in unpaid work;

(e) Those who were engaged in the collection and analysis of data should be trained and oriented in the multifaceted aspects of women's work and women-related ideas so that data collection would become more realistic and effective.

7. Attitudinal changes

37. The special part which the media could play in changing attitudes towards women and portraying their full and changing role within society should be recognized. Governments or, where appropriate, the media itself, should establish independent advisory bodies and/or a special unit within the relevant departments, to monitor media policies and programmes (including advertisements) and to make recommendations for necessary changes. Such mechanisms should also encourage the fuller and more active participation of women at all levels of policy and decision making within media organizations.

38. Special efforts should be made to institute training programmes for media personnel at all levels to enable them to take due account of women's priorities and interests and to portray accurately the complex and diverse roles of all women and their contribution to social and economic development.

39. The educational system played a vital role in the determination and generation of new values and attitudes. It also trained human beings for work in government, media and higher levels of social organizations in industry, politics, social work institutions etc. Unless the educational system accepted the responsibility for promoting the goals of the Decade, attitudinal change would become increasingly difficult. That should be an explicitly stated task of the system as a whole.

40. The higher education sector had for a long time been engaged in studying the impact of development and social change, but it was regrettable that little research on women had been undertaken by the sector until very recently. Still, most of the research was being done by individuals outside the university system and was not reflected in the research and teaching curricula of those institutions. It was imperative that universities be encouraged to promote systematic and organized research programmes on women at different levels of society. Such research could also provide a source of evaluation of government efforts by non-governmental agencies. Special resources needed to be provided to universities and research institutions for that purpose.

IV. SUBTHEME OF THE DECADE: "EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND HEALTH";
RECOMMENDATIONS: GUIDELINES FOR A PLAN OF ACTION

A. Employment

41. The following guidelines were recommended with respect to the employment component of the subtheme of the Decade: "Employment, Education and Health":

- (a) National training programmes should set aside a quota for women.
- (b) A multisectoral and multidisciplinary co-ordinating body on all matters related to women should be established at the highest possible executive level with adequate representation of women and women's organizations, supported by units within major development institutes (for example, credit and promotional institutes), departments and agencies, in agriculture, industry, labour, education, health, training, etc. and with institutional arrangements at subnational and local levels.
- (c) All available resources and support at local, national and international levels should be utilized to achieve that end. That would also include proliferation of successful pilot projects not only within the country of origin but also within countries in the region.
- (d) Job training should not only be of a vocational but also of an in-service nature, and should specifically include and cater to women.
- (e) The protection of women at work should also include consideration of the health of women workers.
- (f) The family, as a basic unit vital to the creation of a stable society, should be strengthened.
- (g) The work of women in the home should be recognized as having economic value. The contribution of housewives and home-makers should be given due consideration; sufficient budgetary allocations should be made for training programmes designed to improve the skills of home-makers in home management.
- (h) Governments, employees and unions should co-operate to develop programmes, particularly for training and retraining, in order to remove the stereotyping of certain jobs as "male" and "female" and to eliminate discriminatory job classifications, recruitment, promotion and retrenchment practices.
- (i) All development agencies in different sectors (for example, agriculture, industry, education, health, housing, etc.) should undertake as a matter of policy the promotion of increasing employment of women and, to that end, earmark resources to undertake programmes for women's employment, training, provision of supportive services (for example, child care, housing, transport etc.), and other essential inputs (credit, marketing facilities, raw materials etc.).
- (j) All development plans should, at the pre-planning stage, study the

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employment needs of women, their specific and situational needs, and the possible impact of the proposed development programmes and projects on the existing employment situation of women in that area/sector, in order to avoid negative impact and to ensure the building of corrective steps into the project design.

(k) In the evaluation of development programmes, emphasis should be placed on the impact of those programmes on women's work situation in order to study whether women were being displaced from their earlier work-roles, whether as paid or unpaid workers (particularly in rural areas and urban slums where women were engaged in various economic activities in the informal sector).

(l) Special efforts should be made to assist women, whether in unorganized paid or unpaid occupations, in rural areas or urban slums, in wage-work or self-employment, to organize themselves into trade unions, associations or co-operatives in order to be able to protect themselves against exploitation and obtain access to credit, training and other income-generating facilities.

(m) Special efforts should be made by Governments and non-governmental agencies, including trade unions, development institutions, women's organizations or institutions etc. to train a cadre of mobilizers and specialized intermediaries to assist poor women in organizing for collective strength, obtaining access to all types of developmental assistance and articulating their needs before planning/policy-making agencies.

(n) Land reform/redistribution policies should ensure that:

(i) Women should enjoy equal or joint title to land;

(ii) In the granting of credit and the distribution of information and other inputs for agricultural development, women should receive a share in their own right.

(o) Resources/facilities should be earmarked for all vocational training for women at both the institutional and on-the-job training levels.

42. The Meeting reiterated the concern expressed in the World Plan of Action for achieving equality of opportunity for women, giving attention to the treatment of women workers, and integrating women into the labour force in accordance with accepted international standards by recognizing their right to work and to equal pay, and their right to equal work and equal access to opportunities for employment and training.

