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Strategy for the Development of Arab Women in Western Asia to the Year 2000

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PART ONE

General Framework of the Strategy

Introduction

1. Ten years have passed since the declaration of the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985). The Decade witnessed the convening of the World Conference for Women, Mexico 1975, and its adoption of the World Plan of Action for the Integration of women in Development, and the World Conference for the Mid-Decade (1980) which reviewed and evaluated the progress achieved and obstacles encountered in the advancement of women and the development of their conditions, and its adoption of the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women (1981-1985) for the realization of the Decade's objectives: Equality, Development, and Peace, with emphasis on the sectors of employment, health and education.

2. As a follow-up to the national, regional and international efforts for the advancement of women, the General Assembly adopted resolution 35/136 in December 1980. In the resolution the Assembly decided to convene a world conference at the end of the United Nations Decade for Women to evaluate the progress achieved and obstacles encountered in the situation of women, and to formulate a world strategy up to the year 2000 in order to continue action at the different levels for attaining the objectives of Equality, Development, and Peace.

3. Within the framework of the recommendations of the Commission on the Status of Women and the resolutions of the Economic and Social Council requesting United Nations organizations and the specialized agencies to participate in the preparations for the World Conference, Nairobi 1985, the Economic Commission for Western Asia organized the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women in Baghdad for the period from 3 to 6 December 1984. The present document, Strategy for the Development of Arab Women in Western Asia to the Year 2000, represents a regional input into the documentation of the World Conference.

4. It is to be noted that the Economic Commission for Western Asia adopted during the Decade two documents representing the regional position and orientation with respect to the advancement of Arab women. The first, entitled Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development in Western Asia (June 1978) was linked to the Mexico Conference, and the second, entitled Regional Programme of Action for Integration of Women in Development in Western Asia (December 1979) was submitted to the mid-decade World Conference, Copenhagen 1980.

5. The present Strategy confirms the trends and policies included in the earlier two documents. It takes into consider-

ation progress achieved and obstacles encountered in implementing policies and programmes relevant to the advancement of women within the societal context. It further takes into account the national, regional and international variables relevant to the formulation of strategy trends to the year 2000.

6. The present document reflects the strategy priorities for the development of the conditions of women in the region within the set time horizon. It also represents, as the regional position, the contribution of ECWA members in the formulation of a world strategy for the advancement of women to the year 2000, which is the primary objective of the Nairobi World Conference (1985).

I. FOUNDATIONS OF THE STRATEGY

7. The Strategy for the Development of Arab Women in western Asia to the Year 2000 is based on the following:

(a) The heritage of Arab Islamic civilization and the religious and spiritual values of this region, the cradle of the messages of God, which affirm the dignity of all human beings in this universe. These values enjoin the provision of the necessary conditions for ensuring the individual's dignity as a holy responsibility. It is therefore imperative to seek inspiration from this heritage and its positive values in meeting present and future problems;

(b) The belief that the Arab individual is able to contribute generously to the commonweal, to exert the necessary efforts, and to formulate an authentic and innovative vision of a way of life that would advance the present and open horizons of progress and prosperity for future generations;

(c) The confrontation of internal challenges and external dangers which obstruct the realization of a continued development that relies basically on its available indigenous resources, of which the human resource, both men and women, is the greatest asset. This development would require the affirmation of equality and equal opportunities regardless of sex;

(d) The organic link between issues relevant to women and progress in their conditions and the whole development process in the society encompassing both women and men would establish the fact that efforts for the advancement of women are activators for a general socio-cultural renaissance in the region, and that the vitality of a general renaissance would affect the advancement of women;

(e) The specificity of the societal conditions of women within the national and Arab context is a product of historical conditions and traditional social customs. It is thus inevitable that there is a need to accord special attention to this

specificity. This in turn would require qualitative efforts for ensuring equal opportunities for women with men, and their positive participation as contributors and beneficiaries in the process of formulating the present and in directing the future of national life. There is also a large sector of women who lack services and programmes that would elevate their economic, social and cultural level, which will not change unless this sector has been adopted as the basis for regional development. This cultural specificity characterizes Arab women and shapes their developmental pattern without uncritical imitation of or admiration for the life style of women from other cultures;

(f) The conscious and critical utilization of the previous national and regional experiences as well as relevant international experiences in order to correct the path of the development process, and to form and mobilize human resources;

(g) The provision of opportunities for creative and pioneering efforts is deemed essential in identifying alternative solutions for enhancing the development process and for allowing the fullest participation of women without obstacles;

(h) The upholding of the principles and policies of the Arab declarations and strategies calling for the liberation of the potentialities of the individual, the development of his or her capabilities and abilities as well as the upholding of the principles and foundations of the international declarations and strategies relevant to human rights, development trends and world peace.

II. WOMEN'S ISSUES IN THE REGION AND OBJECTIVES OF EQUALITY DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

8. It is assumed that the three goals of Equality, Development, and Peace are noble objectives which the international community seeks to fulfil; however, actions to achieve these objectives differ according to national and regional frameworks and perceptions, and to the specific types of challenges and dangers facing countries or regions of the world. It is clear that these three objectives are organically interrelated, with each affecting and being affected by the others. Views for interpreting these interrelated objectives and priorities of action would also differ according to different social environments and cultures.

A. Dimensions of peace and war in the region

9. It may be difficult to designate priorities for any one of these objectives at the international level; however, the priority of peace imposes itself on the ECWA region. Military conflicts in the region threaten peace and stability and obstruct much of the effort which should be directed towards development and equality among all people.

10. It is natural that the meaning and content of peace would differ in the ECWA region where some lands are still subjected to foreign occupation. Furthermore, there are no indications, within the foreseeable future, that could predict the resolution of the issue of the Palestinian people, who for more than 30 years have suffered the effects of war and Israeli occupation. Israel is still working towards changing the demographic and environmental characteristics of the population and the land in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It is still continuing an extermination war against the Palestinian people and an expansion into the other Arab territories. The Israeli aggression further extended to Lebanon in the summer of 1982 and it continued the occupation of southern Lebanon and the western Beqa'a, the destruction of its economy and the forced migration of its inhabitants. Furthermore the Iraqi-Iranian war, which was imposed on the region entered its fifth year with no sign in the near future of its ending, despite the peace initiatives of Iraq, and the mediation of the Arab and Islamic countries, the non-aligned States, the United Nations and other bodies and organizations.

