



UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

E/CN.6/435/Add.4  
9 February 1965

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN  
Eighteenth session

UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Preliminary Report by the Secretary-General (continued)

Comments and Observations of Non-Governmental Organizations relating  
to a Long-term Programme for the Advancement of Women

Contents

Paragraphs

PART I. GENERAL COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS RELATING TO A LONG-TERM PROGRAMME FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN . . . . .	2 - 104
<u>Category A</u>	
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions . . . . .	2 - 6
<u>Category B</u>	
The Associated Country Women of the World . . . . .	7 - 12
Catholic International Union for Social Service . . . . .	13 - 14
International Alliance of Women . . . . .	15 - 17
International Council of Women . . . . .	18 - 25
International Federation of University Women . . . . .	26 - 40
International Union of Socialist Youth . . . . .	41 - 49
World Assembly of Youth . . . . .	50
World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession . . . . .	51 - 54
World Federation of Catholic Young Women and Girls . . . . .	55 - 61
World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations . . . . .	62 - 72
World Young Women's Christian Associations . . . . .	73 - 88

Contents (continued)ParagraphsRegister

Catholic International Education Office . . . . .	84 - 93
International Council of Nurses . . . . .	94
International Council of Social Democratic Women . . . . .	95 - 100
International Federation of Free Trade Unions . . . . .	101 - 104

## PART II:

- A. COMMENTS RELATING TO THE KIND OF HELP (OTHER THAN FINANCIAL) FROM THE UNITED NATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES THAT WOULD BE OF THE GREATEST BENEFIT IN DEVELOPING PROJECTS INITIATED OR CONTEMPLATED BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS . . . . . 105 - 133

Category A

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions . . . . .	105
--	-----

Category B

Associated Country Women of the World . . . . .	106
International Council of Women . . . . .	107 - 112
International Federation of University Women . . . . .	113 - 116
International Federation of Women in Legal Careers . . . . .	117
World Assembly of Youth . . . . .	118 - 122
World Federation of Catholic Young Women and Girls . . . . .	123
World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations . . . . .	124
World Young Women's Christian Association . . . . .	125 - 127

Register

Catholic International Education Office . . . . .	128 - 130
International Council of Nurses . . . . .	131
International Council of Social Democratic Women . . . . .	132
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts . . . . .	133

- B. COMMENTS RELATING TO SUBSTANTIVE OR GEOGRAPHIC AREAS WHERE THERE IS A NEED FOR ASSISTANCE WHICH IS NOT BEING ADEQUATELY MET AND TO THE PRINCIPAL DIFFICULTIES TO BE OVERCOME . . . . . 134 - 145

Category A

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions . . . . .	134
--	-----

/...

Contents (continued)

Paragraphs

Category B

Associated Country Women of the World . . . . .	135 - 136
International Federation of University Women . . . . .	137 - 138
World Assembly of Youth . . . . .	139
World Federation of Catholic Young Women and Girls . . . . .	140
World Young Women's Christian Associations . . . . .	141

Register

International Council of Nurses . . . . .	142
International Council of Social Democratic Women . . . . .	143
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts . . . . .	144 - 145

1. As indicated in the Introduction to this preliminary report by the Secretary-General concerning United Nations assistance for the advancement of women (E/CN.6/435, para. 9 (d)), the present section contains a summary of the comments and observations of non-governmental organizations relating to a long-term programme for the advancement of women, including their replies to the points raised by the Secretary-General, except those relating to current programmes and projects (E/CN.6/435, paras. 3 and 5 (4) and (5)). This section is divided into two parts. In Part I the comments of non-governmental organizations that relate to a long-term programme for the advancement of women have been summarized. Part II contains summaries of the comments and observations of non-governmental organizations concerning (i) the kind of help or co-operation (other than financial) from the United Nations that would be of the greatest benefit in developing projects initiated or contemplated by non-governmental organizations; and (ii) any important substantive or geographic areas where there is a need for assistance which is not being adequately met, and the principal difficulties to be overcome. Any expression of opinion is that of the non-governmental organization concerned.

PART I

GENERAL COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS  
RELATING TO A LONG-TERM PROGRAMME FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Category A

INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS

2. The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions considers that the ideal situation would be that a long-term programme for the advancement of women should form an integral part of the programme of technical assistance and advisory services of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. The inferior position of women in many areas must be given adequate attention and, if there is need to establish priorities, this programme should be given a high place.
3. A long-term programme for the advancement of women, especially of women in the developing countries, in the context of the United Nations Development Decade, should be concentrated on the adoption of measures for the following purposes:
- (a) To prevent the widening of the gap separating men and women in the sphere of scholastic and professional education and, above all, to close that gap.
  - (b) To ensure that, by the end of the Development Decade, equality of political rights will have been achieved.
  - (c) To work out, from the social and economic points of view, a programme for the advancement of women, having as its aim the acceptance of women's work as an indispensable economic fact, and the elimination of such discrimination against women as may exist in matters of employment and salary, principally as a consequence of family responsibilities. Effective protection of maternity must be achieved, so that it will not be a cause of discrimination in any other sphere.
4. Finally, in civil matters, the programme for the advancement of women should aim at a sharing by the spouses of the rights and responsibilities of the family.
5. Assistance might take the form of surveys and the collection of information, with statistics; fellowships; experts; and seminars.
6. As regards the financial resources which would be necessary for the successful implementation of a long-term programme, the International Confederation of the Free Trade Unions is of the opinion that the contributions of States members could be more generous, and that, in the division of these resources, as well as

of those which might result from disarmament, consideration ought to be given to the needs of a programme for the advancement of women.

Category B

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

7. The Associated Country Women of the World has long been impressed with the urgent need to overcome the special handicaps suffered by women, and particularly rural women, which, even where at law they have an equal status with men, make it difficult for them to achieve educational advancement, so that they may play their full part in the progress of their communities and countries. Because of these handicaps women, and especially rural women, have in many regions lagged behind their men-folk and the urban population, whose opportunities for advancement are much greater. This gives rise to a social dislocation which may be a serious impediment to long-term progress, not only for women, but for the whole community.

8. Work in the field of the status of women should be integrated with a general programme for their advancement. There is no hope of lasting success if the men do not approve, especially where men make most of the crucial decisions as to the disposal of the families' economic resources. The initiative for community improvement may come from women, but the co-operation of men is essential. At the same time it is important that there should be special programmes for women to meet their special needs, and provide for their special interests, for example by providing:

(a) A chance to gain confidence in taking part in community life and to learn how to do this in women's groups.