B. Education

43. With respect to education, the following guidelines were recommended:

(a) Over-all framework

(i) The Conference recognized that education was one of the most important tools for women to secure a status of equality, advancement and integration;

(ii) Goals of education were common for men and women and should not reflect discrimination, which was a feature of many existing social systems in the region;

(iii) Education should serve the socio-economic and socio-cultural objectives of national planning and give greater priority to women in rural areas, urban slums and other identifiable disadvantaged groups in the community.

(b) Guidelines for action

(i) Pre-school education

b. Day-care centres for children should be established:

i. To enable women to participate in educational, economic and social activities;

ii. As a means of delivering health care and nutrition services to children at the critical age up to six years old;

iii. As a means of reaching mothers to enable them to understand improved methods of child care;

c. Attendance by children at the pre-school centres should be encouraged as a preparation for primary education.

(ii) Formal education

a. Planned steps should be taken to reduce drop-outs among girls at the primary level that would necessitate such incentives as scholarships, free uniforms, free text-books, mid-day meals and the provision of women teachers where necessary;

b. The facilities for female education at all levels should be expanded and improved, if possible in co-educational institutions and in separate institutions for females if necessary;

c. The curricula and learning materials should be examined thoroughly to remove sex bias and stereotyped portrayals of girls and women;

d. Positive steps should be taken to encourage girls to pursue studies in areas from which women had traditionally been excluded, such as science and technology;

e. School hours, vacations and locations should be made flexible to make attendance convenient.

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(iii) Non-formal and adult education

- a. Literacy, viewed as a basic human right, should be extended to all and arrangements should be made so that women could participate effectively in the literacy programmes;
- b. In all adult education programmes, including functional literacy campaigns, effort should be made to provide opportunities to women for functional upgrading and skill training;
- c. Special emphasis should be given to the organization of non-formal and out-of-school educational programmes for girls to ensure that they received basic education to enable them to pursue self-reliant learning or to enter later the stream of formal education;
- d. Arrangements should be made through the printed word and other media to reinforce, sustain and expand the level of literacy and functional education;

(iv) General issues

- a. Steps should be taken to review the curricula and learning materials and methods so that education would lead to a better awareness among women and girls of their status; women's organizations should assist in reinforcing such awareness;
- b. In education and planning, separate targets should be set for women's education at all stages; sufficient priority and resource allocation should also be given in order to meet set targets;
- c. Men and decision makers in the family and community as well as the Government should be reoriented to encourage girls and women to participate in the planned educational programmes;
- d. Women should be given opportunities to participate at policy-making and decision-making levels with regard to the planning of women's education at all levels;
- e. Education and training, including training in scientific and technical subjects for women, should be as employment-oriented as it was for men in order that women might advance towards economic self-reliance;
- f. Elements of health care, nutrition and population education, including family planning where appropriate, should be introduced into curricula for men as well as for women;

- g. Income-generating activities should be accompanied by consumer education, marketing and management programmes.

C. Health

44. In the health field the following guidelines were recommended:

(a) Family planning services should be made a primary goal, targets should be established, and a full range of services should be made readily available, especially to poor women and men.

(b) Special nutritional programmes should be promoted to combat the nutritional anaemia commonly suffered by pregnant and lactating women under conditions of generally poor nutrition owing to poverty.

(c) Major emphasis should be placed on improving water and sanitation programmes undertaken by government organizations as well as on programmes through village self-help programmes, with women as the prime movers.

(d) Various types of training courses should be provided for rural women, geared towards the prevention of disease and towards self-help with regard to health measures. Government health programmes should set targets for the involvement of women in leadership roles in the various aspects of health care delivery.

(e) A rural health care system using mobile teams and village health workers (especially mature village women trained as community health workers), should be promoted, in order that services could be brought to the doorstep of the rural population.

(f) High priority should be given to the education of all women, both rural and urban, in maternal and child health care, family planning, improving the nutritional status of the family, and improving environmental sanitation and those be included in the curricula of primary schools.

(g) Given the growing number of females working in female-intensive industries e.g. textile and electronics industries, as well as females working in the construction and service sectors, particular attention should be devoted to the health of women workers arising out of such occupations.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS, UNITED NATIONS BODIES AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

45. Brief statements were presented by specialized agencies and United Nations bodies regarding their work, including their programmes for achieving the integration of women in development.

46. The Meeting took note of those statements and also of the background papers that were presented by those United Nations bodies and specialized agencies regarding their work, resources and programmes for achieving the integration of women in development. It also took note of the Governments' invitation to those bodies and agencies to make fuller use of the resources, expertise, facilities and assistance for achieving women's development that were available in their countries.

47. The Meeting further commended the contribution of United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in the area of women's development and urged that, where it was appropriate and had not yet been done, those bodies and specialized agencies should undertake global as well as regional programmes and policies for women.