11. In view of the continued occupation and wars in the region and despite the condemnation of the international community of these wars and of the principle of utilizing military action and the acquisition of land by force to resolve conflicts, confrontation of these forms of aggression becomes one of the legitimate means to liberate the land and to defend national independence. It is also natural that the capabilities and resources of the society be mobilized to resist occupation and aggression by different means. Women are and will continue to undertake different roles within the required mobilization activities as long as aggression continues.

12. Within this context, stability and development in the ECWA region are based on ending the occupation of the land of Palestine and the other Arab territories and the Iraqi-Iranian war, since their continuation constitutes an inevitable danger not only to the region, but also to world peace. They also drain resources and energies that could be directed towards solving many of the developmental problems and providing prosperity for the people of the region.

8. Dimensions of development in the region

13. The targeted development in the present Strategy should not merely be confined to the modernization of the form without regard to the content of life; rather, many of its present trends require correction and modification. The objective is to establish a pattern of development that is integrated and consistent with its goals and its constituent parts, capable of asserting the cultural identity and specificity of the people of the region. It would also be based upon the independent deci-

sion and will of the region without dependency constraints and reliance on foreign economies and cultures. This development would resort, as much as possible, to its own material, financial and human resources. It would further be established upon a productive base that is technically advanced, economically diversified, in total control of its sources of wealth and means of production, ensuring food security, capable of sustained development and optimum utilization of human resources. It would also generate an innovative social and cultural environment conducive to increased rates of development.

14. The targeted comprehensive development requires the participation of human resources, both men and women, in strengthening its foundations and in the partaking of responsibilities and benefits. This would in turn necessitate the development of economic and social structures and the reformation of the distribution systems of income and services in order to create more opportunities for social justice and to obviate forms of actual and disguised unemployment. This development would increase the satisfaction of basic needs for all citizens, especially the most disadvantaged groups to which a large number of women belong. Satisfying basic needs includes the material needs of food, housing, health, potable water as well as the social, spiritual, and moral needs of education, employment, culture, social security, family life, recreation, mobility and participation in the issues of the society.

15. Meeting basic needs does not only mean imitating the consumption pattern of commodities and services of the industrial societies. Such imitation would constitute a burden on development or allow the present generation to enjoy the fruits of development at the expense of the future generations. Within this context, the family, and woman in particular, play an effective role in rationalizing and directing consumption, especially among the privileged social groups.

C. Dimensions of equality between women and men

16. Equality represents a factor interacting with other constituents of economic, social, political and cultural development which leads to productivity and social justice. All constitutions and legislations of the region affirm legal equality in the different spheres of life. The issue of equality of women, at its core, is linked to the social and cultural environment, to local custsoms and mores varying in their nature in different countries of the region, and to the awareness of women and men of their rights and responsibilities. This issue is also tied to the improvement of administrative and executive procedures and practices that would allow the full participation of women in the region, and would facilitate a breakthrough in those prevailing customs and traditions militating against progress.

III. INDICATORS OF THE SOCIAL SITUATION OF WOMEN IN THE REGION

17. The ECWA region has witnessed during the United Nations Decade for Women noticeable endeavours towards the integration and participation of women in development, as contributors and beneficiaries. However, the accomplishments have not matched the aspired goals of either governments or the general public. Progress achieved has varied among countries due to the historical point of departure of their respective development programmes. A number of countries in the region had only in the beginning of the 1970s gained their political independence and the economic control of their resources. It must be noted also that countries of the region vary with regard to their natural resources, their area size, human resources and financial capabilities.

18. Against these differences in socio-economic conditions, it must be noted that an objective evaluation should record the significant achievements in economic growth and social progress, which include, inter alia, the progress achieved in the participation of women in development encompassing their training, employment and contribution to many spheres of social life.

19. Mention must be made of some of the indications of progress achieved in educational opportunities in the various cycles of education. At the beginning of the Decade, the ratio of female students to the total population in schools did not exceed 25 per cent as compared to 33 per cent at its end. In seven countries of the region, it was possible at the end of the Decade to enrol all children within the compulsory schooling age in the first cycle of education. In one country the compulsory school age was extended to 15 years instead of 12, while the enrolment ratio of girls at the beginning of the Decade did not at best exceed 65 per cent. However, in a number of countries the enrolment ratio of females of compulsory school age ranged between 70 and 30 per cent. It should also be noted that in some countries of the region the ratio of girls equalled that of boys in the intermediate, secondary, and higher stages of education. However, by and large, the disparity between the two sexes remained significant in all stages of schooling in most of the countries of the region.

20. The achievements gained in the field of education were, however, not matched by a similar advance in the field of employment. Taking into consideration discrepancies of employment data at the end of the Decade, the participation of women in economic activities did not, at best, surpass 20 per cent of the total labour force, while the corresponding percentage for the beginning of the Decade was only 18 per cent. The minimum range increased from 3.5 to 4.5 per cent. The majority of the countries lay between these maxima and minima. The female par-

ticipation ratio to the total female population in the labour force ranged between 10 per cent as a maximum and 4 per cent as a minimum.

21. Though data on most health indicators in countries of the region are not classified according to sex of the subjects studied, some general indicators point to a noticeable improvement in health conditions. Governments expanded health facilities in terms of establishing health units, mother-and-child care centres, hospitals, provisions for potable water and sewage systems. Nevertheless these health services still fall short of the needs of the population, especially in rural and bedouin areas. Some indicators reveal significant differences between infant mortality rates of the sexes. Despite the scarcity of data regarding the mortality rate of pregnant mothers, the available data indicate a significant decrease in some of the countries during the Decade; however, this ratio remained quite high in comparison with the prevailing ratios in the industrialized countries.

22. In the area of political participation, countries in the region which have enacted women's rights in the areas of voting and membership in legislative councils have taken effective measures to strengthen the implementation of these rights. In one country, certain parliamentary constitutencies were earmarked only for women with a view to ensuring a reasonable weight for their representation. Women also participate in political parties in those countries where party politics are practised. There are also a few countries with parliamentary structures that do not allow women to be representatives; in others women were not able to be elected in spite of their full political rights.

23. It should be recognized that in spite of the progress made in combatting illiteracy, this impediment still remains an obstacle in the development of women's awareness to enable their political participation at the local and national levels. It is worth noting that one of the countries in the region succeeded in almost completely eradicating adult illiteracy through a national compulsory campaign. However, the percentage of adult iliteracy continued to be high in most countries of the region, with higher ratios among women as compared with men. The disparity in ratios was double in certain cases, and generally greater in countries with higher population density.

