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Decade for Women:
Equality, Development and Peace**

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**REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE
OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON ITS THIRD SESSION**

(United Nations Headquarters, 7-18 April 1980)

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THIRD SESSION

I. ACTION TAKEN BY THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE AT
ITS THIRD SESSION

Documentation to be submitted under item 8 of the provisional
agenda for the Conference:

"Review and evaluation of the progress made and obstacles
encountered in attaining the objectives of the United Nations
Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, at the
national, regional and international levels, from 1975 to 1980,
in keeping with the World Plan of Action for the Implementation
of the Objectives of the International Women's Year"

1. The Committee agreed that the reports on review and evaluation should take into consideration the views expressed in the Preparatory Committee and should contain the corrections relevant to the situation in certain countries, as indicated by the delegations of those countries.

2. The Committee also agreed on the need for brief review reports to be submitted to the Conference with regard to the following areas:

(a) The effects of science and technology on the employment of women;

(b) The role of the mass media as a development component for the advancement of women; and

(c) Women in rural areas (land, credit, co-operatives, food and water).

Documentation to be submitted under item 9 of the
provisional agenda for the Conference:

"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"

3. At its 41st meeting, on 9 April, the Preparatory Committee agreed to establish a drafting group to consider and review the 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 for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year. 1/

1/ Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year,
Mexico City, 19 June-2 July 1975 (United Nations publication, Sales No.
E.76.IV.1), chap. II, sect. A.

4. The drafting group held eight meetings, during which it amended the draft Programme of Action with respect to action to be taken at both the national level and the regional and international levels. Its report was issued as a conference room paper.
5. The Committee considered the report of the drafting group at its 51st to 54th meetings, on 17 and 18 April, and adopted it, as orally revised during the discussions. It also adopted the draft section entitled "Assistance to women refugees the world over" (A/CONF.94/PC/L.27), proposed by Australia, Pakistan and the Philippines for inclusion in the second part of the draft Programme of Action, concerning action to be taken at the regional and international levels.
6. During the Committee's consideration of the report of the drafting group, a number of representatives reserved the position of their Governments on certain paragraphs and sections of the draft Programme of Action. Those reservations are reflected in the draft Programme of Action to be submitted to the Conference in document A/CONF.94/22.
7. At the same time, the Committee requested that the draft Programme of Action, as adopted by it, should be circulated by the early part of May 1980. With a view to facilitating the work of the Conference, participants in the Conference were invited to submit amendments to the draft Programme as adopted, and to send them to the secretariat in writing by 1 June 1980. The secretariat was requested to compile the amendments in a consolidated document, which would be submitted to the Conference.

Documentation to be submitted under the new item 10 of the provisional agenda for the Conference:

"Effects of Israeli occupation on Palestinian women inside and outside the occupied territories"

8. The Committee, subject to the reservations outlined in chapter II, section E, below, recommended that the report entitled "The social and economic conditions of the Palestinian women inside and outside the occupied territories" and transmitted by the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, 1980, of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (E/ECWA/SDHS/CONF.4/6/Rev.1) should be submitted to the Conference. 2/

Background documentation to be submitted to the Conference

9. The Committee, pursuant to paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/5 of 17 April 1980, recommended that the report of the Special Rapporteur on the impact of the mass communication media on the changing roles of men and women (E/CN.6/627) should be submitted as a background document under item 8 of the provisional agenda for the Conference, after it had been revised in the light of the comments made at the twenty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Organization of the Conference and other activities
related to the preparation of the Conference

10. The Committee decided, subject to a reservation made by the Group of African States (see para. 199 below), to submit the following proposal to the Economic and Social Council in connexion with the number and distribution of offices in the General Committee of the Conference:

(a) Each regional group would fill one of the five major offices of the Conference, namely, the office of President, of Rapporteur-General, of Presiding Officer of each of the two Main Committees and of Presiding Officer of the Credentials Committee. In the event that the Council should accept that proposal, consequential amendments to the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference would be made by the secretariat;

(b) The 22 Vice-Presidents would be drawn from the regional groups as follows, bringing the total number of seats on the General Committee to 27:

African States (six members);

Asian States (five members);

Eastern European States (three members);

Latin American States (four members); and

Western European and other States (four members).

11. The Committee recommended that each regional group should be represented on the Bureaux of each of the two Main Committees.

12. The Committee agreed to recommend to the Conference that items 8 (a) and 9 (a) (dealing with the subjects covered by those items at the national level) and items 7 (a) and 10 (a) be allocated to the First Committee and that items 8 (b) and 9 (b) (dealing with the subjects covered by those items at the international level) and items 9 (c), 7 (b) and 10 (b) be allocated to the Second Committee.

13. Proposals for alternative time-tables for the organization of the work of the Conference were submitted to the Committee. A time-table was agreed and the secretariat was requested to include it as an annex to the document relating to the organization of work that would be submitted to the Conference. 3/

14. It was agreed that the pre-Conference consultations should begin on Sunday, 13 July and continue on Monday, 14 July, in the morning. The secretariat was asked to consult with the Government of Denmark, with a view to making the appropriate arrangements.

3/ To be circulated under the symbol A/CONF.94/3.

15. It was agreed that a recommendation should be made that the President of the Preparatory Committee should preside over the pre-Conference consultations.

16. The Committee concurred with the remaining suggestions outlined by the secretariat in document A/CONF.94/PC/18. 4/

4/ To be reflected in document A/CONF.94/3.

II. REVIEW OF THE SUBSTANTIVE REPORTS ON AGENDA ITEMS 7, 8, 9 AND 10
OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE CONFERENCE

and

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTS OF THE REGIONAL AND SECTORAL
PREPARATORY MEETINGS

A. Effects of apartheid on women in southern Africa

17. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 3 (a), entitled "Documentation submitted under item 7 of the provisional agenda for the Conference Effects of apartheid on women in southern Africa" at its 44th and 45th meetings, on 14 April 1980. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it three reports of the Secretary-General: "The role of women in the struggle for liberation in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa" (A/CONF.94/5); "Measures of assistance to women in southern Africa" (A/CONF.94/6 and Add.1); and "The effects of apartheid on the status of women in southern Africa" (A/CONF.94/7).

18. In introducing the reports, the Secretary-General of the Conference explained that they had been prepared after extensive consultations with the national liberation movements in southern Africa recognized by the Organization of African Unity (OAU), with OAU itself, with United Nations organizations and specialized agencies, and with a host of organizations that dealt with questions on southern Africa. She said that, since the subject had been seriously neglected by researchers in the past, the Conference secretariat had undertaken an extensive research effort in order to find as much material as possible.

19. The Secretary-General of the Conference stated that the reports before the Preparatory Committee were designed to reflect the two goals of the women of southern Africa: first, to help to achieve national liberation, working with men, as the prerequisite for any real change in the social status of women; and secondly, to create new social systems after liberation, which would sustain equal roles for women. She emphasized that the reports had been written before the victory of Robert Mugabe and the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU)-Patriotic Front in Zimbabwe.

20. She said that the report on the effects of apartheid on the status of women in southern Africa (A/CONF.94/7) reviewed the devastating effects of apartheid in rural and urban areas on employment, health, education and social security. She added that the report on the role of women in the struggle for liberation in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa (A/CONF.94/5) presented a historical analysis of how, in spite of the tremendous handicaps imposed on them by the régimes of those countries, women had been able to play such a dynamic and courageous role in assisting in the effort to eradicate racism and apartheid.

21. She noted that the report on measures of assistance to women in southern Africa (A/CONF.94/6 and Add.1) had been revised following the inputs and suggestions made at the second session of the Preparatory Committee. Measures

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had been designed in the following areas: legal, humanitarian, moral and political assistance to women in southern Africa; training to integrate women into leadership and support positions within the national liberation movements; training and assistance to enable women after liberation to play active roles in the reconstruction of their countries; and international support for, and co-operation with, the women of southern Africa. In accordance with the request made by the Preparatory Committee at its second session, a list of current programmes of assistance had been added in part two of the report (see A/CONF.94/6) and in the addendum to the report (A/CONF.94/6/Add.1).

22. The Secretary-General of the Conference underlined the need for the Preparatory Committee to make any specific recommendations it deemed appropriate.

23. The observer for the Special Committee against Apartheid reviewed the role played by women in the struggle against apartheid, in spite of the disabilities they faced because of the restrictive policies of apartheid. She mentioned the General Assembly resolutions on women and children in South Africa, in which the Assembly requested all Member States to contribute towards assistance to the special needs of women and children under apartheid to reduce their suffering and to enable them to continue in the struggle against apartheid. She called on women to promote solidarity with women in South Africa by participating in seminars such as the ones at Helsinki and Montreal on women under apartheid. She expressed the hope that the results of those seminars would be transmitted to the World Conference.

24. The observer for the African National Congress (South Africa) stated that the situation of women in South Africa had grossly deteriorated rather than improved since 1975. Thousands of women had been pushed into human dumping grounds known as "bantustans", as the régime continued to balkanize South Africa. Women were the primary victims of the high unemployment rate in South Africa. Apartheid negated the objectives and goals that all women shared for the Decade. She emphasized that the documents on apartheid before the Preparatory Committee described well both the situation of women, and the role played by women in resisting apartheid. She stressed the fact that, until the system of apartheid was destroyed, women could not achieve equality; therefore, the measures of assistance that promoted the ability of women to participate in that struggle were indeed most crucial. Women must work towards ending the collaboration by Governments with South Africa. She proposed that every possible effort should be made to implement effectively the measures of assistance. Finally, she added that the apartheid reports before the Preparatory Committee should be combined in a booklet, so that the information could be disseminated as widely as possible.

