



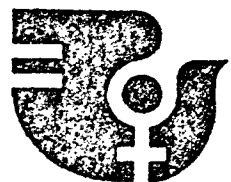
UNITED NATIONS



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GENERAL



WORLD CONFERENCE
OF THE
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR
MEXICO CITY, 19 JUNE TO 2 JULY 1975

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20 June 1975

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Message by H.E/ Mr. W. Stoph, Chairman of the Council
of State of the German Democratic Republic

On behalf of the Council of State, the Government and the people of the German Democratic Republic, I convey cordial greetings to the participants in the United Nations World Conference of the International Women's Year. I wish the Conference under the motto "Equal Rights, Development, Peace" great success.

The people and the Government of the German Democratic Republic have whole-heartedly appreciated that the United Nations proclaimed the year 1975 as International Women's Year. Manifold activities have been undertaken in this country to help implement the tasks and objectives set by the United Nations for the International Women's Year.

This Conference will give fresh impetus to the just endeavours of women to obtain full equal rights and to have access to all fields of social life, and to their stand for safeguarding peace, extending and deepening the process of détente and developing friendly relations among States and peoples. At the same time, the Conference will encourage the struggle of the peoples for effective disarmament measures, the complete elimination of all remaining forms of colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, national and social oppression.

In the 30th year since the victory of the Soviet Union and the other States of the anti-Hitler coalition over German fascism, the German Democratic Republic again confirms its view that the maintenance and consolidation of peace, the extension and deepening of the process of international détente and the development of relations of peaceful coexistence between States having different social systems create favourable conditions for solving economic and social problems which still hamper in some countries the implementation of equality for women in society.

The German Democratic Republic considers the attainment of equal rights for men and women to be one of its greatest accomplishments. The 25-year old evolution of the GDR impressively demonstrates that the hopes of our citizens for peace and social progress, social security, democracy and human dignity have materialized in our socialist State. The inequality of men and women rooted in the exploitative system of the past has been completely eliminated in our State. Also in the future, the Government of the German Democratic Republic will be guided by the concept that no social progress can be obtained without the outstanding contribution of women. Therefore, it will continue to consider the integration of women into the process of solving all social tasks on a basis of equality to be an integral part of its over-all policy.

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It is with great expectation that the people and the Government of the German Democratic Republic are looking forward to the World Congress in the International Women's Year to be held in Berlin, capital of the GDR, in October this year. By now a great number of national and international organizations have announced their participation in that Congress which certainly will be a remarkable event and an important highlight of the International Women's Year.

May I assure you that the people and the Government of the German Democratic Republic will continue to do their best so that the lofty aim of the International Women's Year will be reached all over the world.