24. Representation of women in trade unions and professional associations remained at a low level, notwithstanding the relatively meagre improvements in this situation during the Decade. Although some women reached the ranks of political leadership in certain countries, the political participation of women on the whole was generally limited. Mention must be made of the effective role of some women's organizations in directing women's efforts and providing relevant services. However, most

women's organizations were dominated by their traditional role of welfare and relief services to the poor.

25. The above-mentioned indicators reveal the trends in achievements and the distance to be covered in societal changes in order to improve the conditions of women and to ensure their fullest participation in the national stream of life. If governments have an important role in providing the necessary requisites that facilitate the integration of women in development, women themselves should also shoulder their responsibility in the optimum utilization of the available opportunities and services and in the exercise of their rights. A leading role in this direction in incumbent on women's organizations and educated women.

IV. BASIC SOCIAL TRENDS AND FACTORS AFFECTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONDITIONS OF ARAB WOMEN IN THE REGION TO THE YEAR 2000

26. Basic societal orientations to the year 2000 have to be derived from a pattern of development which is self-reliant, independent and directed towards improvement in the quality of life of human beings. This pattern of development would not be confined to the present course of modernization, growth of gross national product or capital accumulation. The new pattern of development would also require reassessing the rights and duties of the citizen and adopting creative alternatives in developmental efforts with a view to securing, inter alia, full and effective participation of women in these efforts.

27. Basic orientations of development should form guideposts for correcting sourses of action in order to achieve the following: a sustained expansion of employment opportunities; elimination of real and disguised unemployment and imbalances in the supply and demand of the labour force resulting from surpluses in some sectors together with shortages in others; and remedying the dearth of critical skills needed for vital sectors. These orientations should also aim at reducing the continuous flow of migration of the labour force from rural to urban areas and from small towns to cities, particularly to primate cities, in order to mitigate the weight of problems resulting from unplanned urban growth. Involved in the basic orientations are also policy directions aimed at rationalizing patterns of consumption in a manner commensurate with the gaol of satisfying basic needs of all citizens. They also include the appropriate approach for ensuring the efficient performance of the executive machineries for both planning and administration.

28. Basic orientations must also direct and activate various social institutions such as the family, the educational system, the work institutions and the mass communications media, in order to create developmental awareness, better positive work

values, modify the traditional customs and mores impeding development, with special emphasis on the deeply entrenched attitudes towards the position, roles and potentialities of women. Such orientations would assist in making social institutions educative forces which would function in a consistent and harmonious manner in the socialization process of the individual and the formation of his/her thoughts, attitudes and behaviour. Within this context, regard and respect for women as full-fledged citizens, enjoying equal rights with other citizens, would be affirmed. The importance of improving women's condition would, in consequence, derive its justification, not solely from an economic standpoint, but would include the whole human perspective of life, the context of which would be conducive to self-fulfilment of women and the development of their intellectual, spiritual, physical, social, scientific and creative capacities, in other words, the development of the total personality.

29. Basic orientations with regard to the participation of women in the process of development should underscore the notion of the participatory scope in its fullest and broadest dimensions. This includes three main areas, namely; participation in decision-making, participation in its execution and, thirdly, participation in obtaining a fair share of its benefits and bearing a fair share of its burdens and sacrifices. In moving towards the implementation of greater and fuller participation of women, their specific conditions in the region must be duly considered, taking account of the historical factors that have gone into their present status, impeding their advancement, and the social traditions that hinder them from seeking, and committing themselves to, fuller participation.

30. In recognizing the importance of constitutional and legal frameworks as well as the political will in advancing the cause of women, the direction of any prospective move must also accord special attention to the translation of those frames into policies, programmes and projects that would be instrumental in channelling the change in the intended direction. In this respect, approaches and priorities will vary according to the economic and cultural level of women in the different social strata and in different geographical areas. Priorities may range from meeting basic material, social, cultural or political participation needs. However, the ultimate goal remains the satisfaction of all human needs and the affirmation of women's equality and their full participation in the life of society and its destiny.

31. An alternative pattern of development, which is independent in its decision-making and creative in its approach, has to be sought. Towards such an endeavour the fabric of this pattern must be woven in a manner that integrates the lively authentic elements and values in the tradition with those of contemporary innovations and achievements of science. This will

affirm the cultural identity of the region, enable it to interact critically with the experiences of other cultures in the modern world, and secure self-confidence for the Arab individual in his or her own capabilities. On such a basis international co-operation would be sustained without any prejudice or distrust.

32. Future orientations should also focus on the intensification of efforts for strengthening pan-Arab co-operation for integrating development programmes and projects, as proclaimed in the "Strategy for Arab Joint Economic Action" adopted at the Amman Summit Meeting in 1980, which emphasized the need for collective self-reliance among Arab States. Among the priorities requiring joint action are the need for the diversification of the economy and the importance of utilizing the current relative advantage of oil revenues in this direction, particularly in the area of agricultural production for affording food security, and in the area of human resources development aimed at improving labour productivity and creativity for both sexes. Arab joint action should also give due attention to the organization and rationalization of labour migration between the countries of the region.

33. However, the fulfilment of these aspirations, and of the goals of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, are subject to certain determinants within and outside the region. These determinants and the factors involved therein are interlinked, and their future course to the year 2000 is open to several alternatives. These future determinants include:

(a) Achieving rates of economic and social development commensurate with the satisfaction of the basic population needs. As is well known, a mutual course of interaction exists between the size and quality of population on the one hand and the efforts of development and its consequences on the other hand. Some demographic projections estimate that the size of population in the region by the year 2000 will reach 180 million, approximately half of which will be female. This would necessitate meeting the needs of the increasing numbers in population and improving their quality of life. In this connection the Amman Declaration on Population in the Arab World states the need for "the achievement of appropriate population growth rates which implies birth rates consistent with the desired growth rates, in conjunction with the maximum possible reduction of mortality rates, particularly with regard to infants and children". With the high fertility rate among women in the region, family awareness, particularly with regard to reproductive behaviour, represents a vital factor in the population-development matrix and the desirable policies to be adopted therein. As changes in population require a long time-horizon to produce a noticeable result, the population dimension will remain as a determinant to the year 2000;

(b) The capabilities available for full control over the economic resources and their optimum utilization, the reinvestment of their proceeds in the development process, the ability to check excessive consumerism, and the success in achieving pan-Arab integrated development programmes and joint action within the framework of collective self-reliance that would lead to a state of less dependency on the industrialized countries and multi-national corporations;