25. The observer for the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania highlighted the apartheid régime's strategy of divide and rule through the bantustan or "homelands" policy and through the so-called black townships. She detailed the effects of apartheid on education and health care for women in the bantustans; on land allocation and on the creation of "border" industries. She deplored the exploitation of children, child labour and actual cases of child abduction, and especially the systematic destruction of families caused by the apartheid laws

in general and by the system of passes in particular. She said that such policies resulted in serious psychological and physiological trauma for all South Africans. In addition to all forms of assistance, she called on the World Health Organization (WHO) to investigate the distribution of destructive classified drugs to the black women of South Africa. Finally, she warned the international community against being fooled by the so-called "changes" being introduced by the racist régime, as they were simply window-dressing. She said that the World Conference should stress the situation of women in South Africa because it posed a threat to peace not only to Africa but to the entire world. She called on the women of the world to take up the cause of human suffering in South Africa as part of their own and to support the struggle for liberation and self-determination in South Africa.

26. Representatives expressed their support for the oppressed peoples of southern Africa and for the proposed measures of assistance to aid women. They thanked the liberation movements for their contribution to the work of the Committee. Constructive suggestions were then made by many representatives to strengthen the measures of assistance to women in southern Africa outlined in the relevant report (A/CONF.94/6 and Add.1).

27. Several representatives expressed their satisfaction with the fact that the measures of assistance described in documents A/CONF.94/6 and Add.1 called only for increased and, in some cases, specially earmarked funds for legal assistance for women in South Africa and Namibia rather than for the creation of a new legal defence fund for women, because existing institutions needed to become more aware of the specific needs of women in southern Africa.

28. In the light of the above, several representatives requested an inventory of current economic sources for such funds as the United Nations Education and Training Programme for Southern Africa and the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa. One representative asked that the guidelines for distributing those funds should also be made available in order to be sure that the needs of women would be adequately met by the existing institutions that provided assistance to the oppressed peoples of southern Africa. 5/

29. Many representatives noted with satisfaction that the peoples of Zimbabwe had won their independence since the documents had been submitted. They requested that appropriate changes should be made in the document on the effects of apartheid on the status of women in southern Africa (A/CONF.94/7). One representative said that in documents A/CONF.94/6 and Add.1 the role of Zimbabwean women should be treated in section I, subsection C, on training and assistance to enable women after liberation to play active roles in the reconstruction of their countries.

5/ In that connexion, the attention of the Preparatory Committee was drawn to the reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa (A/34/571) and the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa (A/34/661).

30. Many representatives requested that the documents before the Committee should be disseminated as widely as possible. There was a general consensus that the three documents should be combined in the form of a book or booklet as a publication of the United Nations for international distribution. It was suggested by one representative that the mass media should be effectively mobilized to give publicity to the plight of women and to the role they had played in the struggle against apartheid.

31. One representative noted that the second regional conference of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) had called for renewed unconditional support for the struggle of women against apartheid. Another representative called for increased assistance from the newly emerging industrialized nations, in addition to increases from traditional donors from industrialized countries.

32. A number of representatives said that the World Conference should underline the extent to which the collaboration of some countries with South Africa in military, economic and political areas had contributed towards supporting the South African régime. Appeals must be made to such Governments to implement the many resolutions of the General Assembly and Security Council calling for an end to such collaboration. They said that appeals must also be made to Governments that had not yet done so to ratify the various conventions on apartheid.

33. One representative, while strongly supporting the objectives of the proposed measures of assistance, said that her Government believed that assistance should be provided, through the organs of the United Nations system, to all oppressed peoples of southern Africa, without regard to their political affiliation, and that the liberation movements should not be given an exclusive role in administering assistance programmes.

34. One representative said that her Government could not support portions of paragraph 43 (b) and (e) in document A/CONF.94/6 because it believed that ordinary trade with South Africa should not cease with the aim of abolishing apartheid. She also said her Government could not support paragraph 43 (c), because it did not believe it should provide assistance to armed struggle.

35. Many representatives expressed their hope that the measures of assistance would be widely supported and further strengthened at the World Conference. It was emphasized that implementation of the measures was a key to providing assistance to the women in southern Africa. It was suggested that one way of helping to ensure effective implementation of the measures was to establish a post within the United Nations system as a focal point to monitor that implementation.

36. The Secretary-General of the Conference replied that, after the second session of the Preparatory Committee, the secretariat had consulted the Centre against Apartheid, officers of the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa and other organizations that provided legal assistance to those who were repressed in South Africa. It was decided that, owing to the very delicate situation inside South Africa, it was more advisable to use the existing machinery to provide legal assistance to women and to recommend the earmarking of funds for women political prisoners. It was for that reason that the creation of a special legal defence

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fund for southern Africa had been modified to the current proposal in subparagraph 18 (a) of document A/CONF.94/6. She said that the Conference secretariat would make the appropriate changes in the documents to reflect the liberation of the people of Zimbabwe.

B. Review and evaluation of the progress made and obstacles encountered in attaining the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, at the national, regional and international levels, from 1975 to 1980, in keeping with the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year

37. The Committee considered item 3 (b) of its agenda, entitled "Documentation submitted under item 8 of the provisional agenda for the Conference ['Review and evaluation of the progress made and obstacles encountered in attaining the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, at the national, regional and international levels, from 1975 to 1980, in keeping with the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year']," at its 38th to 43rd meetings, from 7 to 10 April 1980. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the reports of the Secretary-General on the review and evaluation of progress achieved in the implementation of the World Plan of Action with respect to employment (A/CONF.94/8); health (A/CONF.94/9); education (A/CONF.94/10); national machinery and legislation (A/CONF.94/11); national planning (A/CONF.94/12); and political participation, international co-operation and the strengthening of international peace (A/CONF.94/13); 6/ and the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the activities of the specialized agencies and organizations in the United Nations system aimed at implementing the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (A/CONF.94/20).

38. In introducing this item, the Secretary-General of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women noted that the six reports on the review and evaluation of progress made at the national level covered the following major areas for action, as defined by the World Plan: employment, education, health, national planning, national machinery, legislation and political participation and the strengthening of world peace. She explained that the overall analysis was based on replies to a questionnaire sent to Governments on data from specialized agencies and on various other studies and research. At the time the reports had been prepared, 86 responses had been received from Member States; 93 had been received by the time the Preparatory Committee began its third session - 23 more than had been anticipated.

39. The Secretary-General of the World Conference stressed that the reports on review and appraisal focused primarily on sectoral trends and measures to integrate women into national life. The trends and measures reviewed and appraised in the

6/ Originally issued under the symbol E/CN.6/636.

reports, however, were interrelated. They should not be taken in sectoral isolation but should rather be formulated and implemented within a context of international and national conditions, which either enhanced or impeded their effectiveness. Finally, she explained that the reports contained a number of common characteristics: an analysis of recent trends; the major determinants and characteristics of those trends; consideration of both regional differences and differences in economic and political conditions; and a review of the recent measures taken by Member States to improve the status of women. The overall analysis sought to identify the main problems and obstacles with a view to elaborating a more realistic and attainable draft Programme of Action for the second half of the Decade.

40. The Secretary-General of the World Conference informed the Preparatory Committee that, because of time constraints, the report on regional and global programmes could not be completed in time for the Committee's consideration and would be submitted directly to the Conference.

41. A number of representatives expressed their appreciation of the reports on review and appraisal, stating that they provided useful, interesting and substantive information on the global situation of women.

42. With respect to the report on employment (A/CONF.94/8), several representatives noted that it provided a comprehensive review of women's economic situation. At the same time, some areas of the report needed to be strengthened. Several representatives pointed out that the links between employment, education and training needed to be underscored, since improvements in each single sector were related to those in the other sectors. One representative expressed the view that in the report the problem of employment was not discussed in the context of development policy but, instead had been reduced to a discussion of women's achievement of equality with men. She added that the reports on review and appraisal should project greater concern for the establishment of the new international economic order as a precondition for the full implementation of measures to integrate women into national and international life. One representative suggested further examination of the role of transnational corporations and the impact of the transfer of technology on women. That subject could be included in a separate chapter on rural development, along with specific measures and alternative projects. One representative stated that any discussion of development should also take into consideration non-economic factors, such as different cultural values and national traditions.

43. Several representatives stressed the importance of the section on migration in the report (A/CONF.94/8, chap. I, sect. A, paras. 34-43) and indicated that the analysis of the origins of women's migration problems should be strengthened. Some representatives pointed out that the lack of working opportunities in rural areas sharpened unemployment and underemployment in the urban sectors. One representative expressed the opinion that the report on employment should have dealt in greater depth with female work in rural areas. One observer stated that paragraph 61 did not give the correct information on the employment rates for women versus those for men. The analysis should use the unemployed as a percentage of the whole labour force. The unemployment rate for women in Finland, she added, had not been any higher than that for men.

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44. Some representatives pointed to the need to clarify or reformulate several statements in the report on employment. One representative felt that a reference to women working in the service sector having "relatively low status" and receiving "low pay" should be deleted, since such was not the case in socialist countries. She disagreed with the idea that parental leave should be shared by fathers and mothers. Integrating women into social and economic life on an equal footing with men was important, she said, and should be examined more closely. She also pointed out that it should be noted that in the agricultural sector in socialist systems, State legislation existed with regard to labour, wages and social insurance. The report on employment should also take into consideration the large proportion of women performing qualified work in agriculture in the socialist countries.

45. One representative requested that "the expansion of training and educational facilities for women" be included as a third point in paragraph 123 (A/CONF.94/8). Further, to supplement paragraph 132, he noted that women's co-operative associations were engaged in promoting employment for women, independently of the State development schemes.

46. The representative of Japan requested that mention be made in paragraph 119 of the Expert Commission on Equality between Men and Women, established in Japan in 1979.

47. The representative of the German Democratic Republic stated that the reports on review and appraisal did not make sufficient use of the reply to the questionnaire sent by her Government.

48. The representative of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) stated that the report on employment was comprehensive and provided useful information, but was too general in some parts. The introduction should stress more clearly the regional differences in the situation of women. She suggested that the report should mention the impact of increased expenditure for armaments on the amount of investment resources, and its consequences for women's employment. In some market economies, she said, protective legislation had been revised or repealed and the related ILO Conventions denounced. She submitted some amendments to the report on employment.