(b) Educational opportunities at the village level and provision for the care of children in nursery schools or otherwise, so that mothers can be free to learn and to take part in community activities.

(c) Technical education for women in their profession, as homemakers, and, in the countries where they are the agriculturists, as farmers.

9. The long-term programme for the advancement of women should be carried out in the closest possible co-operation between voluntary groups (including women's groups), government departments, with their technical and financial resources

/...

(e.g. agriculture, health and education), community development departments, and local authorities, and the United Nations family of organizations. The Associated Country Women of the World especially welcomes increasing co-operation with, and co-ordination of, the work of FAO, UNESCO, and UNICEF. Affiliated societies can help in a variety of ways, for example, with nutrition surveys or advice on local conditions and attitudes, or by providing personnel to carry out projects such as promoting acceptance of protein-rich foods or by distributing dried milk.

10. The programme should provide for local training projects combined with national and/or regional leadership training projects and seminars or conferences: these would be helpful in most developing countries but they must be realistic in relation to the needs, capabilities and attitudes of the village women (and men), and they must not be too ambitious for the available resources and abilities; they must also have adequate provision for follow-up.

11. It is not possible to separate the different aspects of the advancement of women. Legal provisions are of little value without education, some leisure, experience in taking part in community affairs (local, national or international), and adequate economic resources and facilities. An adequate supply of good water, for example, may be especially important in some cases. Advances must be made on all fronts if they are to be permanent, as each element supports the others. The starting point, however, may be different in each case - a good water supply in one village, sanitary latrines in another, a community hall in another, or a handicraft centre in another.

12. It is impossible to generalize on the types of assistance that might be most beneficial. The most urgent needs and most useful help differ in different places, but the comparative importance of bringing into the villages local training schemes and educational facilities is being increasingly realized. This means that there is a great need for workers at the village level who have a realistic and sympathetic understanding of the needs, resources, customs and attitudes of village women, and yet have enough technical knowledge (as well as skill in teaching and methods of communication) to help them to take the first simple steps forward. There is need for local training centres, local study courses (with proper follow-up) combined with fellowships to meet special needs, and seminars

and conferences to stir up general interest and enthusiasm, as well as for help from technically knowledgeable workers (not only consultants).

#### CATHOLIC INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR SOCIAL SERVICE

15. The Catholic International Union for Social Service considers that it would be useful if, in addition to special training, comprising courses and discussions in study groups, African women could have the opportunity to participate in interregional, or even international seminars dealing with all aspects of the advancement of women. The best qualified women should be able to profit from scholarships which would allow them to study the measures taken in the industrialized countries for the training of women.

14. Sending teams of experts as advisers from the industrialized countries is considered to be an appropriate means of training, but only useful to the extent that these experts seek to understand fully the customs, habits and motives underlying the daily behaviour of the women of the region.

#### INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

15. The International Alliance of Women believes that every effort should be made to retain annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women. It recommends also that a section on the status of women should be set up in the secretariats of the regional economic commissions of the United Nations.

16. It is also suggested that the Commission on the Status of Women should recommend to the United Nations General Assembly that it urge Governments of Member States to set up national commissions on the status of women.

17. These national commissions, consisting of representatives of Governments, and of voluntary women's organizations whose principal interest is to work towards the equality of women, would study the status of women in their respective countries, report and make recommendations to the Government, aimed at improving the status of women and allowing women to make their fullest contributions to their countries.

#### INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

18. The International Council of Women is of the opinion that both a separate and an integrated programme are needed for the advancement of women in developing



countries. The former is needed to help women catch up with the swifter advancement of men; the latter, because - if the equal participation of men and women in the life of a country is to be taken as natural - all programmes for the betterment of whole communities must be equally open to men and women.

19. The International Council of Women considers that, while special measures perpetuate the idea of discrimination, women in developing countries cannot as yet do without them - hence, the need for separate programmes.

20. As to the integrated programme, the International Council of Women feels sure that a greater effort should be made for the advancement of women in order to ensure their full participation in the social and economic development of their countries. Attention should be paid to the following aspects of the problem: campaigns against illiteracy among adult women, in particular mothers of children of school age; vocational guidance and training, as well as training in social work, for literate women and girls; civic education of women to help them exercise their political rights intelligently.

21. The following subjects included in the current plans of work of the Standing Committee of the International Council of Women indicate the thinking of its membership with regard to long-term programmes for the advancement of women, especially women in developing countries:

(a) Community development programmes for the family as a unit, and bilateral aid to strengthen this unit through the twinning project,<sup>1/</sup>

(b) Universal campaign against illiteracy among adults and young people;

(c) Fight against hunger and disease, including malnutrition;

(d) Aid to combat undernourishment and aid, inter alia, to promote understanding of the principles of good nutrition and the proper use of natural available resources;

(e) Housing problems in rural areas of developing countries;

(f) Plans for special projects for the International Co-operation Year of the United Nations, including the Twinning Project, participation in international and regional conferences, and the furthering in all countries of the work of United Nations Technical Assistance experts, including those of UNESCO, FAO and UNICEF.

---

<sup>1/</sup> See E/CN.6/436/Add.5, Annex II, para. 24.

22. The International Council of Women organized by the United Nations under the programme of advisory services in human rights feels strongly that a considerable increase in seminars at different levels would provide an area for co-operation between non-governmental organizations and the United Nations. This would be true, in particular, of seminars in which a limited number of countries, with a larger number of delegates from each, would participate and be represented also by leading women from national voluntary organizations. It would be especially useful to organize national or local seminars as a follow-up to the small regional seminars, referred to above.
23. Technical assistance projects, suited to local conditions and local materials, are urgently required. For example, women in rural areas of developing countries need simple technical equipment, such as grinding mills, simple ovens, etc. Women in urban areas need sewing machines, typewriters and means of transportation to reach women in the villages, as well as tapes of recorded material for radio transmission. All need reading materials.
24. All types of assistance listed in the Secretary-General's inquiry are needed: one type does not exclude the others. The International Council of Women supports them all but would be inclined to give priority to seminars (of a more limited geographical scope) and study of training institutes or courses which would reach larger groups of people than, for example, fellowships.
25. The International Council of Women hopes that more resources of the United Nations and its specialized agencies will be earmarked in the future for long-term programmes for the advancement of women in developing countries. It is also hoped that non-governmental organizations will be in a position to undertake and finance their own projects in this field, as has been done in recent years by some of the United Nations councils through fund-raising drives.

#### INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

26. The International Federation of University Women believes that a long-term programme for the advancement of women should concentrate on the promotion of education at all levels, primary, secondary and higher, concurrently with out-of-school education; and that primary education should be free.
27. Research and study are considered necessary to prevent the immense "drop-out" after primary education. This means the provision of schools near the homes of

girls, with roads and transport available, and the provision of more boarding schools. There is an urgent need to increase teacher training generally, and, in particular, the training of women teachers, which would form part of a long-term programme.

28. Intense propaganda among parents is needed to convince them of the importance of education for girls. Scholarships should be given to enable girls to proceed to secondary schools.

29. Vocational counselling for parents and girls should be established to publicize opportunities for careers and work for women. Information should be given on the place of women in the community under modern conditions of expanding economies.

30. It is considered desirable to link programmes for women closely with existing international technical assistance programmes, in order to facilitate their later integration into the over-all scheme. Special programmes, such as those for the United Nations Development Decade, could be a useful means of giving publicity to the needs of women. Such close co-operation would also ensure that programmes for women did not become confined to separate "women's" subjects and activities, or even, at a later period, dropped. The objective should be to gain the interest of women, as of men, through matters of which they have some knowledge (e.g. by teaching farmers to read about farming subjects in the UNESCO adult literacy programmes), to broaden their interests, and to bring them into the main stream of community responsibility. Many women in developing countries already carry such responsibility, e.g. in marketing. Programmes for men and women alike should begin with the knowledge and interest of the learner, and aim at expanding that knowledge and interest.

31. A need for assistance to advance the status of women is seen in every field: in political, civil, social, economic and educational. Without economic independence and social assistance, women, who must carry heavy physical burdens in the less developed countries, besides being occupied with child-bearing and the care of young children, cannot take advantage of educational facilities, unless they have the time and energy to do so; if they have not political and civil equality they are not masters of themselves, nor can they take an equal responsibility with men in community life.

32. The types of assistance which the International Federation of University Women believes would be most beneficial are:

(a) Assistance for education at all levels, but particularly grants for further study at home or abroad to ensure adequate numbers of leaders and teachers;

(b) Propaganda to overcome traditional obstacles, to reconcile conflicting claims of the "dual role" of women, and to facilitate social and economic adjustment;

(c) Vocational counselling and training;

(d) Encouragement to women to exercise their rights and participate fully in the life of the community;

(e) Fellowships and study grants, training institutes and study courses for training women leaders;

(f) Seminars that provide the opportunity for discussion and meeting people of other countries and cultures to help women to overcome their feeling of isolation.

33. Visits by leaders of non-government organizations from other regions would also help to bring women of developing countries into contact and full relationship with other regions. Work by non-governmental organizations could be invaluable since it is non-political, but they lack funds.

34. Co-ordination of plans in Asia, Africa and Latin America is considered necessary to prevent overlapping and duplication. Non-governmental organizations should consider a planned long-term programme for the advancement of women with each organization specializing in its own field within that programme.

35. The International Federation of University Women could only provide financial assistance: (a) through appeal to its members or to outside bodies; or (b) through a complete reorientation of its own programme.

36. The Federation would be glad if all programmes for women could be included within the framework of general educational or social programmes. Since, however, in most countries there is much still to be done to ensure that women have both the right and the will to take their place as equal members of the community with men, the Federation is of the opinion that, for the present, and also for the foreseeable future, a separate programme for women is essential. It may, however, be desirable to provide funds for this from the General Programme in order to safeguard it from subsequent cuts and economies, or even from disappearance.

37. The International Federation of University Women is well aware of the arguments against a special programme for women, and is strongly opposed to discrimination of any kind. It is abundantly clear, however, that at present women and girls are at a disadvantage; also, in the rapid developments now taking place in all emerging countries, there is already manifest a tendency to emphasize male advancement in all spheres, the immense power of tradition and custom tending to confine girls and women to the "traditional" feminine spheres. In view of these factors the Federation strongly supports a special programme for women. In its view, it is essential that women advance on equal terms with men.
38. In the educational sphere, which is of special concern to the Federation, it is quite clear that the de facto state of access to education is unfavourable to women and girls. Statistics show that, while those girls who receive education do at least as well as their male counterparts, far too few girls proceed beyond primary stage. The reasons are tradition, home, duties, lack of means and preference given to boys where a choice must be made, lack of guidance, of schools, of teachers, transport, etc.
39. It is generally found that the children of a woman who has had some education will enter life with a better background than the children of an illiterate mother. Recent educational studies confirm that the educational background of the mother has as much influence as that of the father in determining the child's future educational achievements.
40. It is also increasingly clear that the contribution of educated women is necessary to the economic life of a community. Furthermore, without education women will be unable to make effective use of the political and economic rights they have, or to defend themselves against deprivation of those rights and opportunities.

#### INTERNATIONAL UNION OF SOCIALIST YOUTH

Note: The reply of the International Union of Socialist Youth consisted of a report of a working group of a seminar for young women held in Oslo, Norway, in 1963.

41. The Working Group noted that, while all the countries represented in it had given, or had bound themselves under their constitutions to give, full political and economic equality to women, a practice in most countries in Asia, economic

/...

equality had not been achieved. Some Governments, as employers, had not implemented the principle of equal pay for all their employees and the Group felt that unless wage discrimination against women was eliminated, real equality could not be achieved.

42. The question of equal pay for equal work was closely linked with that of vocational guidance and training of girls and women, which was a matter of cardinal importance in any programme of assistance for developing countries. The lack of vocational guidance and training for women and girls in Asia and Africa led to women being employed largely as unskilled workers and being paid at a rate which was lower than that paid to men. Lack of vocational training, coupled with traditional antipathy to the employment of women, often led to university graduates having to take up low grade employment unsuited to their qualifications.

43. It was felt that in Africa, the most useful field for the advancement of women lay in health and education and in providing vocational training and guidance to women and girls. Sometimes, even though women have political and economic rights, they are unable to exercise these rights because of poverty, ignorance and disease.

44. In countries where the principle of equal pay for equal work was implemented by the Government, the need for assistance in vocational training was great. It was felt that civic education would prepare women to make full use of their political and economic rights as well as to equip them with the skills required to assume public office. In some countries there was a great lack of educational facilities in rural areas and assistance directed towards this field would be most useful.

45. The Working Group pointed out that the United Nations worked in close collaboration only with governmental bodies, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations with consultative status and hoped that it would be possible for United Nations assistance to be made available to other groups.