(c) The extent to which countries in the region would master the instruments of scientific knowledge and technological know-how, adopt a critical approach to the transfer of technology, and its adaptation to the needs of development, and develop their technological cadres of specialists and encourage their creativity through training and research institutions;

(d) The range variability in the factors of production and their flexibility of transfer, particularly in regard to the transfer of capital and the flow of labour between the countries of the region;

(e) The nature and extent of development in the ideological climate and the value-system that would prevail up to the end of the century. The course of development in this connection would have a direct impact on the quality of social awareness and the attitudes towards the position and role of women and their participation in the different walks of life. The problématique of tradition and modernity figures as a primary concern in the idealogical context of the region as the search continues for a base for a fruitful interaction between tradition and the new variables of contemporary life;

(f) The impact of world economic crises on the region, particularly with regard to the pricing of raw materials, oil, manufactured commodities, and other vital items of international trade as well as the needs of industrial and agricultural production, all of which depend on the extent of progress in achieving the goals of the Third International Development Strategy during the 1980s for bringing about stability in international economic relations;

(g) The extent and level of success in the outcome of the North-South dialogue towards achieving fruitful co-operation between third world and industrialized countries in their endeavour to establish the New International Economic Order;

(h) Last, but not least of the future determinants for human development, is the degree of success that international efforts would reach in ending foreign occupation and wars in the region, on the basis of General Assembly resolutions on the Palestinian people, the Security Council resolutions on the invasion of southern Lebanon and the Iraqi-Iranian war. The need for the establishment of a just peace and preserving national independence stand as the highest priority among the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women in the region.

PART TWO

Priorities, Policies and Programmes

I. POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND THE IMPROVEMENTS IN LEGAL STATUS

Political participation is a basic foundation in improving the status of Arab women in the region as a means for participating in decision making, in enacting legislation, and in defending their rights and interests. This necessitates the following:

1. Taking the necessary measures for incorporating into the national charter equal rights for men and women in political rights including the right to vote, nominate, and participate in political representation at all levels. This would include national legislative councils, local government organs, trade unions and professional organizations in countries whose constitutions and legislations do not stipulate the participation of women in political organs;

2. Affirming the necessity of granting women equal rights in terms of assuming higher executive positions in various governmental administrative bodies and organs, at both the central and local levels, and considering qualifications and capabilities as the basic criteria for the assumption of such positions;

3. Promoting educational and cultural facilities which aim at creating collective social awareness regarding the importance of women's participation in political life; this would allow the provision of the appropriate social climate that prompts women to assume their political rights with full confidence;

4. Reviewing and developing laws and regulations pertaining to employment so as to ensure women's rightful share in the production process, expand the scope of social benefits to encompass working women in the private sector, the agricultural sector and workers in the domestic sectors;

5. Taking the necessary measures to provide guidance for women regarding the rights afforded to them, to render legal assistance in securing those rights and to simplify the adopted procedures in this connection;

6. Urging Arab countries which did not ratify either the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against women issued in 1979 or the conventions and agreements of the Arab and international labour organizations pertaining, *inter alia*, to employment conditions, protection of workers and maternity benefits, and taking the

necessary executive measures to ensure comprehensive and thorough application of the terms of these agreements.

II. EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTION

Since work constitutes one of the human rights, with all that is linked to it in terms of obligations and responsbilities, this principle should apply to all human beings alike, be they men or women. It is within this framework that women's role should be perceived in terms of participation in the labour force. Their role involves several areas of activity in various sectors and its value goes beyond the economic consideration; it acquires social, political and cultural content in addition to its function in realizing self-fulfilment and satisfaction. This necessitates the following:

1. Mobilizing women's productive capabilities as a human asset with potentials that have not been effectively utilized or properly employed within the context of development efforts;

2. Securing social conditions that facilitate women's full participation in the political, economic, social and cultural aspects of life, by promoting their knowledge and expertise, developing their skills and providing the necessary conditions for expanding the base of their full participation;

3. Undertaking studies forecasting the labour-market potential up to the year 2000, indicating patterns of supply and demand and expected developments in this connection, including women's positions and the expected areas of work in the light of these forecasts. These would be utilized as guidelines for determining the balance of labour supply among men and women and its requirements in terms of preparation, training, employment and production activities;

4. Formulating the necessary policies dictated by the continuous increase in the ratio of women participating in the labour force as an integral part of the plan for developing human resources and what it entails in terms of determining types of investments and projects and in regarding the increase in this ratio as one of the objectives of the successive development plans;

5. Utilizing modified and innovative development techniques with the aim of facilitating the inclusion of the promotion of the status of women as a variable within the framework of inputs envisaged in development models. This also entails formulating quantitative and qualitative development and assessment indicators to facilitate planning and follow-up action for the development of women's participation in all fields of work within the context of the cultural characteristics of Arab societies;

6. Preparing and training women professionals specialized in the field of economic and social planning and its techniques as an effective contributing factor at the professional level in identifying the needs of women and the requirements of their participation in the labour force;

7. Formulating policies and programmes for encouraging women to engage in all areas of work as necessitated by present and future economic and social requirements in terms of new and specialized professions and skills, and emphasizing the incentives which notivate women to participate in the commodity production sectors in addition to the management and services sectors;

8. Enacting legislation and laws that ensure equality between women and men in labour rights such as equal pay, equal opportunities for promotion and development of skills and equal social security benefits. This would apply to countries whose legislations do not stipulate sucn terms. It also involves applying deterrent measures to ensure the application of such legislations and to safeguard women's rights to resort to legal measures in case of discriminatory treatment because of sex or marital status;

9. Affirming the family's right to join its household supporter upon his migration to an Arab country other than his country of origin, and providing employment and training opportunities for the female force in such families, especially in countries which import labour to implement their development plans and projects;

10. Planning and implementing the appropriate services which would allow women to combine their familial and vocational responsibilities, so that neither would negatively affect the other, and would serve to lighten family responsibilities and facilitate regularity and efficiency in women's professional performance. The need for such services becomes more imminent in the light of the expected growth in the female labour force within the time perspective of this strategy and up till the year 2000;

11. Enacting laws and procedures which would enable women to work on a part-time basis, allow flexible working patterns and hours suitable to the life conditions of women and their various social roles, and fulfil their interest in resuming work in case of its cessation owing to family responsibilities;

12. Supporting women's role in the socialization process within the family and in developing work values among the younger generation, regarding this role as instrumental in effecting social and economic development;