49. With respect to the report on national machinery and legislation (A/CONF.94/11), one representative pointed out that it failed to take cognizance of one of the most serious problems facing Governments in establishing national machinery, namely, how to budget and audit multisectoral machinery. She also felt that the terms "multisectoral" and "multidisciplinary" needed to be broken down more concretely, both in the review and appraisal report and in the Programme of Action. Another representative cautioned against the assumptions inherent in the conclusion that most national machinery was located in the welfare sector of the Government. It was assumed that the programmes implemented by the machinery were limited to the sector in which the machinery was located. The location of the machinery, however, was not important so long as the Government was committed to improving the status of women.

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50. Some representatives stated that the report on national machinery and legislation did not reflect the information provided by their Governments. They proposed amendments to the report which would be made available to the secretariat. One representative also pointed out certain factual errors that needed to be corrected in the section on legislation, regarding the rights of property of Hindu women, the reporting of sex discrimination cases and compulsory registration of marriages, which had been drawn to the attention of the Secretariat at the twenty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

51. The representative of Cuba requested that the reference to Cuba in paragraph 39 on international migration be deleted, since it had not been transmitted to the secretariat by the Cuban Government. One observer expressed the view that the analysis of the role of women in planning was unduly critical and the reference to women planners as having narrow, elitist interests was unjustified.

52. With respect to the report on health (A/CONF.94/9), some representatives said that the methodology of the report should be revised to make it more consistent and logical. One representative stated that the report should begin with a definition of health. She felt that, in the absence of such a definition, the analysis in the report which equated poverty with bad health and, by implication, affluence with good health was dangerous, in that it would be understood to offer the health services of the developed countries as models of the health policies for developing countries. Another representative expressed the need for a separate chapter on food production, processing, distribution, handling, preparation and consumption, in order to expand the information contained in paragraph 85.

53. Concerning the report on education (A/CONF.94/10), some representatives criticized the position taken in the report that co-education was an indicator of equal access to education (para. 65). One representative added that experience in his country had shown that parents were more willing to send their sons and daughters to separate institutions (for boys and girls), with no difference in their curricula, than to co-educational institutions.

54. Two representatives regretted that information provided to the secretariat by their Governments was not reflected in the report on education.

55. The representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) stated that that agency had contributed to the preparation of the report on education and was satisfied with the overall quality of the report.

56. The Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs referred to a separate report, setting forth some major achievements based on the mandates deriving from the International Women's Year, which had been prepared by the Department for International Economic and Social Affairs but had not yet been issued. She described new developments at the national, regional and global levels. National plans and programmes had been adopted on the basis of the World Plan of Action and national machineries had been established in many countries; regional plans of action were now in force in all the developing regions and regional programmes for women had been established in three of them, where they did not exist before, while the African programme had been strengthened; co-operation among all

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organizations within the United Nations system in the implementation of the World Plan of Action had developed new ways to achieve co-ordinated planning and programming, based on certain principal objectives and subobjectives identified in the Plan. Multilateral and bilateral funding agencies had paid special attention to the need to integrate women into development programmes and had developed guide-lines to that effect. Non-governmental organizations with different kinds of expertise had played a very active role in the implementation of the World Plan of Action, from the local and national levels to the regional and global ones.

57. Along with the growing awareness of the role of women in the life of society, a need to understand better the relationship between the situation and role of women, on the one hand, and various aspects of the development of society, on the other, had led to an increasing amount of research activities at every level. Regional centres had been established for training and research in Africa and Asia and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, proposed at the World Conference of the International Women's Year, 7/ would soon be in operation.

58. The Advancement of Women Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs had placed special emphasis on interdisciplinary research and analysis relating to women's role in agriculture and trade, in industry and in science and technology. It had also prepared reports for international conferences dealing with various aspects of development, including water, agrarian reform and rural development, primary health care and technical co-operation between developing countries. A growing amount of information on the situation and role of women was currently available, based on the integrated reporting system developed and administered by the Branch, which served as the focal point for the co-ordination, review and appraisal of the implementation of the World Plan of Action.

59. The Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women had provided an opportunity to assist the developing regions in the establishment and the strengthening of their programmes for women and to give assistance to programmes and projects which benefited rural women and poor women in urban areas, with priority given to the least developed countries. With the funds contributed primarily by Governments, it had already supported 120 projects.

60. In the field of international standard-setting, the major achievement had been the adoption by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex), which had been opened for signatures, ratifications and accessions from 1 March 1980. Its coming into force after the twentieth ratification or accession would mark a culmination in United Nations activities in the promotion of human rights, as far as women's rights were concerned.

7/ Report of The World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, 19 June-2 July 1975 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. III, resolution 26.

61. The Chairman of the Consultative Committee of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women reported on the Consultative Committee's seventh session. Twenty-seven new projects had been approved, making a total of 120 projects supported by the Fund. The projects were small, innovative and experimental. Women of the developing countries had demonstrated that they could use the Fund to develop important self-sustaining activities, which benefited both women and communities. However, the pledges had not kept up with the demand for projects. After the seventh session of the Committee, \$US 400,000 had been left in the Fund to support the ever-increasing requests for projects. Governments could assist by paying in their present pledges and making additional pledges, so that the Fund could continue its work.

62. The Chairman also stated that the World Conference provided a unique opportunity to draw attention to the work being done by the Fund. The Secretary-General should include reference to the Fund in the documentation for the Conference and might arrange for pledges to be announced at the Conference, so that, by the September meeting of the Fund, additional money would be available.

Action taken by the Committee

63. At the 55th meeting, the representative of Egypt made a proposal in connexion with the reports to be submitted to the Conference under the item on review and evaluation.

64. Following a statement by the representative of the Conference secretariat, the Committee agreed to that proposal (see chap. I below, paras. 1 and 2).

C. 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

65. The Preparatory Committee considered item 3 (c) of its agenda, entitled "Documentation submitted under item 9 of the provisional agenda for the Conference /'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'/", at its 38th to 44th meetings, from 7 to 10 April and on 14 April 1980. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the reports of the Secretary-General outlining a draft Programme of Action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, concerning action to be taken at the national level (E/CN.6/623) and concerning action to be taken at the regional and international levels (A/CONF.94/PC.14). In addition, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on recommendations relating to women and development emerging from conferences held under the auspices of the United Nations or the specialized agencies (A/CONF.94/19) and the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its twenty-eighth session. 8/

66. In introducing the reports, the Secretary-General of the World Conference explained that chapter III of the draft Programme of Action at the national level (E/CN.6/623) was divided into two parts, in order to give adequate emphasis to the importance of overall national strategies and, at the same time, to give a special focus to the subtheme. Section A dealt with national strategies for accelerating the full participation of women in economic and social development, and section B outlined objectives and priority areas within the subthemes of the Conference: "Employment, Health and Education".

67. She informed the Committee that the seven issues that had been recommended for inclusion in the conceptual framework of the draft Programme of Action at the national level by the Preparatory Committee at its second session had been integrated and incorporated in it under three headings: introduction, historical perspective and conceptual framework. It was thought that such a presentation would be more logical.

68. She further explained that the draft Programme of Action at the regional and international levels was based on a clear recognition of the linkages among the three objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women, "Equality, Development and Peace" and the subthemes of the Conference, "Employment, Health and Education", and took into account the integrated nature of the development process itself.

69. The substantive areas of the draft Programme, she said, included technical co-operation, training and advisory services, research, data collection and analysis, the elaboration and review of international standards and the dissemination and exchange of information. She informed the Committee that

8/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplement No. 5 (E/1980/15).

detailed proposals for action, which would include specific recommendations addressed to the United Nations and organizations within the United Nations system, were in the process of being completed.

70. In concluding her introductory statement, the Secretary-General requested the Preparatory Committee to devote its utmost attention to strengthening both the draft Programme of Action at all levels and the institutional framework for its implementation.

71. Several representatives also stressed that the draft Programme should:

- (a) Be based on data included in the review documents;
- (b) Be universal in scope;
- (c) Avoid a retrospective approach and instead look towards the future;
- (d) Propose practical and realistic strategies; and
- (e) Be written in concise and clear language, avoiding jargon, so as to be understandable to a broad range of women.

72. One representative stressed the need for specific indicators and more quantifiable targets in the draft Programme. Other representatives, however, expressed reservations about the establishment of targets and quotas, since methods and resources for tackling problems facing women differed from one country to another and from region to region.

73. Some representatives stated that efforts should be made to relate the draft Programme of Action for the Second Half of the Decade to the World Plan of Action adopted at Mexico City in 1975; 9/ repetitions of proposals already made in the World Plan of Action should be avoided. The draft Programme should sharpen the focus and directions for future strategies for securing the advancement of women.

74. Several representatives expressed the view that chapters I and II of the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/623), covering the historical perspective and conceptual framework for the draft Programme, should be expanded to include other causes of women's oppression, which were to be found in the social attitudes towards the areas to be dealt with, including the reproductive and nurturing roles of women, which could be viewed as seriously affecting women's advancement within the family and society. There should be some indication of the basic underlying constraints on the implementation of the World Plan of Action and how they interacted with political and economic factors such as colonialism and an unjust world economic and social order.

75. A number of representatives strongly supported the inclusion in the draft

9/ Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. II, sect. A.

Programme of a recognition of the implications of an unequal world economic situation, the need for establishing a new international economic order and promotion of the advancement of women. Some representatives stated that the emphasis in the draft Programme on the new international economic order needed to be increased.

76. Some representatives stated that the establishment of the new international economic order and the strengthening of international peace and co-operation were important pre-conditions for the improvement of the status of women, but were not by themselves sufficient to bring about the full equality of women.

77. A number of representatives stated that it was important for the draft Programme of Action to reflect the common problems faced by women in the developed world and to bring out the common character of problems in developing and developed countries.