46. The Working Group was of the opinion that more people in Asia and Africa should be made aware of the availability of United Nations assistance, especially through the publication of United Nations reports and pamphlets in the various languages of these regions. Where the rate of literacy was low, such knowledge could be disseminated by means of pictures and films. This was one way of ensuring that assistance would be given in those fields where it was needed most.

47. The Group considered that although most Asian and African countries were in need of experts, fellowships, study courses and indeed any kind of assistance, the greatest need was for training institutes for vocational training, nursing and child care, which were the fields in which the greatest advancement could be made. The resources of the United Nations should also be used in organizing or promoting the organization of seminars at all levels, and women should be encouraged to participate in them.

48. The Group pointed out that, in developing countries in Asia and Africa, there were a large number of women in the middle age group who might wish to enter, or re-enter employment after having reared their children. If opportunities for vocational training were made available to these women they could equip themselves for useful work, and become of great value to society. This was a field to which, it was felt, the resources of the United Nations should be directed.

49. The group concluded that particularly in the developing countries in Asia and Africa, any effective programme of assistance was bound to be long term and would have to be spread over considerably more years than those envisaged in the United Nations Development Decade. It was of the opinion that any programme for the advancement of women should, wherever possible be a separate programme, and not within the framework and as an integral part of the existing technical assistance or advisory services programme. In the context of developments in Asia or Africa it was felt that unless such a programme were made separate, the special needs of women might tend to be overlooked.

#### WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH

50. The World Assembly of Youth emphasized that in view of the immensity of the task that is currently being undertaken by the Commission on the Status of Women, it would seem reasonable that the development of a unified long-term programme would require time, and possibly be developed one stage at a time.

#### WORLD CONFEDERATION OF ORGANIZATIONS OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION

51. The World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession believes that the key to the future of women within the wider community rests in the phrase "equal educational opportunity for girls" but that a climate of opinion which believes in complete education for women, and full employment possibilities after school and college are also needed.

52. The Confederation suggests that as a contribution towards acceptance of the role of women, without prejudice, special attention might be given, in school programmes, to the achievements of individual women in the arts and sciences, politics and social services.

53. Special attention might also be given to a study in depth of the stabilizing influence of women in the body politic, and of the changes which have been wrought in society following the emancipation of women; a series of national studies would probably be most practical.

54. The basic need is seen as equal opportunity regardless of sex (and equally regardless of other natural factors such as race or national origin).

#### WORLD FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS

55. The World Federation of Catholic Young Women and Girls believes that an expansion of the existing technical assistance and advisory services programmes to include concerted efforts for the advancement of women would be a more beneficial approach than a completely separate programme. In the developing countries assistance for the advancement of men is as imperative as that for women, and what is needed is an integrated approach to the subject of development which, while taking into consideration the different roles which men and women play in their societies, will still allow the fullest development of their respective capacities, and assure qualified men and women leaders of their societies.

56. However, the World Federation emphasizes that in such programmes more is required than simply lip service to the right of women to take part in such projects as fellowship programmes, and seminars. Women should have not only the opportunity for this participation but their proportionate representation should be assured.

57. Such a programme should concentrate on education at all levels, not only of the young, but also of adults. Equally important for the young woman and girl is adequate vocational guidance and education for family life (which is also necessary for young men).

58. It is thought that the programmes anticipated and presently under way as part of the United Nations Development Decade do not pay enough attention to the need for continuing education of the young woman; in most developing countries it is the girls who either do not go to school at all or who leave it first. The programmes



planned by the various specialized agencies should take special cognizance of the situation of women and girls, particularly within the area of vocational guidance.

59. The World Federation is of the view that since most of the developing countries now guarantee political, civil and even social equality of women, what appears to be most needed are advances in the educational and economic fields which will translate these theoretic rights into practical realities. To give a woman the right to vote if she does not know for what she votes, or to allow her to stand for parliament if she has so little education that she could never be a candidate is ineffective; similarly civil equality means little if, as a married woman, she is allowed to own no property of her own.
60. The World Federation believes that a combination of all of the types of assistance mentioned by the Secretary-General could be profitably utilized (i.e., experts, fellowships, seminars, training institutes, study courses).
61. New resources may be found by fostering the spirit of international solidarity and mutual understanding which it is believed will lead to a greater sharing on all levels between those who live in the developed and those who live in the developing countries; this can be done with emphasis at the same time on the riches of exchange which are not merely material, but intellectual and spiritual as well.

#### WORLD UNION OF CATHOLIC WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

62. The World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations believes that a vigorous and far-reaching programme is necessary for the advancement of women and that its results will influence the success of development plans in many countries. The need for action is urgent because the gap, which is being created and widened in so many countries, between men who have benefited from instruction or are beginning to do so, and women who are often still totally illiterate, is at the root of difficult situations and problems in the relations between spouses, in family life and in society.
63. The proposed formula "unified programme" does not seem to be entirely realistic, in view of the diversity of conditions and needs which must be met and of the diversity of aims and resources of bodies working for the advancement of women. A "balanced co-ordinated programme" would be less ambitious and would imply the ideas of flexibility and adaptability which are necessary in such an undertaking.

64. It is considered that the programme must be a long-term programme. Absolute priority should be given to education, especially to the education of adult women which should be based upon their primary interests: children and the family. This education should be practical and include all aspects - moral, political, social, economic and cultural - and should aim at the development of the personality and of a sense of responsibility. Any improvement of the legal, civic, social or professional status of women will produce poor or even bad results if they are not prepared for these improvements.

65. Existing programmes receiving assistance from the United Nations are perhaps inadequately planned, being directed too exclusively towards social protection, domestic economy and vocational training. These are necessary elements of the education of women, but the aim should be to develop fully all the potentialities of women for the well-being of the family and society. For this purpose a vigorous effort must be made for co-ordination in planning, in the context of programmes, in the determination of priorities, as well as of the activities of the organizations participating in programmes.

66. Such action does not require a separate programme or call upon special funds. In most cases it would be sufficient to increase the assistance given by the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and to bring about co-ordination of their activities to institute a broad programme and to create new sections dealing with the special needs of women, which would nevertheless be integral parts of the existing institutions.

67. As regards projects planned for the near future in the context of the Development Decade, it is regretted that, while a certain place is reserved for youth, there is little attention paid to women except in UNICEF programmes and in an ILO project for African women rural workers.

68. It could be objected that at present the assistance given by the United Nations (with the exception of the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights) does not directly reach women as such, but as members of a social unit, (e.g. programmes of maternal and child welfare, community development).