13. According priority to the work of women who devote their time to family and home affairs, and taking the appropriate measures to develop these home responsibilities as an integral activity within the development efforts and as a function for the continuity of generations, the cultivation of values, and the transmittal of knowledge and expertise from one generation to another. This is in addition to the necessity of providing training opportunities which would enable this sector of women to participate in activities of the local community and to be involved in societal issues at large, in both their intellectual and practical aspects;

14. Developing the activities of women engaged in the informal sector of employment with a view to improving their level of productivity and to bringing their activities in closer linkage with production and services that fulfil requirements of national development;

15. Providing increased opportunities for women to participate in decision making and to assume higher managerial posts in the government structure and in the public and private sectors on the basis of appropriate qualifications, expertise and competence without prejudice against the female sex in the assumption of leading managerial posts;

16. Enacting legislations that require large private enterprises to provide social, health, cultural and literacy services for women employed by these institutions;

17. Determining the minimum wage threshold within the private sector in countries which have not yet formulated such policy and monitoring its implementation in all countries of the region in order to safeguard the rights of women engaged in private factories, small shops and domestic services;

18. Requesting trade unions and professional associations to provide opportunities for women to assume leading positions within their ranks in order to ensure working women fullest utilization of technical, professional and scientific knowledge required for their development, for increasing their productivity, ameliorating their working conditions and availing themselves of opportunities for participation in cultural, professional and leadership training activities;

19. Requiring governmental and private institutions to establish day-care centres in factories and institutions engaging women, in addition to expanding such services in the society at large, and according working mothers priority in benefiting from such services.

III. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Increasing the participation of women in economic and social development necessitates increasing the effectiveness of the role of women through developing their knowledge, skills and expertise. This, in turn, requires linking the educational policy with development needs in terms of human resources comprising both men and women. This can be achieved through the following:

1. Taking the necessary measures and procedures to implement, the "Arab Strategy for the Eradication of Illiteracy" adopted by the Third Alexandria Conference held in Baghdad in 1976, which aimed at the total eradication of illiteracy among males and females within the age groups of 15 to 45 years. For literacy campaigns, it is advisable to draw upon experiences of some Arab countries which have already succeeded in eradicating illiteracy among adults or made a great thrust forward in this direction. The objective is to eliminate illiteracy in all countries of the region by the year 2000.

2. Urging women's organizations and other popular institutions, labour unions and professional organizations to participate in the efforts needed for literacy campaigns and to mobilize their voluntary capabilities in supporting official efforts in this connection;

3. Utilizing effectively the mass media in literacy campaigns, particularly in the use of television, which can play a significant role in the educational activities addressed to women who work at home;

4. Organizing various programmes for adults and informal education for women and developing these programmes so as to improve women's knowledge and skills in their diversified social roles. This can be achieved by utilizing various educational media and establishing links between adult education and the formal educational system in order to enable women to pursue their education to the utmost limits of their capabilities and talents. This pattern of education enhances the development of women's intellectual growth in cases of cessation of employment and subsequent resumption of work;

5. Developing the planning processes of the education system to ensure its complementarity with the processes of economic and social planning, and to prepare and train both sexes in various occuptions and skills necessitated by the developmental requirements in short, medium and long terms;

6. Observing the universalization of compulsory education for children of compulsory school age and paying special attention to increasing the ratio of female enrolment in this stage and taking the necessary educational and social measures (i.e.

providing food and health services at schools) for the purpose of ensuring the absorption of girls in this educational level and limiting their drop-out rates. Arab countries should make concerted efforts during the years of the Strategy to achieve full enrolment of boys and girls in the primary cycle in those countries where enrolment falls short;

7. Providing the necessary attention for establishing and expanding day-care centres and kindergartens and for securing State supervision, in order to ensure sound educational practices during early childhood and alleviate the responsibilities of working mothers;

8. Reviewing school curricula, teaching methods and textbooks and developing their contents in order to provide both boys and girls with a common culture, achieve a balanced education comprising the growth of scientific, vocational and cultural knowledge and to correct the traditional female stereotyped image which confines women's participation in social life to limited fields;

9. Increasing the ratio of women's enrolment in technical institutes, especially in the fields of industry and agriculture, and providing the necessary incentives for registering in these specializations which would open up additional opportunities for employment of women in the different fields of production. Mass media should be utilized to expand awareness among parents as to the value of enroling girls in technical fields which are important for developing the national economy;

10. Expanding the establishment of vocational training centres and earmarking training courses for women who wish to acquire new skills or to develop their present ones. Vocational training can be achieved through vocational training centres or through specially designed on-the-job-training with emphasis on training programmes for skills required for economic and social development;

11. Developing teacher training institutions and colleges so as to provide opportunities for their graduates to assume leadership in their local community and to co-operate with the various government specialists in creating social awareness and organizing self-help efforts generated by the initiative of the local population;

12. Expanding educational opportunities for girls, especially at the university level, encouraging them to select scientific and technical fields of specialization, and granting relative advantage to those who completed the first university degree in these specializations, through the provision of financial support during the pursuance of higher education within their own country or abroad;

13. Setting up a system of in-service training which provides equal opportunities for women and men for improving their production efficiency, continuing their development through on-the-job performance and enabling them to be promoted within the administrative structure up to leading managerial positions.

IV. NUTRITION, HEALTH SERVICES, AND HOUSING

Since nutrition, health services and housing are among the basic needs of human beings and are among their fundamental rights, the provision of these requirements is considered a human and social necessity acknowledged in all national, regional and international charters. These needs should be met within the framework of the priorities and policies listed hereunder:

1. Giving priority to food production in the agricultural sector, ensuring the provision of reasonably priced food supplies, and bearing in mind its implications for developing women's skills in the agricultural process, in animal husbandry, poultry farming, grain storage, and cottage industries and other rural and industrial processes related to food production;

2. Paying attention to expanding awareness among women in terms of sound nutritional practices and methods of food preservation, and resorting to various mass communication and cultural media to achieve this objective through attractive and interesting programmes;

3. Giving priority to programmes pertaining to health services, preventive measures, and environment, especially in terms of potable water, sewerage systems, and prevention against contagious diseases, as well as adherance to measures promoting immunity against diseases for both adults and children;

4. Expanding the establishment of health-service institutions, especially maternal, child-care, and health centres and providing the necessary professional and technical staff and medical supplies that would ensure effective and adequate coverage for those who need such services;

5. Providing continuous training for medical and medical-support staff at the various levels and for various specializations, with particular emphasis on professional groups that maintain direct contact with citizens, since these groups are at the front line of administering health services;

6. Incorporating basic components of basic health and nutritional education in the regular educational programmes, in adult-education programmes, and in educational and recreational programmes disseminated through mass media;

7. Adopting the approach of basic health services in rural areas and among bedouin concentrations and involving local women's leadership groups in the utilization of those services as a basic link in the structure of preventive health services;

8. Expanding the State-built economic and limited-income housing and appropriate rural dwellings, making them available for ownership and rent at reasonable prices, providing soft loans for private houses, and designing them to meet the various functions required by the beneficiaries and to alleviate the daily responsibilities of women;

9. According special emphasis on enlisting the participation of women in the design of housing schemes and the establishment of new human settlements.