78. A number of representatives expressed the wish that the reference in the present draft Programme of Action relating to rural women be broadened, in view of the fact that rural women constituted the overwhelming majority of women in the world. One representative proposed the inclusion of a separate chapter giving a total picture of women in relation to the production, handling, processing and consumption of food. She proposed further that the measures for improving the situation of rural women should be expanded to show the interrelationships between the status of rural women and the structure of rural society and its concepts and values, so as to provide a context for analysing the problems of rural women.

79. One representative stated that it was necessary to examine carefully the possibility of recognizing and recording the value of female labour in agricultural production, while improving and investing in agriculture, in order to overcome the shortages of traditional techniques and approaches to agricultural development.

80. The observer for OAU stressed the need to protect the important role played by women in agriculture in the light of new agricultural technology, which had in some cases resulted in the displacement of women from their responsibilities in agricultural work but had failed to offer them a viable alternative.

81. A number of representatives expressed concern at the increasing work-load of women in agriculture and recommended that the draft Programme should stress the need for adequate technology to ease the drudgery of rural women in agriculture.

82. Some representatives stressed that one of the objectives of the draft Programme should be to bring about a change in the attitudes of men and women towards women's opportunities, responsibilities and potential, which would include the sharing of housework and child-care by husband and wife.

83. One representative stated that the two draft Programmes at the national and global levels should be integrated and cross-referenced.

84. Some representatives stressed that, in the final redrafting of the Programme, full account should be taken of the recommendations made at the regional

preparatory meetings, in order to facilitate a clearer definition of strategies relevant to all regional situations.

85. One representative stated that the draft Programme of Action at the regional and international levels (A/CONF.94/PC/14) should highlight the role of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women.

86. Several representatives were desirous that the Voluntary Fund, which was an important resource in the implementation of technical co-operation among developing countries, should receive more substantial treatment in the draft Programme with regard to its role in facilitating the implementation of the World Plan of Action.

87. Several representatives stated that the draft Programme of Action should include recommendations on institutional arrangements within the United Nations for monitoring and co-ordinating the implementation of the Plan of Action.

88. One representative reiterated the view expressed by the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-eighth session that regional and subregional institutional arrangements should be established for the purpose of co-ordinating the funding of programmes and projects for the advancement of women.

89. The representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) stated that, in her view, the draft Programme of Action should focus on primary health care, since such care would facilitate the integration of women in development. The objective of primary health care was health coverage for the total population. The concept of primary health care was an important approach to health, especially in developing countries, where health facilities were limited.

90. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) stated that the Programme of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development ^{10/} had emphasized the role of rural women in regard to food production. She suggested that some parts of the FAO Programme of Action could be used by the Preparatory Committee in drafting the Programme of Action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women.

91. The representative of UNESCO stated that UNESCO had submitted proposals for changes in the draft Programme of Action regarding education.

92. One representative stated that chapter III, section B, of the draft Programme of Action at the national level (E/CN.6/623) should include the following:

(a) The adoption and consistent implementation of legislative and other measures guaranteeing the permanency of employment of women, especially of pregnant women and mothers with small children;

^{10/} See Report of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Rome 12-20 July 1979 (WCARRD/REP), transmitted to members of the General Assembly by a note by the Secretary-General (A/34/485).

(b) The adoption and consistent implementation of legal regulations and accompanying measures for prohibiting night work and work detrimental to the biological function of women;

(c) The improvement not only of conditions of employment but also of the working conditions of women in agriculture and other activities in rural areas;

(d) Equal treatment of migrant women workers with migrant men workers and domestic workers of the host country and improvement in the status of women who, in the process of migration, accompany the migrant workers as their wives (or mothers).

93. She also stated that emphasis should be placed on a broad-based approach to health with a view to reaching all sectors of society. With regard to education and the mass media, she stated that efforts should be made to promote curricula and media productions designed to project equality between the sexes.

94. One representative noted that paragraph 13 of the draft Programme of Action at the regional and international levels (A/CONF.94/PC/14) needed to be strengthened. He also stated that the concept of "appropriate technology", referred to in subparagraph 17 (b), should be treated with caution, since it could be the means of perpetuating the dependency of women and could introduce patterns of employment which would inhibit the attainment of equality between the sexes. He said that subparagraph 17 (e) should be given priority attention. He added that paragraph 21 should be restated in order to reflect more realistic possibilities for women at the grass-roots level and to indicate at what levels they could most effectively participate in decision-making.

95. One representative stated that the draft Programme of Action should take note of the experience gained and the progress achieved in the first half of the Decade. In that connexion, he referred to the fact that, while the review of progress achieved in education (A/CONF.94/10) showed that there had been a general improvement in literacy rates - with, of course, differences between men and women - and also an increase in enrolment at various levels, the draft Programme of Action spoke of a worsening of the situation of women regarding education and conditions of employment. He also suggested that the draft Programme should refer to measures to reduce the gap between male and female literacy and education. He stated that it was unrealistic to establish target dates for the abolition of illiteracy, even if it might be desirable.

96. In the recommendations about national development strategies, he suggested deleting the proposal to establish "special task forces composed of experts" and "special action committees". He also suggested that, in respect of legislative measures, the emphasis should be on effective implementation and measures for counselling, guidance and legal aid. He also expressed the view that there was no need for the establishment of commissions to assess women's legal rights.

97. In the area of employment, he suggested the addition of the following action proposals, with a view to increasing women's employment as part of development

programmes in all sectors, increasing their access to training in non-traditional sectors and providing for the special needs of rural women and women in the informal sector:

(a) The institution of information programmes aimed at making women, especially in the rural areas and from socio-economically disadvantaged groups, aware of employment opportunities and opportunities for education, training and skill acquisition;

(b) Increasing women's access to rural services by broadening the range of agricultural training and extension programmes to support women's roles in activities of agricultural production, processing and marketing and by increasing the number of women in the training and extension programmes of development agencies at all levels;

(c) The promotion of increasing employment of women by development agencies in different sectors as a matter of policy and as part of their activities and, to that end, the earmarking of resources to undertake programmes for women's employment, training, provision of supportive services and other essential inputs;

(d) The design and implementation of flexible informal training programmes for women in non-traditional areas, to prepare them for and advance them in the job market and to enable them to generate income through the production of goods and services.

98. One representative drew attention to paragraph 19 of the draft Programme at the international level (A/CONF.94/PC/14) and cautioned that the Programme should avoid projecting health as the sole responsibility of women. She suggested that the reference to health should be integrated into the conceptual framework. She also pointed out that the discussion of the underrepresentation of women in the United Nations should be seen as affecting women of all regions, not merely those from developing countries.

99. One representative stated that his Government could not support subparagraph 61 (c) of document A/CONF.94/PC/14, since the creation of subregional centres for co-ordination purposes was felt to be unnecessary. Such functions could be carried out by other organizations.

100. The representative of the Netherlands proposed the following amendments regarding the draft Programme of Action at the national level (E/CN.6/623):

(a) In chapter I, section A, the following sentences should be added at the beginning of the first paragraph:

"Throughout history women almost universally constitute the subordinated sex. We find a great historical and geographical variety, built on men's and women's different roles in reproduction, in the ways in which societies have institutionalized the inequality between women and men, in which, in general, a lack of power has become characteristic of women in comparison with men."

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(b) In chapter II, section B, the following paragraph should be added:

"In developing strategies for the integration and participation of women in the economic production process, it should be realized that the existing traditions, which view women first and foremost as the bearers and nurturers of offspring, are very persistent. Therefore, a thorough analysis of the interrelationships between women's reproductive and productive roles should, at any time and place, precede the development of strategies aimed at increasing the participation and integration of women in the process of modern economic production. It should furthermore be realized that the inequality in reproductive tasks between women and men has almost universally led to an inequality in power between women and men. Therefore, in devising strategies for change, existing power relationships between women and men should be carefully analysed."

101. The representative of Yugoslavia stated that she found the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/623) to be comprehensive. With a view to giving a more accurate analysis, she proposed amendments to the following sections:

(a) In chapter I, section A, the opening sentence should be amended to read as follows:

"An unequal accumulation of capital resulting from long-term unjust colonial policies, unfavourable general, and particularly economic, processes in the world and a rapid increase in the population have led to serious imbalances in the social ...".

(b) In chapter II, section C, the words "a priority and calls for the formulation of new development strategies" in the first sentence should be replaced by the following:

"and imposes the need for undertaking additional and comprehensive measures with a view to realizing the adopted strategy from the point of view of the priorities ...".

(c) In chapter II, section C, after the words "resources of women" in the last sentence, the existing text should be replaced by the words "the involvement of women as equal participants in social life and economic development being a precondition for the successful development of each and every country".

(d) In chapter III, section A-2, the following sentence should be added at the end of the second paragraph:

"Women should be represented, on an equal basis, in all bodies and institutions dealing with development, so to be able to influence national policies at their conception, all this with a view to advancing equally the status of women and men."

102. The observer for OAU made some specific references to paragraphs in the draft Programme at the regional and international levels (A/CONF.94/PC/14). Paragraph 10 was too ambiguous and needed to be more concise and more understandable. Paragraph 21, referring to women from grass-roots organizations, needed to provide a mechanism whereby the priorities of those women could be established and acted upon. Paragraph 24 needed to be rewritten, since the situation in Zimbabwe had changed dramatically. Aid for Zimbabwean women should now be directed towards their participation in the reconstruction of their nation. She also asked that the role of women in the new international economic order and in all global negotiations receive more emphasis in the Programme.

Action taken by the Committee

/See chap. I above, paras. 3 to 7./

D. The situation of women refugees the world over

103. The Preparatory Committee considered item 3 (d) of its agenda, entitled "Documentation for the new subitem under item 9 of the provisional agenda for the Conference /The situation of women refugees the world over/", at its 47th, 50th and 51st meetings, on 15 and 17 April 1980. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General (A/CONF.94/PC/15), containing an outline, prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), of the report on the status of women refugees the world over, which would be submitted to the World Conference.