69. It seems that there is no advantage for women in isolating them from the general human, social and economic contexts in which they live. However, the difficulty remains that the inferior position of women may hamper efforts for

/...

development as has been strongly emphasized in recent sessions of the Social Commission and of the Economic and Social Council. Flexibility is needed to meet these difficulties. It would be disastrous to separate the idea of the progress of women from that of the progress of the community and society.

70. The most useful forms of assistance for the advancement of women are experts, scholarships, seminars and training institutes which should be used to complement each other. The personal qualities and abilities of experts and scholarship holders are of great importance.

71. The experience of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations shows that seminars or regional study courses for countries with similar problems are effective, especially if these study courses and seminars are really the basis of future action on the national and local level. It would be useful after a certain period to evaluate the results by means of a second study course aimed at determining the deficiencies and successes and modifying accordingly the aims and methods of future courses. Such a procedure could be used in a long-term programme.

72. As regards new resources for a programme for the advancement of women, if it is a question of financial resources, more substantial support by Governments of United Nations programmes of assistance should first be sought; later, it would be possible to earmark a certain proportion of the funds for projects for the improvement of the status of women. On the other hand, if national commissions were created in accordance with the suggestion of the Commission on the Status of Women, these commissions could, in addition to playing a consultative role in programmes for the advancement of women, initiate campaigns and organize the collection of funds which would contribute to the formation of national funds for the financing of these programmes.

#### WORLD YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

73. While recognizing that the pace of changes in political and social conditions in developing countries makes action towards the advancement of women especially urgent, the World Young Women's Christian Association would, however, feel hesitant to divorce this action from the total United Nations Programme for the advancement of the status of women. Discrimination against women in law and in custom is so

/...

widespread and general in character that there might be a danger of losing sight of the extent of the basic problems in setting up a long-term programme restricted to developing countries. There is also a close interrelationship between progress in the status of women in so-called industrialized countries and the advancement of women in developing countries. It is recognized, however, that the Commission on the Status of Women is bound to develop and support a special programme for the benefit of women within the framework of the United Nations Development Decade.

74. Any such long-term programme for the advancement of women can be achieved only within the framework of the development of social and economic conditions in which literacy and continuing education for all receives an important place.

75. An emphasis on a broad and diversified programme of education preparing women and girls to understand the complexity of the modern world and of a changing society should be given high priority. The availability and quality of secondary and higher education facilities for girls depend on the status of women in a given society. This is a reason why the Association regrets the abandoning of 15 as the minimum age for marriage in the draft Recommendation on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages. Even the age of 15 does not allow much margin for encouraging secondary education and investing in vocational training for girls.

76. National planning must, therefore, take into account at each step the needs, responsibilities and co-operation of women. This may require a change in some accepted priorities. United Nations experts assigned to national planning might need special training and advice in order to understand fully the need to obtain the co-operation of women and to make this need understood. There is also a great task of education to be done among educated women and men, in order that they may see the contribution of women, not only in the field of social welfare planning, but as a responsibility at the various levels of planning and in the formation of new political and economic institutions, as well as in the social field.

77. If the United Nations Development Decade could start the move in that direction, this would be a great contribution towards the advancement of women, and towards a different understanding of the concept of co-operation between all people engaged in this effort. Women should take it as a duty and be helped to do it. They should be helped to be more informed on economic problems: labour, industry, agriculture and trade.

78. One of the first steps, supplementary to literacy and the extension of general education - primary and secondary - is the development of good vocational training facilities for women, taking into account the variety of degrees of general education received or available. Economic independence contributes largely to set women free, but it is not easy to be a first generation of women working outside the home, except in a few fields of occupation already recognized by society. In addition to school and training facilities, individual counselling may be needed and adequate housing facilities will be urgently needed. Early school-leavers require special attention in order to avoid economic and moral exploitation. At the local level, much attention should be given to the role that women and girls might play in community development. Governments should be urged to implement resolution 1162 (XII) of the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted in 1957 regarding the participation of women in community development and encouraged to use women in other fields than child-care and domestic activities.

79. The types of assistance mentioned by the Secretary-General complement each other. The development of regional and local facilities for training and education should have priority, but requirements for participation should not be too rigid. A network of regional institutes for longer study-courses for women for accelerated training in various fields might render great services. Such facilities should be extended to the younger generation. Women should also be given special help in order to benefit fully from ordinary educational programmes, study-courses and training which are mostly planned by men for men. It also might be helpful to establish or adjust the programme of such courses in such a way that they benefit both men and women, in order that men may get used to the idea that a modern world should not be only a man's world. A study on this question might be extremely helpful to Governments, and to inter-governmental and voluntary agencies.

80. The World Young Women's Christian Association does not consider it appropriate to appeal for special voluntary financial resources for a programme for women. The advancement of the status of women should not be considered as a special programme, but should be regarded as equally important to the community as the advancement of men.

81. Inter-governmental agencies and Governments which provide funds for educational and training facilities geared towards ordinary fields which are mostly "men's" fields should be ready to allocate some of these funds for the general advancement of women. The Association supports the suggestion made by UNESCO (document 61 EX/28, p. 7) that the assistance granted under the United Nations Special Fund be extended to primary and secondary education for girls. Similar possibilities under the International Development Association and other organisms created for financial development might be explored.

82. With respect to resolution 961 F (XXXVI) of the Economic and Social Council<sup>2/</sup> the World Young Women's Christian Association welcomes the fact that it emphasizes the importance of joint participation by men and women in planning for the advancement of women, and hopes that the Commission on the Status of Women, which originally introduced this resolution, will find a means of putting this into effect at the various levels - governmental and inter-governmental - and that the efforts and research undertaken by non-governmental organizations to involve the co-operation of men in eradicating prejudice against women, and discovering new formulae for the benefit of both men and women, will be taken into account.

83. The Association will be interested to see how much guidance can be given with respect to the appointment of National Commissions on the Status of Women. The scope of the activities of such Commissions should be clearly defined, and it is believed that their membership should include representatives of non-governmental organizations.

#### Register

#### CATHOLIC INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION OFFICE

84. The Catholic International Education Office notes that the employment of girls of school age is everywhere diminishing, but believes that efforts are needed to ensure universal education and that the expansion of compulsory education should be sought.

85. It is suggested that education of girls should be specifically feminine. Courses in home management should be either created, or developed. An increase of household skills could have immediate effects upon the standard of living of the economically under-developed countries. African women who are gifted with a

---

<sup>2/</sup> See E/CN.6/435, Annex, page 7.

business sense and who conduct much of the trade in food have, however, not been properly trained in domestic economy and it is felt that their education in these matters would contribute to economic stability, even on the national level. The nature of courses in this field may vary. In some countries the minimum of a year, immediately following primary school, is recommended for domestic training; in others it may be advisable to establish post-primary housewifery centres; and in a third group of countries a need is felt to develop professional secondary level training, and special centres for training handicapped women.