V. FAMILY

Constitutions, charters, and legislations in the region have asserted the role of the family as the nucleus of social organization in Arab societies. It is necessary therefore to provide it with the economic, social, cultural and psychological conditions that would ensure its stability and satisfy its needs. This would require:

1. Asserting family and maternal care as a national and developmental responsiblity, a significant component of economic and social development, and an effective unit in achieving the targeted developmental goals;

2. Expanding the services that would enable the family to secure its requirements of nutrition, suitable dwelling, health care, and to perform its responsbilities in the socialization of its members in general, and equitable rearing of children of both sexes;

3. Consolidating the right of women to choose their social roles within and outside the family, and considering family responsibilities as developmental activities that require the provision of the necessary conditions for their efficient performance. This would also require, in the case of women devoted to home responsibilities, making available opportunities for education and cultural services and for participation in social activities outside the home;

4. Securing the legal and social measures to preserve family cohesion, exercise its principal function in the socialization of future generations, establish closer co-operation with the various educational and socializing institutions and organizations, and formulate the appropriate means for strengthening family cohesion, which would protect it from the negative impact of rapid socio-economic change;

5. Facilitating procedures for housewives to engage in vocational and commercial activities through loans and financial assistance;

6. Providing the material and technical assistance to families who provide care for the disabled, the aged, or for those who have lost their immediate support. This stems from acknowledging the Arab family as the most effective unit in administering social care, which in turn requires forging links with specialized social welfare institutions when family members require such institutional care.

VI. MASS MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION PROGRAMMES

Mass media and communication programmes play a significant role in forming social attitudes and values. In this connection, the different media must focus on the image of women capable of participating in various spheres of life, in addition to their positive contribution to the socialization of children. This would require:

1. Formulating information policy to alter the traditional stereotyped image of women reflected by the different information media, mainly the press, television, radio, cinema, theatre and fine arts;

2. Presenting an alternative image of women that stresses the productive aspects of female work, and ceases the excessive portrayal of the consumer activities of women which reduces their human potentialities to that role;

3. Producing innovative information programmes aiming at increasing the awareness of women and men of women's diversified roles covering economic, social, and political spheres of life;

4. Training female specialists in the field of information, skills of programme planning and art of execution;

5. Assumption of an effective role by women's organizations in counteracting media programmes and advertisements that exploit the image of women, and utilizing publications to present a positive image.

VII. WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

The organization of women in their own institutions, organizations and associations is considered a driving force towards gaining their rights and fulfilling their responsibilities. Women's organizations would provide the structures that would allow women to participate actively in fields of planning and co-ordination of policies and programmes relevant to the general societal context or to women's special needs. This would necessitate:

1. Ensuring the right of women to form their own organizations in order to mobilize their concerted efforts as contributors and beneficiaries in the course of development, and to facilitate the creation of conditions that would allow these organizations to co-operate and co-ordinate their activities with the appropriate government institutions, and with other non-governmental organizations and professional associations;

2. Extending material and technical support to women's organizations to enable their programmes and projects to contribute to meeting effectively women's evolving real needs;

3. Requesting women's organizations to exert greater effort in training present and potential women leaders, including those in rural areas and urban low-income communities;

4. Calling upon women's organizations for more initiative and pilot efforts in the field of literacy, preventive health, provision of employment opportunities for women, increasing productivity and strict monitoring of laws related to women's rights. These organizations are also required to motivate women to participate actively in political activities at different levels, in addition to their support to governmental efforts in these fields, particularly at the level of local communities and bedouin settlements;

5. Undertaking necessary measures to secure the participation of women's organizations in development planning and programming processes, in order to reflect the needs, problems, and aspirations of women, and enable them to develop the needed planning awareness commensurate with the orientations of national plans in the fields of production, consumption, socialization of children and the demands of the labour market;

6. Expanding the opportunities for women's organizations to underscore, through mass media channels, the positive efforts of women in political activities, agricultural and industrial production, services, creative scientific, technological, artistic, and musical contributions and other areas of participation in national life.

VIII. DISADVANTAGED GROUPS

The conception of women in society should transcend the general abstraction which perceives them as a homogeneous entity-hence the importance of recognizing differences among women based on social stratification, economic conditions and geographic environments within any strategic perspective. The disadvantaged groups will be confined to three groups of women among the most needy who require the improvement of their conditions as follows:

(1) Rural and bedouin women

1. Formulating rural development policies as an integral part of national development policies for socio-economic development, making adequate investment for increasing both vertically and horizontally agricultural production, especially in terms of food production, providing basic facilities such as water and electricity, and improving living conditions in rural areas;

2. Establishing an organic link between industrial policy and the requirements of agricultural production and attempting to establish agro-industries in suitable areas with the aim of decreasing rural migration to capitals and cities;

3. Urging political, private and popular organizations at both the local and national levels to give due attention to raising the level of women's participation in these organizations, and also enabling them to participate in identifying their problems and needs, and in making the necessary decisions for meeting them;

4. Expanding the establishment of agricultural co-operatives and animal husbandry in pastural areas and fishery co-operatives in coastal villages in addition to marketing co-operatives, and encouraging women to participate in them;

5. Establishing institutions to provide agricultural loans and simplifying the procedures for benefiting from such services for both men and women involved in agricultural production and animal husbandry;

6. Establishing various programmes and flexible approaches for training rural and bedouin women in improving techniques of agricultural production, maintenance of agricultural machinery, home-based industries, animal husbandry and poultry raising, and for providing extension services both at home and on the farm in the areas of agricultural activities and veterinary medicine;

7. Attempting to distribute and structure services in accordance with the geographic distribution of human settlements in rural areas, using regional planning approaches in determining the spatial and economic dimensions of such services, taking the necessary measures to ensure women's utilization of these services through rural women extension workers for improvement of health practices, development of social awareness, and provision of guidance for rural women at home;