104. The Secretary-General of the Conference explained that the General Assembly, in its resolution 34/161 of 17 December 1979, had decided that the situation of women refugees the world over should be included in the provisional agenda of the World Conference. It had further requested that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) prepare a draft report to be submitted to the Preparatory Committee at its third session, with the final report to be submitted to the World Conference. She said that the report would first review the situation of women refugees around the world within the framework of the over-all problems with which UNHCR dealt, and secondly recommend measures through which Member States, the United Nations organizations and specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations could assist women refugees. She noted that the General Assembly resolution was a recognition of the urgent needs of women refugees.

105. The observer from UNHCR stated that UNHCR had so far focused its activities on the entire refugee family rather than on the individual. The underlying policy had been to provide protection and assistance to refugees on equal terms. However, in the light of the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women, UNHCR had taken up the challenge of looking into the problems of refugee women in particular. The situation of women refugees was being systematically studied and the basic question of whether women were being helped when the family or the social group was helped was now posed as a matter of policy. It was a recent development that necessitated not only a new approach but also a considerable amount of research and data collection.

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106. She noted that the report would highlight the fundamental problems of refugee women, which would be illustrated throughout with concrete examples of current refugee situations. The report would also examine the ways in which UNHCR could assist women in their social and economic integration. Special emphasis would be placed on the subtheme of the World Conference, namely Employment, Health and Education.

107. She pointed out that the initial outline presented in document A/CONF.94/PC/15 was confined to the study of women refugees in settlements and camps. However, in view of the interrelationship of the problems it had been decided that the scope of the final report to the World Conference would be extended by including urban refugees.

108. She stated that, since 1950, the regions in which refugees were concentrated had shifted from Western Europe to developing countries, and that many traditional concepts of dealing with refugee problems had become irrelevant.

109. She emphasized that much needed to be done to tackle the problem of refugee protection. First, sexual intimidation and the exploitation of women were special hazards in refugee life. The protection of women against rape and the aftercare of rape victims appeared to be the most neglected aspect of the problems of women refugees. Women refugees also faced abduction into prostitution.

110. She noted that, while UNHCR could demand protection for refugees from such abuses, the attention of Member States was necessary for such demands to become effective. She added that it was crucial that some programmes should be tailored to address women first rather than last, thus ensuring to refugee women and girls more protection and greater access to relief supplies, as well as social and health services.

111. Another section of the report, she stated, dealt with "assistance for durable solutions". The ultimate aim of long-term assistance programmes was to help refugees to become self-supporting and to assist in their integration, in the context of their new milieu.

112. She concluded by emphasizing that the implementation of recommendations would depend upon the resolute co-operation of the authorities of Member States at all levels, non-governmental organizations and UNHCR.

113. In the discussions that ensued, some representatives noted that the situation of women refugees in their own countries reflected the situation described by the observer from UNHCR and that their Governments supported the need for the agenda item at the Conference.

114. A number of representatives stressed the needs of women refugees who had obtained asylum in their countries and emphasized that the Conference should address itself not only to the general situation of women throughout the world but also to the situation in individual countries where the circumstances were unique.

115. One representative stated that both short-term and long-term measures to aid refugee women were important and that attention should be given to the fact that many refugee women suffered a loss of status in countries of asylum. Thus, measures to strengthen their self-reliance were important. She stressed the need for the Conference to include the issue of women refugees in the Programme of Action, to be based on a draft that would be prepared by UNHCR.

116. One representative stated that, if the work of the Conference was to have the maximum impact on Governments and on the United Nations, it was important that the problems of women refugees be clearly seen as one aspect of refugee problems as a whole and not as an entirely separate set of considerations.

117. One observer expressed her grave concern about the proliferation of refugees around the world and the increasing complexity of their problems. She emphasized the need for the Conference to attach all the necessary attention to that problem and to provide all possible assistance to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, whom she commended for his efforts to alleviate the plight of the refugees.

118. One representative recommended several specific measures which international organizations and Governments giving asylum to or resettling refugees could take to alleviate some of the hardships experienced by women. They included adopting sensitive family reunion policies, which balanced humanitarian with practical concerns; encouraging countries through whose territories or waters refugees passed to impose tight curbs on banditry against refugees; and developing special support programmes for "unaccompanied" females and family units headed by women during transit and resettlement. Moreover, after resettlement, refugee women, particularly those whose families were broken, might need to be linked into a formal network of counselling, guidance and support.

119. The observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization condemned Israel's policies towards the Palestinian refugees, stating that, while Palestinians were barred from rights while living on their own soil, a Jewish person from any part of the world could become an Israeli citizen.

120. Two representatives of countries with significant refugee populations commented on the extremely high proportion of women refugees in their countries. In one case only 9 per cent of the refugee population were adult men and that proportion consisted mainly of the elderly and the incapacitated. They stated that in such situations there was a pressing need for programmes for women which would allow them to be integrated into the country of asylum and also train them for resettlement.

E. The effects of Israeli occupation on Palestinian women inside and outside the occupied territories

121. The Committee considered item 3 (e) of its agenda, entitled "Documentation submitted under the new item 10 of the provisional agenda for the Conference /'Effects of Israeli occupation on Palestinian women inside and outside the occupied territories'/" , at its 46th to 50th meetings, from 15 to 17 April 1980. For its consideration of the subitem, it had before it a report entitled "Effects of Israeli occupation on Palestinian women inside and outside the occupied territories: special measures of assistance to the Palestinian women" (A/CONF.94/4), prepared by the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) and adopted by the ECWA Regional Preparatory Meeting for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, 1980, held at Damascus from 10 to 13 December 1979.

122. The Secretary-General of the Conference, in her introductory statement, stated that the Preparatory Committee at its second session had decided (A/CONF.94/PC/12, para. 141) to include in the review and evaluation documentation for the Conference the question of the social and economic needs of Palestinian women and had entrusted the secretariat, with the collaboration of ECWA, to prepare a report entitled "Special measures of assistance to the Palestinian women" for presentation to the Conference after its consideration by the Preparatory Committee at its third session.

123. She informed the Committee that ECWA, at its regional preparatory meeting, had considered and adopted two reports on Palestinian women, one entitled "Proposed special measures of assistance to the Palestinian women" and a second entitled "The social and economic conditions of the Palestinian women inside and outside the occupied territories".

124. Furthermore, the General Assembly, in resolution 34/160 of 17 December 1979, had decided to include in the provisional agenda of the Conference an item entitled:

"Effects of Israeli occupation on Palestinian women inside and outside the occupied territories:

"(a) A review of the social and economic needs of the Palestinian women;

"(b) Special measures for assistance to the Palestinian women inside and outside the occupied territories."

125. In accordance with the foregoing decisions, she explained that the Conference would have before it, in addition to the report in document A/CONF.94/4, a report on the social and economic needs of Palestinian women, to be issued in document A/CONF.94/21.

126. She explained that a special section on Palestinian women had been included in the Regional Plan of Action considered and adopted by ECWA and the programmes contained therein were before the Committee in document A/CONF.94/4.

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127. The representative of ECWA, in presenting the report in document A/CONF.94/4, briefly outlined the contents of the two documents adopted by the regional preparatory meeting.

128. The first document, entitled "Effects of the Israeli occupation inside and outside the occupied territories: special measures of assistance to Palestinian women", consisted of an introduction which contained the principles of geographical unity and national sovereignty as they applied to the Palestinian people; the next section dealt with the unity and the needs of the Palestinian people and emphasized the various United Nations resolutions designed to assist the Palestinian people in meeting those needs, and the last section dealt with the different areas of assistance and contained recommendations for assisting Palestinian women.

129. The representative of ECWA stated that the second document, entitled "The social and economic conditions of the Palestinian women inside and outside the occupied territories" and published by ECWA as document E/ECWA/SDHS/CONF.4/6/Rev.1, was divided into four chapters, which discussed the historical background, the demographic status, and the social and economic conditions in lands occupied in 1948 and those occupied in 1967 and in the refugee camps, as well as Palestinian social and economic institutions which rendered assistance to women inside and outside of occupied areas.

130. The observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization stated that the unique situation of exile and military occupation in which the Palestinian women lived, and the absence of a geographical base for the Palestinian people to exist as a nation, made it difficult to collect all the necessary data on their social and economic conditions.

131. He stated that in the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967, Palestinian women had been summarily arrested and tried. Families had been separated and women had to become the providers for their families when husbands and brothers were gaoled.

132. He stated that the recommendations in the report adopted by ECWA (see A/CONF.94/4) were therefore particularly important, and the three objectives of the Conference - equality, development and peace - would greatly benefit the Palestinian women.

133. He further stated that the situation of continuous war waged by Israel forced Palestinian women, alongside their men, to dedicate their efforts to securing their survival as a first priority, instead of directing their efforts towards the construction of their own institutions, which would be capable of offering solutions to their particular problems. However, while the Palestinian woman was engaged in the struggle for national liberation, she had been able to evolve an awareness of her problems as a woman as well as developing national organizations for women within the context of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

134. He stated that the basic problem of Palestinian women - as an integral part of the Palestinian people - lay in the occupation by Israel of Palestine and in

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their being uprooted from their homes and properties. Therefore, the problems facing Palestinian women could only be dealt with adequately when Palestinian people were able to exercise in peace, their right to self-determination and independence in their homeland.

135. In conclusion, he stated that Zionism, which had been condemned and defined by the General Assembly as a form of racism and racial discrimination, was the ideological basis for the institutionalized discrimination practised by Israel against the Palestinians of non-Jewish faith in occupied Palestine.

136. Several representatives reaffirmed the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people and supported the measures for assisting Palestinian women that were outlined in document A/CONF.94/4. Reference was also made to the role of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women in assisting in efforts to help Palestinian women.

137. Several representatives made statements on the status, substance and mandate of the document that had been circulated informally under the symbol E/ECWA/SDHS/CONF.4/6/Rev.1, which it was proposed to submit to the Conference as document A/CONF.94/21.

