



**World Conference  
of the United Nations  
Decade for Women:  
Equality, Development and Peace**  
  
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SECOND COMMITTEE  
Agenda item 9

PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE, 1981-1985,  
DESIGNED TO IMPLEMENT THE WORLD PLAN OF ACTION:

- (b) REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TARGETS AND STRATEGIES, TAKING  
INTO ACCOUNT THE SUBTHEME "EMPLOYMENT, HEALTH AND  
EDUCATION"

Women in Agriculture and Rural Areas

Barbados, Botswana, Costa Rica, Cuba, Egypt, Ghana, Guyana, Haiti  
Jamaica, Lesotho, Mexico, Nicaragua, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago,  
Zambia and Zimbabwe: draft resolution \*/

The World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality,  
Development and Peace,

Recalling resolution 21 of the World Conference of the International Women's  
Year 1975 and General Assembly resolution 3523 (XXX) of 15 December 1975,

Understanding the importance of addressing the specific needs of the rural  
world and particularly rural women,

Recognizing that rural women throughout the world must be ensured equal access  
to water, to health services, to education, to employment, to transportation and to  
land with rural men and with urban people while remaining within their rural  
communities,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 31/175 of 21 December 1976 on  
effective mobilization of women in development, in which the Assembly urged Member  
States inter alia to ensure that women have equal access in agriculture to  
co-operatives and credit and loan systems, as well as equal opportunities to  
participate in policy-making in the economic field, and in commerce and trade in the  
advanced efforts of industry,

\*/ This draft resolution replaces draft resolutions C.2/L.28, L.32 and  
L.36 and is the result of consultations among the delegations concerned.

Extremely concerned that the review and appraisal of the economic and social situation of rural women contained in the report of the Secretariat (A/CONF.94/28) reveals that little or no positive improvements have taken place since the first half of the Decade,

Aware that although in many countries women grow, process and market food rural women lack production and management skills and access to information and related support services,

Urges Governments, United Nations organizations and other funding organizations to give special attention to the needs and priorities of rural women as determined by rural women themselves,

Recommends that all development processes and activities give due regard to community orientation with the aim of making it possible for rural women to remain in their own communities thus minimizing the flow of migration from rural to urban areas in countries where this is necessary,

Requests Governments to ensure that rural women:

(a) are provided with education, technology and training suitable to their needs, as identified by them in order to improve employment opportunities in rural areas,

(b) have access to credit and financing mechanisms on a basis of equality with men,

(c) be encouraged and assisted to attain key leadership roles in rural communities and organizations,

(d) be encouraged and adequately trained to participate actively in co-operatives and other organizations concerned with marketing,

(e) have free access to participate in rural industrialization programmes,

Further requests Governments to have trained professionals, rurally-oriented and specially concerned with education, health and employment, available in rural areas,

Also requests governmental and non-governmental organizations to encourage and support the cultural, economic and technical co-operation between rural women in developed and developing countries and among developing countries,

Calls on rural women throughout the world to become aware of their rights in order that they can exercise and benefit from them,

Also calls on rural communities to endeavour, in collaboration with the mass media, to reflect a more realistic picture of rural living, its problems and possibilities,

Urges the United Nations and organizations in the United Nations system, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization, to:

(a) Assist Governments to train women at the para-professional level in basic agricultural techniques as field workers so that they can travel and exchange appropriate technology as well as remain in their own environment and become direct links of communication with rural women in their fields and homes,

(b) Review their funding policies and priorities, especially with respect to action programmes for women, and in the next five years devote more funds to the unstinting development of rural and agricultural women, and

(c) Seek to employ many more highly qualified and skilled women in agriculture from all parts of the world at the policy-making level within United Nations agencies.