8. Identifying and adopting the necessary measures for limiting drop-out rates during the compulsory education stage as well as for adult literacy programmes, providing educational and social incentives for ensuring continuity and regular attendance of women in rural areas, developing educational programmes suit-

able to women's needs, and matching, in as far as possible, educational schedules with agricultural cycles;

9. Attempting to support programmes dealing with preventive health among rural and bedouin populations, especially for women and children by providing potable water, public amenities and comprehensive vaccination of children. It is also advisable to adopt the approach of primary health services and involve women leadership and educated girls in villages in providing these services after undertaking the necessary training. The application of this approach is deemed appropriate in villages and bedouin concentrations which lack health institutions or maternity and child-care centres;

10. Establishing centres for integrated rural development with the objective of training community extension workers, local leaderships and women's committees in a systematic fashion that would qualify them to engage in integrated rural work and to identify problems and present solutions to self-help projects, aided financially and technically by the government;

11. Preparing a systematic series of educational materials, extension guides, audio-visual aids and mass media programmes to expand awareness among rural and bedouin populations with regard to child rearing, health care, nutrition, food preservation, agricultural skills, prevention of diseases communicated by animals, etc, with a view to assisting rural workers in their extension activities;

12. Studying the needs of bedouin women in bedouin-settlement projects, providing the necessary services for them, and training them in agricultural skills as a basic component of settlement programmes;

13. Formulating the appropriate plans and programmes for adopting a policy aimed at the improvement of the bedouins' conditions in their temporary settlements as an interim alternative to a settlement programme, and utilizing the necessary mobile facilities for providing them with these services in their present localities.

(2) Urban women in low income environments

Many priorities and policies pertaining to rural women also apply to the required orientations and policies for alleviating the conditions of women in low-income urban environments, especially with respect to health, educational services and work opportunities. It is important to focus on the following:

1. Providing training and rehabilitation services for women living in inferior urban environments, especially for those who have newly migrated from rural areas to the city, with the

aim of enabling them to engage in productive activities and contribute to family income;

2. Focussing attention on the problems of preventive hygiene in order to avoid the spreading of contagious diseases, epidemics and environmental pollution which would require particular emphasis on programmes for health education;

3. Finding appropriate solutions for housing problems, including the provision of low-cost housing by the State;

4. Establishing offices for consultancy services in order to assist families to identify sources of civic and social services, familiarize them with work and training opportunities, and provide counsel in case of quarrels within living quarters, and soliciting the assistance of trained women cadres in providing such services during home visits.

(3) Disabled women

1. Offering immediate assistance to socially disabled women, within the framework of an overall social security system, including disabilities resulting from calamities, war, expulsion, loss of supporter, unemployment or other factors which qualify women for social assistance, and rehabilitating them at a later stage in preparation for their assumption of a normal life;

2. Attempting to integrate physically and mentally disabled women into society by providing the necessary health services and medical supplies, supporting family care and institutional care in cases of severe disability, and enabling them to be integrated in the normal course of social life as an ultimate objective;

3. Paying special attention to the care of elderly women, especially in the light of the increase in life expectancy in the region, and identifying the appropriate means for their continuing participation in social and family life and their fruitful enjoyment of old age;

4. Undertaking in-depth studies on juvenile delinquency among boys and girls, determining its causes, locations and symptoms, and formulating the preventive and educational measures to contain and reduce the impact of delinquent behaviour, and emphasizing the role of the family, cultural institutions and religious leaders in adopting corrective measures.

PART THREE

Women and Issues of Peace

Wars, which were forced on the people of the region, and the occupation of their land, continue to be the main obstacles to the process of development. In fact they have drained human, financial and material resources as well as contributed towards directing most of the efforts to defence and armament. The danger of foreign occupation and regional wars are manifested in the Israeli occupation of the land of the Palestinian people and other Arab territories; the Israeli aggression against Lebanon (June 1982); the continuous occupation of southern Lebanon, in addition to the Iraqi-Iranian war which has entered its fifth year. Women as well as men in the region have suffered from these wars and occupations. It can even be stated that the suffering of women in many instances was harder and more bitter than that of men. Hence, to support the efforts of a just peace in the region and achieve development and stability, the following actions need to be taken.

I. ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF THE LAND OF THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE

1. Implementing the United Nations resolutions relevant to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland, their self determination and establishment of their independent State in their own land;

2. Exertion of all efforts by the international community to stop the Zionist plans for establishing Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian land, practising policies of suppression, oppression, imprisonment, torture, expropriation of ownership, forced immigration, poisoning, assassinations and other inhuman practices, and to condemn such actions, which are regarded as a breach of the Geneva Convention of 1949, especially the articles pertaining to the treatment of civilians in times of war. This is a first step towards a just and peaceful solution to the Palestinian issue and a move towards the complete liberation of the Palestinian soil;

3. Providing financial and technical support for the Palestinian schools and universities in the occupied territories, and ending the practice of the Israeli authorities in closing down educational institutions, suppressing the academic freedom of teachers, and rendering the educational curricula void of national content;

4. Calling upon the United Nations, its organs and specialized agencies to undertake an investigatory study on the conditions of Palestinian women in and outside the occupied ter-

ritories, especially on opportunities for employment, education, health services and political rights;

5. Urging the international organizations and their funds to provide more financial and technical assistance to those institutions and programmes related to the improvement of the conditions of Palestinian women, in co-ordination and consultation with the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in accordance with the recommendations of the document entitled Special Measures of Assistance to the Palestinian Women (A/CONF.94(4) submitted by the Economic Commission for Western Asia to the World Conference for the Mid-Decade, held in Copenhagen, 1980.

II. ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF SOUTHERN LEBANON

1. Exerting all efforts to end the Israeli occupation of the Lebanese occupied territories in southern Lebanon, in fulfilment of Security Council resolutions 508 (1982) and 509 (1982) a step towards allowing Lebanon to regain its sovereignty and the unity of its land, to reconstruct its institutions, and to control its economic, social and cultural resources;

2. Providing financial and technical assistance by the United Nations, its specialized agencies and other international agencies in order to expedite efforts needed for the reconstruction of Lebanon and for the support of its economy and institutions.