138. One representative stated that the mandate for the proposed document was questionable. She stated that the main focus of the document was not on the situation of women but rather on the general political situation, and there were many sections which were unacceptable to her delegation.

139. The observer for Israel pointed out that the manner and haste in which that document had been introduced to the Committee only illustrated the conspiracy and the bending of United Nations procedures that had plagued the Organization in recent years whenever and wherever a Middle East issue was considered.

140. He asked how one could expect to include the report in the documentation for the Conference if that report was not part of the documentation included in the annotated agenda of the Preparatory Committee. He stated that another shortcoming was that the document had been prepared by ECWA, whose exclusivist and discriminating nature he had exposed earlier.

141. He seriously questioned the validity of the historical part of the document, on the grounds that it distorted the history of Zionism and made no mention of the Jewish right to the land of Israel and its right to self-determination. He stated that Zionism had restored to the Jewish people the rights possessed by other nations, and that it was absurd to raise the issue of Zionism in the report in question.

142. The ECWA report, in his opinion, not only ignored truth and historical fact, but also violated the basic rules of international conduct. In chapter III of the report, reference was made to "the lands occupied in 1948" and to Israel's Arab citizens as a "conquered" people. This was not merely a distortion of history, but also a gross interference in the internal affairs of Israel and an attempt to incite one section of Israel's citizens against their own State. He

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protested against such a concept being contained in an official United Nations document, and rejected the basic premise of that chapter. Israel's Arab citizens were not, he stated, a "conquered" people as the report of ECWA would have one believe. They were full and equal citizens of a democratic State.

143. In conclusion, he stated that the Committee was witnessing an outrageous scheme to subvert the preparatory activities for the Conference, enabling Arab propaganda to become the main issue of the Conference. In condoning those tactics, the Committee would lose the main purpose of its meeting and would jeopardize the Conference.

144. One representative said that, by the manner in which the General Assembly resolution 34/160 had been introduced in the Third Committee of the General Assembly, it was clearly understood that the resolution had a purely humanitarian focus. She asked for a document that in a clear and concrete way described the present living conditions of Palestinian women. All experience had shown that a reparation of political and humanitarian issues was a prerequisite for international action in the humanitarian field. If useful and effective recommendations for special measures to assist the Palestinian women were desired, the Conference should only focus on the humanitarian aspect of the situation of Palestinian women. She stressed that a full-fledged debate on the political situation of Palestinian women might very well ruin the Conference. She considered it clearly outside the scope of the Conference to debate the political situation in the Middle East. Such a debate, she stated, should take place in the appropriate organs of the United Nations, such as the Security Council and the General Assembly.

145. One representative expressed the view that the document made available at the previous meeting was long and detailed and comments on its content would require extensive additional study. However, it was clear from a cursory reading that the contents presented serious problems for her delegation: its historical account of events was one-sided and open to a variety of interpretations and it devoted little space to the specific conditions of Palestinian women.

146. She believed that the document's use as a basis for discussion at the Conference would result in long, acrimonious debate on the historical roots and complex problems in the Middle East, which were more appropriately dealt with in other United Nations forums. While her delegation would be prepared to discuss the item at the Conference in a sympathetic, objective and compassionate manner, it wished to avoid embroiling the Conference in hostile rhetorical exchanges. Because the document was unbalanced and polemical, it would inflame debate and lead to opposite results from those it was hoped would be achieved at the Conference.

147. One representative stated that there was at least a reasonable doubt about the mandate for the document, and expressed her delegation's objection to producing it as an official document for the Conference. She stated that the ECWA document contained many elements which were unacceptable to her Government.

148. She also regretted that the document did not focus on the situation of Palestinian women but concentrated mainly on the general political situation in

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the Middle East - an issue which should be discussed in the appropriate organs of the United Nations. Her delegation further regretted that it had not been possible to adopt a more constructive and balanced approach in the preparation of the documentation. She feared that the approach taken would not contribute to the success of the Conference, and she expressed her Government's reservations on the contents of the document.

149. One observer felt that document E/ECWA/SDHS/CONF.4/6/Rev.1 was unacceptable as a Conference document in its present form, for the reasons expressed in paragraphs 147 and 148 above.

150. Another representative noted that the annotated provisional agenda (A/CONF.94/PC.13/Rev.1) contained no reference to document A/CONF.94/21. She questioned the mandate for the document and noted that, whereas the secretariat for the Conference had been responsible for the preparation of other documents, it had not been involved in the drafting of the document in question. It was a document which had been adopted by a regional intergovernmental meeting, and in her delegation's view it should be regarded as such and could only be presented as a background document.

151. She further noted that that was the only document which had given rise to serious difficulties in the Preparatory Committee. It was most regrettable that the substance of the document was intentionally contentious, unlike document A/CONF.94/4, for which there was a clear mandate and which was appropriate to the concerns of the Conference.

152. A number of representatives, however, stated that the mandate for the document provided in General Assembly resolution 34/160 was sufficient legislative basis for the production of the document for the Conference.

153. The observer for the League of Arab States stated that the document on the agenda entitled "The effects of Israeli occupation inside and outside the occupied territories" had been prepared in accordance with the relevant resolutions.

154. Some representatives stated that it was impossible to propose special measures of assistance to Palestinian women unless there was a report reviewing their socio-economic conditions. If special measures were to be formulated, it was first necessary to assess the needs.

155. The observer for the African National Congress (ANC) supported the proposal for two documents and opposed the position that document A/CONF.94/21 should become a background document. In addition, she suggested that discussion of the document should be suspended until the document was made available to the Committee.

156. One representative stated that the question of Palestinian women should be studied in the broader context of the struggle of Palestinian people fighting for self-determination and against occupation. Furthermore, it was not possible to improve their conditions as long as the Palestinian people were suffering occupation.

157. The Secretary-General of the Conference, in reply to questions raised, reiterated her statement that the document in question had been adopted by an intergovernmental body. She further informed the Committee that no precedent existed which would allow the Secretariat to revise or modify such a document. Revision of the document, she emphasized, could only be undertaken by another intergovernmental body such as the Preparatory Committee.

158. The representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland asked for a legal opinion on the status of the document.

159. Another representative, however, stated that the legality of the document was well established in the relevant General Assembly resolution on the basis of which ECWA had been requested to prepare the document. Therefore, it was best that reservations expressed on the document be reflected in the Committee's report.

160. The Chairman stated that the reservations that had been raised with respect to the historical background of the document, as well as the substantive aspects of the document, would be fully reflected in the report of the Committee.

161. The Chairman, in accordance with rule 42 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, ruled that document E/ECWA/SDHS/CONF.4/6/Rev.1 should be a document of the Conference.

162. One representative reiterated that his Government's position to the effect that the mandate for the production of document A/CONF.94/21 was questionable, and the views he had expressed earlier that the document should have a purely humanitarian focus, should be fully reflected in the report.

163. Another representative stated that the mandate for the document was inadequate and she expressed reservations on the decision to produce it as a document submitted by the Committee to the Conference.

164. Another representative stated that the Committee should thoroughly review all documents before they were transmitted to the Conference. She also expressed regret that the Committee had not given sufficient consideration to document A/CONF.94/21 prior to its submission to the Conference.

165. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics confirmed the position of his Government on the Palestinian problem, in particular the support of his Government for the just struggle of the Palestinian people for national liberation, self-determination and creation of a national independent State. He stressed that a radical improvement of the conditions of Palestinian women could be attained only as a result of the settlement of the Middle East problem as a whole on a just basis. He expressed his Government's conviction that General Assembly resolution 34/160 constituted a sufficient legislative basis for the preparation of the report on the social and economic conditions of Palestinian women, which should be presented as an official document of the Conference within the context of the United Nations Decade for Women.

166. At a subsequent meeting, the representative of the United States of America, on a point of order with reference to the ruling of the Chair that the discussion was closed, stated that the ruling was contrary to, and in her view exceeded, the powers of the traditional principle of consensus under which the Committee normally operated. Her delegation insisted that the opinion of the Legal Counsel be heard by the Committee before any decision on the status of the document in question was taken by the Committee. She requested that her statement be made part of the official records of the Committee's proceedings.

167. Another representative stated that, according to the rules of procedure, the Chairman could only rule on points of order.

168. At that meeting, the representative of the United States of America having stated that she was not challenging the ruling of the Chair, the representative of Senegal observed that in that case there remained no problem; the opinion of the Legal Counsel was no longer called for, since its purpose would have been to assist the Chairman in ruling on a discussion that was now closed. In any event, the concern of the United States representative had already been taken into account by the Chairman when, in making her ruling, she had asked the Rapporteur to reflect all the views expressed during the debate.

169. After the foregoing, the Legal Counsel explained that the ruling of the Chair had not been challenged and therefore the Committee had taken a decision to the effect that the document in question would be considered as a document of the Conference. That decision having been taken by the Committee, he stated that it was not for him to inform the Committee what his opinion would have been before it had taken that decision.

Action taken by the Committee

/See chap. I, para. 8./

F. Consideration of reports of regional and sectoral preparatory meetings

170. The Committee considered item 4 of its agenda, entitled "Consideration of reports of regional and sectoral preparatory meetings", at its 39th and 40th meetings, on 8 April 1980. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

- (a) Report of the seminar on the participation of women in the economic evolution of the ECE region: the economic role of women in the ECE region: report prepared by the Economic Commission for Europe (A/CONF.94/14);
- (b) 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 (A/CONF.94/15);

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- (c) Report of the regional preparatory meeting of the Economic Commission for Latin America: report of the Second Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, held at Macuto, Venezuela, from 12 to 16 November 1979 (A/CONF.94/16);
- (d) Report of the regional preparatory meeting of the Economic Commission for Africa (Second Regional Conference for the Integration of Women in Development) (A/CONF.94/17);
- (e) Report of the regional preparatory meeting of the Economic Commission for Western Asia: regional programme of action for western Asia for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, 1981-1985 (summary) (A/CONF.94/18);
- (f) Report of the UNIDO Conference on the Role of Women in Industrialization in Developing Countries (A/CONF.94/BP/1).

