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WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Preparatory Committee
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Geneva, 19-30 April 1993
Agenda Item 6

REPORT ON OTHER MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Contribution from Women in Law and Development in Africa
(WiLDAF)

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 46/116, requested the Secretary-General to report to the Preparatory Committee on progress made on meetings that had been organized under the auspices of the United Nations programme pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/155.
2. By letter dated 1 April 1993, the Regional Coordinator of Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF) requested that the recommendations from two WiLDAF-sponsored meetings be circulated at the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee. The first, the Southern African Women's Human Rights meeting, was held from 10-12 March 1993 and attended by representatives of 24 organizations in 7 countries of the southern African region, and the second, the East Africa Sub-regional Meeting, was held from 22-24 March 1993 and attended by 51 participants from four countries of the East African region.
3. Both sets of recommendations, inter alia, call upon States to accept the obligations of international human rights law which protect women, to ratify and implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and to ensure that their domestic laws and practice are in conformity with their international obligations.

THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
SOUTHERN AFRICA WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS SATELLITE MEETING

10 - 12 March 1983, Mazvikadei, Banket, Zimbabwe

This meeting of 31 individuals representing 24 organizations in 7 countries of the Southern Africa sub-region:

RECALLING the commitment of the international community of States to the human rights principles of non-discrimination and equality between men and women as is evidenced by the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other human rights instruments,

CONCERNED that despite the obligations, contained in the human rights instruments ratified or acceded to by States, to promote and protect equality between men and women, discrimination against women continues to exist in law and practice

CONCERNED FURTHER that custom and tradition are used by States, State agencies and individuals to perpetuate discrimination against women in areas of legal status and capacity, family life and marital power, access to land, credit and other economic resources and citizenship

RECOGNIZING that systematic violence against women, is a violation of the fundamental right to physical, mental, emotional and sexual integrity of women

NOTING that the continued division of human rights into civil and political right on the one hand and social and economic rights on the other has seriously affected and continues to affect the rights of women and girl-children to health-care and education

NOTING FURTHER that the imposition and implementation of economic structural adjustment programmes on developing countries has very serious and negative implications for women's human rights in the family, at work, and in health and education

MINDFUL that access to information by populations is necessary for the protection and promotion of human rights

RECOMMENDS

1. that States reaffirm and commit themselves to effectively promote and protect the human rights of women within their territories. The international community of States must commit themselves to use all lawful means to promote and protect the human rights of women around the world.

2. that States ratify and implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and other human rights instruments

3. that States ensure that their domestic law and practice are in conformity with their international obligations under regional and international human rights instruments

4. that States recognize systematic violence against women as a violation of the human rights of women. States are under an obligation to take all necessary measures to stop this violence wherever it occurs

5. that States reaffirm the indivisibility of human rights and commit themselves to providing resources for the enjoyment of social and economic rights

6. that multilateral financial institutions and donor countries allow prior popular consultation to ensure that economic structural adjustment programmes do not result in or worsen systematic violations of the human rights of women

7. that States and international organizations recognize and act upon their obligation to disseminate information on human rights standards, state obligations and enforcement mechanisms.

THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
EAST AFRICA SUB-REGIONAL MEETING,
MARCH 22ND - 24TH, 1993

51 participants from non-governmental organizations from four countries of the East African region, (Uganda, Mauritius, Tanzania, Kenya) participated at the meeting.

RECALLING the commitment of the international community of states to the Human Rights principles of non-discrimination and equality between men and women as proclaimed by the U.N. Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other human rights instruments,

NOTING that despite ratification by member states of the international legal instruments, legal, economic, social, political, traditional, and cultural barriers continue to hinder women from achieving their full development potential,

CONCERNED that despite the objectives contained in the human rights instruments ratified by member states to promote, protect and maintain equality between men and women, discrimination against women continues to exist in law and practice,

CONCERNED FURTHER that member states, law enforcement agencies and individuals use negative customary laws and harmful traditional practices to deny women their constitutional, political, legal, socio-economic, cultural, health and reproductive rights,

NOTING that systematic violence whether in the private or public sphere against women apart from constituting a violation of their rights to physical, mental, emotional, psychological and sexual integrity, dignity and self-esteem, is above all a denial of their fundamental right to life,

NOTING FURTHER that the separation between first and second generation of rights is unacceptable, due to its negative effects on the rights of women in general, in the rights of girl children in particular, to health care, education and other social rights,

CONCERNED that the combined imposition and implementation of the structural adjustment policies and programmes constitute an impediment on women's human rights and in particular their socio-economic rights,

RECOGNIZING that illiteracy and ignorance of basic fundamental

rights constitute a major obstacle to the realization of women's human rights,
CONCERNED that the important roles of women as producers, reproducers and sustainers of agricultural economies and their contribution to the general development process of the member states are underestimated and/or ignored,

RECOMMENDS:-

1. That member states accept the obligation of international human rights law articulated in the international instruments and reaffirm and commit themselves to effectively promote and protect the human rights of women within their territories.
2. That member states ratify and implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and other human rights instruments. Reservations from member states should not nullify their obligations to protect and ensure the rights of women.
3. That member states ensure that their domestic laws and practice are in conformity with their international obligations under regional and international human rights instruments.
4. That the international community of states adopt a system of monitoring and redress of violation of women's human rights and commit themselves to use all lawful means to promote and protect the human rights of women around the world.
5. That member states recognize systematic violence against women as a violation of their fundamental human right and commit themselves to take all necessary measures to combat this phenomenon.
6. That states reaffirm the indivisibility of human rights and commit themselves to providing resources for the enjoyment of social and economic rights.
7. That multi-lateral financial institutions, donor countries and other donor agencies proceed by way of prior popular consultation to ensure that economic s t r u c t u r a l adjustment policies and programmes do not result in, or worsen systematic violations of the human rights of women.
8. That member states and international organizations reaffirm and adhere to their obligation to disseminate information on human rights standards, member states

obligations and enforcement mechanisms.

9. That member states should promote and encourage international co operation so as to ensure the realization of women's rights as guaranteed by the international instruments.