III. THE IRAQI-IRANIAN WAR

1. Intensifying international efforts and mediation to end the Iraqi-Iranian war and to establish a just peace based on peace initiatives put forward by Iraq, the mediation of the Islamic States, the non-aligned countries and United Nations resolutions;

2. Working towards ending the Iraqi-Iranian war as a necessary basic condition to achieve stability needed for pursuing the process of development in the Gulf area, and to alleviate burdens faced by its citizens, especially women, in order to enable them to participate effectively in development activities;

3. Urging international women's organizations and unions to use their good offices and concerted action to pressure the international community to end the Iraqi-Iranian war in solidarity with the women from the region who are suffering from consequences of this war. This endeavour is to be considered as an integral part of the efforts seeking the establishment of international peace.

IV. PROBLEMS OF WORLD PEACE

International tensions and intensification of threats of cold war and other wars, and competitition in armaments on land, sea or in space impose a heavy burden on human and natural resources, and represent forces of destruction rather than construction. The establishment of international peace requires:

1. Supporting all national liberation movements in ending all forms of colonization and foreign occupation, in achieving their independence and self-determination, and in combating racial discrimination and apartheid;

2. Affirming positive stands towards efforts and negotiations aiming at arms limitation, especially of nuclear armaments, and creating international and national awareness regarding the consequences of the arms race which threatens humanity with the possibility of total destruction;

3. Supporting efforts undertaken to establish the New International Economic Order, which would ensure the correction of the status of developing countries in the international division of labour, based on justice and efficiency, and would liberate them from economic and cultural dependency thereby enabling the peoples of the third world to enjoy their just share of their respective national wealth and efforts;

PART FOUR

Regional and International Co-operation

I. ARAB REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

Efforts of regional co-operation and joint Arab action support and reinforce national efforts. They involve activities to be undertaken in a more efficient manner at the regional level. They also ensure the observance, at the national level, of the main directives, priorities, and policies adopted at the regional level. This would require undertaking the following measures and programmes:

1. Co-ordinating regional programmes and activities concerned with the full participation of Arab women and organized by regional organizations such as the League of Arab States and its specialized agencies, the United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia, the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the offices and regional bureaus of the United Nations specialized agencies, and Arab women's organizations and federations. Such co-ordinations would include research, studies, training, planning and implementing programmes and joint ventures;

2. Continuing support for the Commission on Arab Women, and the technical organ for women's affairs in the secretariat of the League of Arab States through the recruitment of qualified personnel to perform their duties in an effective manner;

3. Strengthening, financially and technically, the secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia in order to allow it to continue its efforts in studying, monitoring and evaluating the situation of women in the region, and in providing technical assistance to its members, thus enabling it to meet the additional responsibilities required for achieving the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women and implementing this Strategy;

4. Urging Arab development funds and the specialized funds of the Arab Councils of Ministries to participate in financing the programmes and regional projects that benefit women directly or indirectly;

5. Calling upon Arab Organizations and ECWA to compile and publish a directory of organizations, governmental and non-governmental agencies that deal with the status of women, in addition to names of professional women specialized in economic and social fields for assisting in the exchange of expertise and experience among the Arab countries and on the international level;

6. Supporting the efforts to establish a regional Arab documentation centre and its national offices specialized in Arab women's affairs;

7. Encouraging regional technical agencies and the social scientific institutions to collect information and data and conduct research related to the status of women in the context of economic and social changes, to disseminate data, information, and studies, to publish journals, and newsletters, and to establish the necessary machinery for exchanging such information and materials;

8. Urging the Arab regional and international organs to convene regular regional meetings during the period of the Strategy to the Year 2000 to follow up and monitor the changes in conditions of women in the region, and to propose solutions for overcoming obstacles encountered in implementating this Strategy;

9. Studying the feasibility of establishing flexible regional modalities to make available financial resources needed for the implementation of women's programmes and activities, including the preparation and training of female cadres and the support of national and regional women's organizations, and which would provide a new force for the advancement of women in the region, especially in its least developed countries;

10. Encouraging the participation of women in popular and official delegations to international and regional meetings and conferences without restricting representation only to meetings concerned with women's issues.

II. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

Action at the international level in the sphere of the United Nations and its specialized agencies reinforces and supports action at the national and regional levels. It also represents a catalyst in the activation and interaction of national and regional cultures for exchanging expertise and providing technical assistance. Action on the international level would include:

1. Continuing studies and research concerned with monitoring and evaluating achievements and obstacles encountered in the advancement of women during the period of the Strategy to the Year 2000, disseminating studies and reports on the various approaches adopted in plans and programmes for the advancement of women with a view to exchanging experiences among member States, particularly in the areas of policy-making and of pioneering endeavours;

2. Facilitating means of communications and flow of data and information between the United Nations systems and its specialized agencies on the one hand and the national and regional women's organizations on the other hand, in order to enable the latter to benefit from international experiences;

3. Urging international organizations to provide more technical assistance and evaluate projects pertaining thereto in terms of their impact on the conditions of women, and increasing projects earmarked for the advancement of women in employment and production, and enlisting women specialists in the formulation of such projects in accordance with the World Plan of Action (1975), World Programme of Action (1980), World Population Plan of Action (1975), recommendations of the World Population Conference (1984) and UNIDO IV (1984);

4. Strengthening the role of international funds in ensuring the inclusion of women in their technical assistance projects and in projects aiming at the integration of women in development, especially those directed to the disadvantaged women in rural and bedouin environments. This support would enable them to respond to the increasing demands from governments and organizations to assist women's programmes. Member States are urged to contribute to these funds in proportion to the increasing needs of projects related to the advancement of women;

5. Supporting the International Institute for Training and Research for the Advancement of Women in order to enable it to continue its activities and programmes in conducting studies, producing reports, and training, and in expanding the coverage of its services;

6. Requesting the United Nations to take the necessary measures to strengthen the leading role of ECWA in its programmes concerned with the integration of women in development by increasing the financial and technical resources available to these programmes and appointing in the ECWA secretariat a regional advisor for women's affairs;

7. Providing more information and data on the activities undertaken by the United Nations, its organizations and institutions for the integration of women in development, on ways and means by which they provide technical assistance to the countries of the region, and on its capabilities for implementing this Strategy and other international strategies to the year 2000 which will be adopted by the Nairobi World Conference;

8. Calling upon women of the world to support the Palestinian and the Lebanese women in their struggle to release detainees in Israeli prisons, and ending Israeli violations of human rights in the Palestinian and Lebanese territories;

9. Calling upon the industrialized countries to exert serious efforts towards decreasing their expenditure on armaments, agreeing speedily on disarmament issues, and preventing the spread of the international conflict to the region. This is a basic condition for détente, for securing international co-operation, and for investing resources to promote reconstruction and human welfare.