86. Outside the school the education of women should be continued in order to give them better moral and spiritual training and to prepare them for family life. The following means are considered to be especially effective for these purposes: establishment of popular libraries; organization of film clubs; an increase in the number of radio programmes for women; circulation of suitable magazines in the language of the country; and the opening of cultural centres providing marriage preparation courses, and discussions on the role of women in the family and in society. Such activities, which are usually started by private bodies, should be encouraged. Equipment, especially audio-visual teaching equipment, could be placed at the disposal of those private bodies.

87. The Catholic International Education Office believes that the second stage of the vocational training of women might include all forms of health education, so as to raise the level of hygiene of the masses; a healthier and more leisured society would result, which would become the foundation for the growth of an intellectual elite of women.

88. The training of leaders is a problem. Leaders could be recruited from youth organizations, but according to information supplied to the Catholic International Education Office, these organizations have not been fully developed.

89. In view of the present policies relating to international assistance, a long-term programme for the advancement of women should be developed as an integral part of existing programmes. Because of the interdependence of social and economic matters it is not possible to consider them separately in relation to assistance.

90. Scholarships for further studies should preferably be granted, if possible for study in the country of origin or in another country of the region. The period

of study overseas should be at least one, or two years; periods of three to six months overseas are inadequate, and a waste of time, energy and money results.

91. Experts are very valuable if they have a previous knowledge of the environment, if they come with a conviction that they also have something to learn from the people and from the experience gained, and if their period of service is sufficiently long. In Africa, more training institutes are needed.

92. The non-governmental organizations are themselves handicapped in carrying out their projects by the lack of financial resources. On the other hand they have experts whom they could provide in response to requests from international organizations.

93. To be fully effective, the United Nations and the specialized agencies should not so much seek new financial resources as support for carrying out existing governmental and non-governmental projects. This policy of personal and intellectual co-operation with regional bodies would accelerate the evolution of developing countries and avoid overlapping.

#### INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES

94. The International Council of Nurses believes that the programme for the advancement of women should include studies of such matters as employment conditions and education facilities for nurses. The fields in which it is thought that assistance would be most useful are nursing education, social and economic welfare, with special education in the latter field. The most useful types of assistance would be seminars and fellowships to enable nurses to undertake research work into fields of nursing education, nursing service and social and economic welfare.

#### INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC WOMEN

95. The International Council of Social Democratic Women considers that the programme for the advancement of women should be integrated within the existing framework of technical assistance or advisory services programmes. This should enable the best use to be made of the experience of these services and probably a swifter and smoother start to the new programme if it is a natural extension of existing administration, rather than an entirely new and separate entity.



Moreover, the advancement of women is part of the advancement of all human beings and the idea of separateness should be avoided. Women will gain acceptance by men, and forward their own advancement by the contribution they make to the community. Their impact in this will generally be the greater if it is made in co-operation with men wherever possible. This integration should not exclude projects specially designed to assist women.

96. It is suggested that a long-term programme should include projects:

(a) To arouse the interest of women in their own advancement and to make them aware of the contribution they can make to the community.

(b) To make it possible for this interest to become active by measures to provide women with increased leisure. No woman who is interested and capable of playing a role in public life should be prevented from doing so by excessive domestic demands. Basic amenities such as a ready supply of water and simple but adequate domestic equipment are necessities.

(c) To provide, at all levels, adequate training opportunities in all fields of activity and adequate social services such as nursery schools.

97. The relationship of the programme to existing programmes should be one of the closest possible co-operation.

98. The Council considers that advance is important in all fields and that advance in one will stimulate advance in the others. Emphasis will differ according to local conditions; no true advance can ever take place in conditions of oppressive poverty, but education is vital even in such a condition, as it is part of the solution of the problem of poverty. Advance in the political, social and civil fields does not always come by direct assaults. While activity must always go on to achieve progress in these fields, it is advance towards economic independence for women which is most likely to achieve general progress.

99. The type of assistance which could be most beneficial is provision of training facilities. It is important that these should cater for training at all levels and in a variety of subjects. Particular attention should be given to the training of people to work in villages.

100. Financial assistance might be provided by citizens in the advanced wealthy countries. An appeal - as near as possible to an individual appeal - should be made to such persons, not to contribute to a vast general fund, but to support carefully planned projects, preferably involving an expenditure small enough for them to comprehend and for them to believe that their personal contribution will be significant.

## INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FREE TEACHERS' UNIONS

101. The International Federation of Free Teachers' Unions is of the opinion that the improvement of the status of women largely depends upon the development of trade unions, bringing women (especially those in the teaching profession) together and the participation of women in all studies and in all steps taken in the matter.

102. Technical assistance for the advancement of women could be the subject of a separate programme, which should, however, be treated as part of the general programmes of development. It is considered impossible to separate the different fields which affect the position of women (social, economic, cultural, political, civil).

103. All types of assistance are appropriate for the promotion of the advancement of women. However, the order of priority might be considered to be: conferences, training courses and institutes conducted by experts, and scholarships for higher studies.

104. The suggested national commissions on the status of women should include representatives of trade unions, which have women members, especially those covering the teaching profession.

## PART II

### A. COMMENTS RELATING TO THE KIND OF HELP (OTHER THAN FINANCIAL) FROM THE UNITED NATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES THAT WOULD BE OF THE GREATEST BENEFIT IN DEVELOPING PROJECTS INITIATED OR CONTEMPLATED BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

#### Category A

## INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS

105. Besides financial aid (for example scholarships) which could be given by the United Nations and the specialized agencies, other forms of co-operation which the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions considers would be very useful for the development of its projects are:

- (a) The collection of statistics and information about economic and social conditions of the various regions, manpower, employment, laws and regulations relating to labour;
- (b) The provision of women experts (especially by the ILO);
- (c) The provision of specific educational material such as courses, syllabuses, films, teaching material adapted to the level of women workers which is in general lower than that of men for whom this kind of material already exists;
- (d) The translation of educational material into the vernacular;
- (e) The organization of world-wide and regional seminars on questions relating to the advancement of women.