171. The Secretary-General of the Conference introduced the item by informing the Committee that the preparations for the Conference had been significantly strengthened by the holding of the regional preparatory meetings. The meetings had been held under the auspices of the regional commissions, assisted by financial support from the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat. They were very well attended by the representatives of Governments and of the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations.

172. The Secretary-General also pointed out that the five regional meetings had confirmed that progress had been made during the first half of the decade in institutionalizing the concerns and needs of women within each regional commission. While the precise ways in which each regional commission could serve women varied, member States had devoted some attention to ways of strengthening the activity of their commissions in the area of women's status and of providing important contributions to overall preparations for the Conference.

173. The representative of ECA reported on the regional preparatory meeting held at Lusaka from 3 to 7 December 1979. The meeting had found that important progress had been made in co-operatives, rural development and many other areas, but that there remained a critical lack of training and education for women and a significant lack of data on the economic contributions of women. In addition, tradition, customary law and the lack of credit facilities constituted important obstacles. Africa had the highest death rates for women and the highest fertility rates. She also informed the Committee that the regional preparatory meeting had condemned the practice of female circumcision and other, similar, harmful practices.

174. She went on to state that many countries had undertaken activities directed towards the achievement of the goals of the World Plan of Action and had created a relevant national machinery, but lack of data had made it difficult to monitor progress. A major conclusion of the meeting had been that there was no direct correlation between the status of women and their economic contribution to society.

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175. The Lusaka meeting had noted that the recommendations of the 1975 World Plan of Action were still valid, but had recommended that new strategies be developed. Women could no longer be seen as a separate issue but must be regarded as participants in all sectors of society, particularly in relation to the international development strategy and the new international economic order. The meeting had reiterated the need to create and strengthen appropriate national machinery. In the field of education, overall planning should replace ad hoc measures to increase women's educational opportunities. Efforts were also needed to increase employment in rural areas. The supply of safe water, nutritional programmes and other preventive measures appeared to have a higher priority than the delivery of health services; and women needed to be more active in health planning. There was a continuing need for research on the question of women as food producers. The economic roles of women also merited study. Finally, special bodies needed to be set up to review the implementation of laws providing for equal treatment.

176. The meeting had taken a strong position urging Governments to break their ties with apartheid régimes.

177. The Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women had been commended for its activities and African Governments had been asked to contribute to it.

178. The representative from the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) reported on the regional preparatory meeting held at New Delhi from 5 to 9 November 1979. The meeting had had before it a large number of national papers reviewing the trends in the situation of women over the past five years. Matters of special concern were the problems of rural women; a review of national mechanisms for the implementation of projects; and an examination of legislation affecting women. In addition, the meeting had reviewed progress made on the subthemes of the World Conference and on the problem of monitoring the implementation of projects and programmes.

179. The meeting had recommended that there should be funding of programmes for women from the regular budget of the United Nations.

180. In the field of employment, recommendations had been made regarding the ratification of existing conventions, the inclusion of women in national planning, the promotion of vocational and other training programmes, the incorporation of appropriate technology, the development of community service centres and measures to facilitate the entry of women with family responsibilities into economic life. In education, the meeting had recommended programmes promoting multiple-point entry programmes, reducing drop-out, improving teacher training and parent education, and incorporating women into educational development plans. In the health field, the meeting had recommended the improvement of health statistics and programmes to include women at the policy level, in order to reach the poorest women and improve evaluation. After the regional preparatory meeting, ESCAP had met in regular session and had adopted a resolution calling on Governments to give consideration to women in all of their development programmes. The resolution also requested the ESCAP to intensify its efforts to incorporate women into its own development programmes. ESCAP planned to hold more meetings in the future at the regional and

subregional level on the issues and problems of women. The first such meeting which would be a regional meeting for the countries of the Pacific, was scheduled to take place after the World Conference at Copenhagen.

181. The representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) reported on the Second Regional Conference on the Integration of Women and the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, held at Macuto, Venezuela, from 12 to 16 November 1979; that Conference had also served as the Latin American regional preparatory meeting for the World Conference at Copenhagen. The representative reported that the meeting had undertaken an examination of activities pursued during the first half of the United Nations Decade for Women, with particular attention to the new international development strategy. The meeting had examined the progress achieved under the strategies adopted in the regional plan of action and had recommended priorities and further strategies, particularly in the subtheme areas of health, employment and education. The meeting had also examined the problems of financing and implementing projects and had drafted a final report (A/CONF.94/16), which was part of the documentation for the third session of the Preparatory Committee. Among the fundamental views emerging from the meeting had been the recognition of the close link between the condition of women and the problems of underdevelopment, the importance of the participation of women to both national development and changes in national and international economic structures, the need for national machinery and the current lack of resources for such machinery, the importance of additional efforts to tie the programme activities related to women to the planning process, and an examination of the problem of poor co-ordination of programmes in the area.

182. The recommendations of the meeting included strategies and action required for the second half of the Decade, including the importance of developing quantitative targets, strengthening the relevant machinery and using that machinery to change national legislation, and taking steps to improve the co-ordination of activities relating to women in the region.

183. The representative of ECWA stated that, since the World Conference of the International Women's Year in Mexico, ECWA had taken action to increase the awareness and improve the understanding of the importance of active participation of women in development. He stated that Voluntary Fund projects had increased to such a degree that it had been necessary to assign staff from the regular budget in order to implement those programmes effectively. Currently, 20 projects were being planned or executed by ECWA. The Plan of Action for the integration of women in development took into account the particular characteristics and the cultural heritage of the area. It also drew upon the plans and programmes of member countries which emphasized the development of human resources and equality.

184. He stated that historical circumstances in the region had created special needs and priorities, which the Commission was attempting to meet by dealing with education, employment, rural and bedouin women and the special situation of Palestinian women.

185. He further reported on the ECWA meeting held in collaboration with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs at Amman in June 1978, at which a

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regional plan had been adopted that had been approved by ECWA at its fifth annual session in October 1978. The regional plan of action stressed the importance of the assessment of the situation in each country and gave attention to regional and international co-operation.

186. He stated that, in accordance with the mandate from the General Assembly on the World Conference for the United Nations Decade for Women, ECWA had held a preparatory meeting for the World Conference at Damascus, from 10 to 13 December 1979. Among the agenda items covered had been the review and appraisal of progress and obstacles encountered in the integration of women in development; the review of the report by ECWA on its activities; preparations for the World Conference for the United Nations Decade for Women; the programme of action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women and the question of Palestinian women.

187. He went on to state that, in regard to the question of Palestinian women, ECWA had prepared two documents, the first entitled "Special measures of assistance to Palestinian women", which was before the Committee as document A/CONF.94/4, and the second entitled "The social and economic conditions of Palestinian women inside or outside occupied territories", which, because of technical difficulties, it had not been possible to prepare in time for submission to the Committee.

188. The representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) stated that, since 1975, in the Industrial Development Board and, as recently as February 1980, at the Third General Conference of UNIDO, further emphasis had been placed on the full integration of women in the industrialization process. She referred to the meeting on the role of women in the industrialization of developing countries organized by UNIDO. The report of that meeting was available to the Preparatory Committee as part of the background documentation for the World Conference. Finally, she referred to her statement at the twenty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, 11/ in which she had given a comprehensive view of the activities of UNIDO relating to the integration of women in development.

11/ For a summary of the statement, see Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplement No. 5 (E/1980/15), chap. IV, para. 112.

III. REVIEW OF ANY OTHER REPORTS TRANSMITTED BY THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION
AND BY THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AT
ITS TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

189. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 5, entitled "Review of any other reports transmitted by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session and by the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-eighth session", at its 50th and 51st meetings, on 17 April 1980. Under the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development (A/35/82) and the report of the Special Rapporteur on the impact of the mass communication media on the changing roles of men and women (E/CN.6/627), transmitted to it by the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-eighth session.

190. In introducing the report of the Secretary-General, the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs noted that it had been prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/204 of 20 February 1980. She pointed out that the report was to be considered in conjunction with a short report (A/34/531) that had been presented to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session. It was recalled that in paragraph 6 of its resolution 33/200 of 29 January 1979, the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its thirty-fourth session a comprehensive report on effective mobilization and integration of women in development prepared on the basis of development-oriented studies to be undertaken by various United Nations bodies.

191. However, because of the insufficient number of studies sent, the Secretary-General had submitted a short, rather than a comprehensive, report to the Assembly at that session. It had nevertheless been decided that a comprehensive report should be prepared in order to bring relevant studies and their findings to the attention of the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy and the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference.

192. The Assistant Secretary-General stated that the report was a review of the progress made during the Decade from the point of view of the United Nations organizations. She also pointed out that the report undertook both an evaluation of the impact of policies aimed at the effective mobilization and integration of women in the development process and an analysis of the ways of promoting such policies. It was also stressed that the report focused especially on the subthemes adopted for the World Conference: Employment, Health and Education.

193. One representative expressed her appreciation of the report on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development and of the statement of the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. She also described the activities undertaken in her country to enhance the status of women.

Action taken by the Committee

/See chap. I, para. 10./

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IV. OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE
CONFERENCE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE
PREPARATION OF THE CONFERENCE

194. At the 42nd meeting, the representative of the secretariat of the Conference made a statement on certain outstanding questions concerning the organization of the Conference and other activities related to the preparation of the Conference. The statement was subsequently circulated in document A/CONF.94/PC/18.

195. On the question of the allocation of items to the main committees of the Conference, a few representatives suggested that one committee should deal with agenda items 8 and 9 (a) and (b), and items 7, 10 and 9 (c), should be dealt with by the other committees.

196. A number of representatives stated that, in their view, the items dealing with the review and programme of action at the national level should be allocated to the First Committee and the Second Committee should be assigned those dealing with the review and programme of action at the international level. Items 7 (a), 8 (a) and 10 (a) would be allocated to the First Committee and items 9 (b), 9 (c), 7 (b) and 10 (b) to the Second Committee. The Committee decided to recommend that allocation to the Conference and asked the secretariat to draw up a proposed timetable for the Conference in the light of that decision.