A. Recommendations to the United Nations

48. The Meeting:

(a) Requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to submit the report of the ESCAP Regional Preparatory Conference for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women to the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, 1980;

(b) Recommended that efforts be made to obtain extrabudgetary resources and also stressed that there should be funding of programmes for women from the regular budget of the United Nations. Sufficient use had not been made of this so far;

(c) Considered that the holding of a world conference for women in 1985 might be useful, in the last year of the United Nations Decade for Women, to review the achievement of targets set at the Mexico Conference in 1975;

(d) Strongly urged, in view of the fact that more than half of the population of the world and consequently more than half of the world's women resided in the Asia and Pacific region, that the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women should consider progressively increasing the region's share of the Fund, to enable member countries to embark on developing and implementing high priority action-oriented projects for the integration of women in the development process, particularly rural women, whose need was greatest.

B. Recommendations to ESCAP

49. The Meeting:

(a) Requested the Executive Secretary of ESCAP to place before the Commission

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at its thirty-sixth session the recommendations of the Conference for the necessary follow-up action at the regional level, urged members to implement the recommendations of the Conference at the national level and requested ESCAP to provide assistance to Governments upon request.

(b) Recommended that on the lines of the interagency task force working at the headquarters level, ESCAP should have an interdivisional task force.

(c) Recommended that, in order to perform its important tasks efficiently, the women's unit in ESCAP should be adequately strengthened.

(d) Recommended that, in order to enable the ESCAP secretariat to assist member countries in implementing the World Plan of Action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women, its existing limited resources for supporting activities relating to the integration of women in the development process should be strengthened.

(e) Recommended that the outcome of the Conference should be duly reflected in the preparation of the regional input for the new international development strategy for the 1980s.

(f) Recommended that in the new integrated Centre, the Asia and Pacific Development Centre, adequate safeguards should be taken by ESCAP to ensure special organizational identity for the programme area relating to women by guaranteeing adequate funding.

(g) Noted that ESCAP should take measures to establish a co-ordinating centre and clearing-house for the exchange of experience and material.

(h) Also noted the importance of the development of the island countries of the South Pacific area. It felt that special measures might be necessary to give developing member and associate member countries of the area the opportunity to express their views on matters of special relevance to them so that their interests might be taken fully into account in the final report of the Conference and in considering proposals for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, 1980.

(i) Recommended, therefore, that consideration be given, in consultation with the Governments of those countries concerned, to devising means by which South Pacific island countries might be given an opportunity to present their views on matters of interest to them relating to the subjects of the Conference. One possibility might be the convening by ESCAP of a special preparatory meeting, as soon as possible within the next few months, for ESCAP member and associate member countries in the South Pacific, to be held in a developing country of the South Pacific. Such a conference would have the object of providing a forum in which those countries could consider the report of the proceedings of the current Conference with a view to submitting additional observations on matters of special relevance to them as well as proposals for the consideration of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, 1980.

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(j) Urged that additional funds should be provided as necessary by the United Nations for that purpose.

C. Recommendations to United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

50. Accordingly, the Meeting urged that:

(a) International organizations, specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies should consider establishing units within their organizations wherever appropriate, if such did not already exist, for ensuring women's participation in development. Such units should be adequately staffed and equipped with adequate budgetary support;

(b) Those agencies should consider preparing guidelines to ensure that all projects and programmes, at the formulation stage, take into account the likely impact of all programmes on women to ensure maximum benefits to women;

(c) Those agencies and bodies should undertake a study of currently employed women in their respective headquarters and field levels with a view to increasing their number in those levels and ensuring their full participation in the decision-making process;

(d) The World Health Organization should (a) initiate the collection of data on the health status of women and data by sex on the utilization of health services, and (b) review their programmes in order to focus more sharply on programmes for women.

51. The Meeting also noted the following recommendations adopted at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Meeting of the Consultative Panel for Asia and Oceania for Equality of Educational Opportunities for Girls and Women, held at Bangkok from 1 to 8 October 1979:

(a) External assistance must support national programmes and policies;

(b) International conventions designed to enhance the quality of life of girls and women should be supported;

(c) International agencies should support exchange of experience between countries;

(d) All United Nations agency programmes should be prepared with the needs of girls and women in mind;

(e) The Asian Programme of Educational Innovation for Development should consider the educational problems facing girls and women;

(f) The Asian Programme of Educational Innovation for Development should organize a workshop for directors of women's studies. Non-governmental organizations involved in activities designed to enhance the status of girls and women should be encouraged and assisted to deal with educational problems.

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VI. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO GOVERNMENTS OF THE REGION

52. Governments were urged as a matter of highest priority to:

(a) Take the necessary measures to implement the action proposals adopted by the ESCAP Regional Preparatory Conference for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women;

(b) Adopt national strategies, plans and programmes for their implementation within the framework of over-all development policies;

(c) Establish specific targets to be achieved by the end of the Decade as well as long-term targets reaching beyond the Decade until the three-fold objectives were fully attained;

(d) Undertake regular review and appraisal of progress made at the national, subnational and local levels.

VII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

53. The report of the Meeting was adopted on 9 November 1979.