#### Category B

##### THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

106. The kinds of help from the United Nations and the specialized agencies which the Associated Country Women of the World believes would be of greatest benefit in developing its projects are: transport facilities; trained workers (not only expert consultants, but persons who would spend a significant period of time working in the field); simple visual aids with a topical local appeal, such as magnifying glasses and microscopes; tape recorders and transistor radio sets; and, where the necessary facilities are available, television, films and projectors for the use of groups and educational programmes.

##### INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

107. Several national affiliates of the International Council of Women in Africa state the specific needs for further development of their programmes as well as the obstacles which they encounter in their work.

108. The National Council of Congo (Brazzaville) for example has not been able to extend its activities over the country for lack of means to send its representatives to villages. Also, a course for typists has not been started for lack of typewriters. There is a demand for educational reading material for libraries and reading rooms (in particular, simple but adult reading matter for newly literate people) and films on women's activities.

109. In Tanzania, there is a lack of social centres, buildings and equipment for women's clubs and absence of sufficient facilities for teaching home economics, nutrition, literacy. In remote areas and villages, there is a lack of "able leadership".

110. In Cameroon, the lack of means prevents the National Council from reaching the "back-country", and help is needed.

111. The obstacles encountered in Niger are, in addition to widespread illiteracy among women living in the bush, a lack of understanding by the older generation and an adverse influence exercised by certain customs and traditions.

112. The Conference of African Women reported through its Secretary-General to the International Council of Women:

"... that the United Nations and the non-governmental organizations can help women in developing countries in the accelerated training of personnel, illiteracy being more widespread among women; this training could include:

(a) Organization of courses in literacy, professional training, sewing, weaving, dyeing;

(b) Training of personnel for medical first-aid, including matrons and social workers;

(c) Handling of modern home appliances;

(d) Organization of seminars.

It is felt that above everything else, the organization of such courses and seminars under the auspices of national women's movements would help enormously women in developing countries.

The United Nations and its specialized agencies could help in the acquisition of modern equipment, such as sewing and weaving machines, typewriters, film projectors, as well as in the building of professional centres.

Another problem is the care of infants and the education of children for which female personnel must be trained and creches and day nurseries provided.

Our main difficulty is the lack of financial and technical means, the women almost everywhere being eager to undergo training."

/...

#### INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

113. The International Federation of University Women considers that the greatest need is for financial help, especially for travel grants and study abroad.

114. It suggests that the United Nations and the specialized agencies might give assistance for the production of textbooks in the vernacular, which should use examples drawn from the life of the country, and of visual aids and information regarding techniques for fighting illiteracy. It is possible that non-governmental organizations might find writers of such textbooks, if help were offered to cover the costs of production.

115. Help might be given for the publication and wide distribution of simply-written pamphlets, in the vernacular, on the machinery of voting and government generally.

116. It is also suggested that it would be helpful to have: information regarding technical assistance possibilities; calendars of meetings; subsidies to enable leading people to participate in conferences without cost to themselves; advice on how to approach trusts etc. for money; assistance in training "cadres moyens" to become community leaders; and encouragement and help to enable experts to go out and help to train people, with the assurance that they will not lose their jobs or pension and other rights, if they are seconded temporarily for such training.

#### INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN IN LEGAL CAREERS

117. The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers indicates that if it had the necessary financial means available it would be possible to organize a series of seminars or conferences, designed particularly for women of the rural areas of Europe, as well as for those in the developing countries.

#### WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH

118. The World Assembly of Youth suggests that the United Nations and its specialized agencies might help its programmes for young women by the provision of experts, fellowships, seminars, training institutes and study courses.

119. It considers it equally important to study ways of increasing the participation of young women in the activities of individual youth organizations; and in national programmes, regional events and international undertakings.

120. It is pointed out that frequently the World Assembly organizes meetings and decides to undertake a thorough research into the situation confronting young people in a certain region. The most recent academic research is made available: information is given on the most recent studies and work that is being undertaken by various agencies, including those of the United Nations; yet, too often there is an almost total absence of young women participants. It is suggested that a United Nations expert might work, in conjunction with a particular National Youth Council in a developing country, and study all aspects of increasing the participation of women in the various activities of National Youth Councils.

121. At the national level a need is felt for research into the ways of assisting women's organizations, particularly those of young women, so that they can better understand the potential of working together at a national and international level.

122. It is suggested that an expert might be provided in an area such as Mauritania to help develop a pilot project that would co-ordinate the resources and activities of the women's organizations that exist there. Such a project, which might be directed at the mobilization of forces to help young girls better equip themselves for village life, could have profound effects within the country concerned, and could serve as a guide for women's organizations in many other regions.

#### WORLD FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS

123. The World Federation of Catholic Young Women and Girls considers that the greatest help, other than financial assistance (always needed) which the United Nations and its specialized agencies could provide, would be leadership materials and technical assistance in the form of personnel, who might be used in the conduct of training seminars, or even in the initial stages of planning appropriate programmes. Knowledge of programmes being carried out by the United Nations and its specialized agencies and by other non-government and government organizations in critical development areas would facilitate collaboration and eliminate duplication of efforts.

#### WORLD UNION OF CATHOLIC WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

124. The World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations points out that the granting of travelling scholarships, such as those UNESCO now makes to adult education leaders is very valuable, and emphasizes the need for financial assistance. Equipment such as books, publications, audio-visual aids and facilities for procuring them would also be a useful support for the activities of the Organization.

#### WORLD YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

125. In the opinion of the World Young Women's Christian Association, the United Nations seminars on the status of women have proved helpful, but their contribution would be strengthened if there was an evaluation and a guide for follow-up action.

126. It is suggested that preparatory papers and the final report should be made available free of charge for the use of national non-governmental organizations affiliated to international non-governmental organizations which have participated in the seminars, and that better ways of spreading the results of such seminars should be studied.

127. It is also pointed out that as adult education and vocational training are the two keys to the advancement of women, help in the training of teachers for out-of-school education, and in the training of teachers and specialists in technical training, would contribute to the quality and encourage the extension of programmes carried out by non-governmental organizations.

#### Register

#### CATHOLIC INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION OFFICE

128. The regional secretariats of the Catholic International Education Office would welcome information on the results of experience gained in teaching theory and the use of modern teaching techniques.

129. In the area of the research which the Catholic International Education Office has undertaken for the Africanization of its programmes, UNESCO might facilitate the carrying out of joint activities by UNESCO experts and Catholic education experts.

130. It is suggested that UNICEF and UNESCO might participate either in supplying the equipment for children's libraries and the installation of technical material for demonstration use, or in obtaining audio-visual materials and educational films for schools, and technical and professional centres.

#### INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES

131. The International Council of Nurses considers that the kinds of help from the United Nations or the specialized agencies which would be of greatest benefit are: assistance in carrying out studies in individual countries and in the preparation of job descriptions and the provision of specialist experts to assist in seminars and study programmes.

#### INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC WOMEN

132. The kinds of help from the United Nations or the specialized agencies which would be of the greatest benefit to the International Council of Social Democratic Women are:

(a) The provision of expert lecturers and discussion leaders for seminars and conferences;

(b) The provision of working materials, such as film equipment and subjects for specific educational projects;

(c) Co-ordinated information on priorities. Often organizations learn of particular needs from a chance meeting with someone from a developing country, or from a visit, of necessarily limited duration and coverage, to a developing country. There is no guarantee that the needs presented in these circumstances are, in fact, the most pressing or that the type of aid suggested is necessarily the best. A need is seen for a central body, at the national or regional level, to study the situation and to advise an organization with available resources where they could be used to the best advantage. A range of top priorities could enable organizations to follow their own particular interests. Priorities should be worked out in co-operation with the Governments in particular areas and the co-ordination of official and voluntary action could make both more effective.



(d) Comprehensive information on sources of assistance, both official and voluntary, available to individuals or organizations. This information should be well publicized through voluntary organizations and Governments.

#### WORLD ASSOCIATION OF GIRL GUIDES AND GIRL SCOUTS

133. The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts considers that the kinds of help or co-operation from the United Nations and the specialized agencies, which would be of the greatest benefit, are:

(a) Visual aids, especially for training courses in homecraft and child welfare;

(b) Organization of training courses in homecrafts and child welfare in which members of non-governmental organizations could participate;

(c) Experts to give advice at training courses and seminars organized by non-governmental organizations on local problems such as transport, communications and administrative organization.

B. COMMENTS RELATING TO SUBSTANTIVE OR GEOGRAPHIC AREAS WHERE THERE IS A NEED FOR ASSISTANCE WHICH IS NOT BEING ADEQUATELY MET, AND TO THE PRINCIPAL DIFFICULTIES TO BE OVERCOME 3/

#### Category A

#### INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS

134. The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions considers that, in matters concerning the advancement of women the needs are still great in all parts of the world, including the developed countries. The Confederation regards the need for assistance as greatest in the Middle East, and in certain areas of Africa where it sees tradition as the greatest obstacle to the advancement of women. It believes that Latin America and Asia come a little after these areas, and notes that, while the position of women has improved somewhat in these regions, progress is impeded by tradition, ignorance and economic under-development.

---

3/ See also the comments of the International Council of Women in paras. 107-112 above.

Category B

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

135. The Associated Country Women of the World considers that the special needs and difficulties of village women are not being met, except in a few places, and that there is not enough fundamental home economics teaching at the local level. It believes that education and innovations need to be simple, concrete and realistic, with the possibility for continued action.

136. In its opinion, the principal difficulties to be overcome are:

- (a) Lack of trained workers at the village level;
- (b) lack of financial resources;
- (c) Distance and isolation, inertia and custom;
- (d) Home ties and family responsibilities. Domestic drudgery leaves many women no time or energy for any activity outside the home.
- (e) Lack of mobility. The family responsibilities of women make it very difficult for them to seek education, recreational, or economic opportunities away from home;
- (f) Lack of personal economic resources;
- (g) A climate of opinion that keeps women at home and discourages them from taking part in community affairs and public life.
- (h) Illiteracy and low standards of education.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

137. The areas where, in the opinion of the International Federation of University Women, assistance appears to be most needed are: Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America. These are areas with marked ethnic and social differences, economic under-development, poverty, and shortage of women leaders.

138. The Federation, believing that assistance to women should be increased throughout Africa and Asia, considers that the main difficulties are lack of finance, and the traditional role of women in the community.

WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH

139. In the opinion of the World Assembly of Youth, the major difficulties in attempting to develop a long-term programme of action for the advancement of women are:

/...

(a) Lack of able and experienced leaders. There are not sufficient young women available to assume the type of leadership that is required to meet the problems of women at all levels of society in a developing nation.

(b) Lack of finance. No worthwhile project providing the basic requirements for even a very short course at the village level can be contemplated without money.

#### WORLD FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS

140. The World Federation of Catholic Young Women and Girls feels that the needs for assistance not being adequately met are greatest in Latin America and the Near East. In these regions, the tremendously rapid growth of the youth population has far outdistanced the growth of the educational system, and the need for basic education is acute. A philosophy of the basic inferiority of woman has also to be overcome.

#### WORLD YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS

141. The World Young Women's Christian Association lists as the principal difficulties to be overcome:

(a) The advance of compulsory birth registration. This is necessary in order to have adequate statistics for educational planning, or as a basis for implementation of a rule fixing a minimum age for marriage, entry to certain schools, etc;

(b) Access to secondary education for girls from rural areas. The few existing schools in a number of countries are either residential, and therefore very expensive, or, if they are not residential, many more hostels for healthy but cheap accommodation are required for girls coming from the rural areas. Voluntary agencies with experience in the running of hostels are requested to build more, but funds for capital expenses and technical assistance for the training of personnel are needed;

(c) The present restrictive concept of adult education for women and girls. A much greater variety of courses must offer chances of filling gaps in general education, especially in relation to the access to a number of professions.

/...

Register

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES

142. The International Council of Nurses points out that, in the particular field of social and economic welfare the problem for women nurses is world-wide, and the need for assistance is not necessarily confined to developing countries.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC WOMEN

143. The International Council of Social Democratic Women states that, in rural areas everywhere there is a need for assistance which is not being adequately met, and that, basically all progress depends on progress at the local level. A general lack of resources is noted, but the shortage of trained local leaders is thought to constitute the major disadvantage.

WORLD ASSOCIATION OF GIRL GUIDES AND GIRL SCOUTS

144. The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts considers that the geographic areas in which the need for assistance is not being adequately met are:

- (a) A large portion of the continent of Africa;
- (b) Countries in Latin America;
- (c) Three or four countries in Europe;
- (d) Countries in the Far East.

145. The Association sees as the principal difficulties to be overcome:

- (a) Scattered populations and lack of transport and communications;
- (b) The fact that in many countries girl guide or girl scout basic equipment, materials and publications are not available, and heavy customs duties are levied on imported goods;
- (c) Women's burdensome duties in the home which leave them neither time nor inclination for other pursuits;
- (d) Age-old customs in respect of the status of women which still prevail in numerous countries, where the male population does not readily accept that the advancement of women is practical and desirable.