197. One representative, on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States in the Preparatory Committee, entered reservations on the Committee's recommendation with regard to the organization of work of the two Committees at the Conference. He stated that his Group reserved its right to consider other proposals at the Conference.

198. With respect to the number of Vice-Presidents and the geographical distribution of seats in the General Committee of the Conference, a number of delegations proposed that the precedent set at the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development should be followed.

199. The spokesman for the African Group pointed out that his Group comprised 49 States and that therefore, within that distribution, it should be allocated a minimum of eight seats.

200. The representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Pakistan reserved their Governments' position on the proposal.

201. With regard to the proposal that each regional group should be allocated one of the five major offices at the Conference, namely the office of President, of Rapporteur-General, of presidings officer of each of the two Main Committees and of presiding officer of the Credentials Committee, one representative pointed out that, should that proposal be adopted, amendments to the provisional rules of procedure would be required, and she proposed that the Preparatory Committee should authorize the Secretariat to amend them accordingly.

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202. The Committee noted that the provisional rules of procedure provided that the Bureau of each of the two Main Committees should consist of five officers, namely, the Presiding Officer, three Deputy Presiding Officers and a Rapporteur, and proposed that the Committee recommend that each regional group should be represented on those Bureaux.

203. With regard to the request expected to be received from the Economic and Social Council that a signing ceremony for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women be held during the Conference, the secretariat was asked to make appropriate arrangements and inform all Governments that had not yet signed the Convention of the opportunity to do so at Copenhagen. It was suggested that the ceremony should be held early in the Conference and that a second ceremony should be arranged, if required.

Action taken by the Committee

/See chap. I, paras. 11 to 17./

V. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY
COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRD SESSION

204. At its 52nd and 55th meetings on 17 and 18 April 1980, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Preparatory Committee on its third session (A/CONF.94/PC/L.26 and Add.1-9). At the same meetings, the Committee adopted the draft report, as amended and supplemented during the discussion.

VI. ORGANIZATION OF THE THIRD SESSION

Opening and duration of the session

205. The Preparatory Committee held its third session at United Nations Headquarters from 7 to 18 April 1980. The Committee held 19 meetings (37th to 55th meetings).

206. The session was opened by the Secretary-General of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, who made a statement.

Attendance

207. The following States members of the Preparatory Committee were represented: Australia, Brazil, Cuba, Egypt, German Democratic Republic, India, Iran, Japan, Madagascar, Mexico, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela and Yugoslavia. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, States not Members of the United Nations, representatives of bodies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, national liberation movements and non-governmental organizations also attended the session. A full attendance list is contained in annex III below.

Election of officers

208. In pursuance of the decision taken at its 19th meeting, on 27 August 1979, that the officers of the first session should continue to serve throughout the whole preparatory period of the Conference, the Preparatory Committee, at its 37th meeting, on 7 April 1980, re-elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman:	Mrs. Maimouna Kane (Senegal)
Vice-Chairmen:	Professor Helga Hörz (German Democratic Republic) Ms. Laetitia van den Assum (Netherlands) Mrs. Sylvia Albo (Venezuela)
Rapporteur:	Mrs. Nirmala Buch (India)

Adoption of the agenda

209. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee considered the provisional agenda for its third session contained in document A/CONF.94/PC/13/Rev.1 and Add.1, which it adopted, as orally revised (see A/CONF.94/PC/17).

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Organization of work of the session

210. At the 38th meeting, on 7 April 1980, the Preparatory Committee approved the organization of work of the session as suggested in a note by the Secretariat (A/CONF.94/PC/L.25).

Documentation

211. The documents before the Preparatory Committee at its third session are listed in annex II below.

Consultations with non-governmental organizations

212. A list of the non-governmental organizations that attended the session is contained in annex III.

Annex I

ATTENDANCE

Members

Australia, Brazil, Cuba, Egypt, German Democratic Republic, India, Iran, Japan, Madagascar, Mexico, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Yugoslavia

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Guyana, Israel, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Somalia, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Zaire.

States not Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Holy See

United Nations Secretariat

Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic Commission for Latin America, Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Western Asia

United Nations bodies

United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Fund for Population Activities, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Industrial Development Organization

United Nations councils and committees

Special Committee against Apartheid

Specialized agencies

International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank

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Intergovernmental organizations represented by observers

Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States,
League of Arab States, Organization of African Unity

National liberation movements represented by observers

African National Congress, Palestine Liberation Organization, Pan Africanist
Congress of Azania (South Africa)

Non-governmental organizations

Category I: International Alliance of Women, International Confederation of Free
Trade Unions, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Women's
International Democratic Federation

Category II: All-India Women's Conference, Bahá'i International Community,
St. Joan's International Alliance, Soroptimist International, Women's International
Zionist Organisation, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, World
Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, World Young Women's Christian Association

Roster: International Society for Community Development

Annex II

AGENDA OF THE THIRD SESSION

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Review of the substantive reports on agenda items 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the provisional agenda for the Conference:
 - (a) Documentation submitted under item 7 of the provisional agenda for the Conference
 - (b) Documentation submitted under item 8 of the provisional agenda for the Conference
 - (c) Documentation submitted under item 9 of the provisional agenda for the Conference
 - (d) Documentation for the new subitem under item 9 of the provisional agenda for the Conference
 - (e) Documentation submitted under the new item 10 of the provisional agenda for the Conference
4. Consideration of reports of regional and sectoral preparatory meetings
5. Review of any other reports transmitted by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session and by the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-eighth session
6. Outstanding questions on the organization of the Conference and other activities related to the preparation of the Conference
7. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee

Annex III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
AT ITS THIRD SESSION

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
A/35/82	5	The effective mobilization and integration of women in development: report of the Secretary-General
A/CONF.94/4	3 (e)	Effects of the Israeli occupation on Palestinian women inside and outside the occupied territories: special measures of assistance to the Palestinian women: report adopted by the regional preparatory meeting of the Economic Commission for Western Asia: note by the Secretariat
A/CONF.94/5	3 (a)	The role of women in the struggle for liberation in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa: report of the Secretary-General
A/CONF.94/6 and Add.1	3 (a)	Measures of assistance for women in southern Africa: report of the Secretary-General
A/CONF.94/7	3 (a)	The effects of <u>apartheid</u> on the status of women in southern Africa: report of the Secretary-General
A/CONF.94/8	3 (b)	Review and evaluation of progress achieved in the implementation of the World Plan of Action - employment: report of the Secretary-General
A/CONF.94/9	3 (b)	Review and evaluation of progress achieved in the implementation of the World Plan of Action - health: report of the Secretary-General
A/CONF.94/10	3 (b)	Review and evaluation of progress achieved in the implementation of the World Plan of Action - education: report of the Secretary-General
A/CONF.94/11	3 (b)	Review and evaluation of progress achieved in the implementation of the World Plan of Action - national machinery and legislation: report of the Secretary-General

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
A/CONF.94/12	3 (b)	Review and evaluation of progress achieved in the implementation of the World Plan of Action - national planning: note by the Secretary-General
A/CONF.94/14	4	Report of the seminar on the participation of women in the economic evolution of the ECE region: the economic role of women in the ECE region: report prepared by the Economic Commission for Europe
A/CONF.94/15	4	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
A/CONF.94/16	4	Report of the regional preparatory meeting of the Economic Commission for Latin America: report of the Second Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, held at Macuto, Venezuela, from 12 to 16 November 1979
A/CONF.94/17	4	Report of the regional preparatory meeting of the Economic Commission for Africa (Second Regional Conference for the Integration of Women in Development)
A/CONF.94/18	4	Report of the regional preparatory meeting of the Economic Commission for Western Asia: regional programme of action for western Asia for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, 1981-1985 (summary)
A/CONF.94/19	3 (c)	Recommendations relating to women and development emerging from conferences held under the auspices of the United Nations or the specialized agencies: report of the Secretary-General
A/CONF.94/20 and Corr.1 (Arabic only)	3 (b)	Review of the activities of the specialized agencies and organizations in the United Nations system aimed at the implementation of the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace: report of the Secretary-General

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
A/CONF.94/BP/1	4	Report of the UNIDO Conference on the Role of Women in Industrialization in Developing Countries
A/CONF.94/PC/13/Rev.1 and Add.1	2	Provisional agenda for the third session
A/CONF.94/PC.14	3 (c)	Draft Programme of Action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace: report of the Secretary-General
A/CONF.94/PC.15	3 (d)	The situation of women refugees the world over: note by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
A/CONF.94/PC.16	6	Organizational matters relating to preparation for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace: note by the Secretary-General
A/CONF.94/PC.17	2	Agenda as adopted at the 37th meeting, on Monday, 7 April 1980
A/CONF.94/PC.18	6	Statement made by the representative of the secretariat of the Conference at the 42nd meeting on 9 April 1980
A/CONF.94/PC/L.25	2	Organization of the work of the session: note by the Secretariat
A/CONF.94/PC/L.26 and Add.1-9	7	Draft report of the Preparatory Committee on its third session
A/CONF.94/PC/L.27	3 (c)	Australia, Pakistan and Philippines: draft section proposed for inclusion in the second part of the draft Programme of Action, concerning action to be taken at the regional and international levels
E/1980/15	3 (c) and 5	Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its twenty-eighth session (Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplement No. 5

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/CN.6/623	3 (c)	Draft Programme of Action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/625	6	Actions taken in preparation for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/627	5	Influence of the mass communication media on attitudes towards the roles of women and men in present-day society: report of the Special Rapporteur, Dr. Esmeralda Arboleda Cuevas
E/CN.6/636	3 (b)	Review and evaluation of progress achieved in the implementation of the World Plan of Action: political participation, international co-operation and the strengthening of international peace: report of the Secretary-General
