

Distr.
GENERAL
E/ESCWA/SD/1994/IG.1-WOM/3
26 March 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

ARAB REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN, BEIJING 1995

Amman, 6-10 November 1994

FINAL REPORT

First Segment

Expert Group Meeting on the Regional Plan of Action for the Advancement of Arab Women

6-8 November 1994

Agenda item 4

* Issued without formal editing.

95-0552

UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR WESTERN ASIA
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I. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

1. In cooperation with the League of Arab States and the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) convened the Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women: "Peace for the Advancement of Arab Women", in Amman, from 6 to 10 November 1994.

2. The Meeting consisted of two parts. The first was an expert group meeting to review and assess the progress achieved since 1985 towards the advancement of Arab women in the light of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and to draw up a draft Arab plan of action for the advancement of Arab women to the year 2005. The second part of the Meeting was a high-level segment, which was held on 9 and 10 November 1994 to discuss and adopt the above-mentioned plan.

A. OPENING OF THE MEETING

3. At the opening session of the Expert Group Meeting, the Executive Secretary of ESCWA and Mr. Hisham Al-Khatib, Minister of Planning of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, representing Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Bint Talal, patron of the Meeting, made statements welcoming the experts and participants and expressing the hope that the Meeting would lead to the formulation of an Arab plan of action which would help to intensify the efforts aimed at the advancement of Arab women.

4. In his statement, the Executive Secretary of ESCWA underscored the significance of the Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting, which had adopted "Peace for the Advancement of Arab Women" as its theme to serve as a basis for correcting, amending, crystallizing and reformulating the Draft Arab Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2005, which had been prepared by the ESCWA secretariat on the basis of the country reports and national plans of action submitted by the national committees of the member States, to whom he expressed gratitude. He also expressed the hope that all would work together to ensure that the amended Plan of Action reflected faithfully the situation and aspirations of women for the coming stage. The Plan would be submitted for adoption to the High-level Segment which would follow the First Segment of the Regional Preparatory Meeting and would be subsequently submitted to the Secretariat of the Fourth World Conference on Women in New York to be used in the drafting of the global Platform for Action which would be adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing (1995). The Executive Secretary further focused on the task of the First Segment of the Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting, which was to crystallize and finalize the Draft Arab Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women for the coming period so as to reflect the issues and concerns of Arab women as well as to identify priorities in the light of the new stage through which the Arab region was passing, taking into account the special conditions of each Arab State within the framework of the value system of Arab culture.

5. At the same session, Mr. Hisham Al-Khatib, Minister of Planning of Jordan, representing Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Bint Talal, patron of the Meeting, made a statement in which he focused on the current status of Arab women. He pointed out that more than half of the world's women were illiterate and that most human development indicators relating to Arab women were lower than comparable figures for developing countries. That was one of the obstacles to the advancement of women which required the implementation of legislation that respected the rights and status of women in society as well as programmes to meet the various needs of Arab women. The transitional phase through which the Arab people were passing was a favourable opportunity to improve the status of Arab women and to strengthen it in a more stable society, which should take precedence over military spending and the waste of resources on war. He expressed the hope that an Arab plan of action would be adopted that would channel the efforts of all concerned authorities towards the advancement of Arab women (see appendix 2).

B. ATTENDANCE

6. A total of 420 participants and observers were present. The Meeting was attended by representatives of the national preparatory committees for the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing 1995 in their capacity as governmental experts of the following members of ESCWA: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Also attending the Meeting in their capacity as governmental experts were representatives of the national committees of the following Arab countries not members of ESCWA: Algeria, Djibouti, Mauritania, Morocco, the Sudan and Tunisia (see appendix 4).

7. A number of experts, university teachers and ESCWA consultants also participated in the Meeting.

8. Representatives of the following States Members of the United Nations took part in the Meeting as observers: Belgium, China (host of the Fourth World Conference on Women), France and the United States of America as well as the Holy See. The Meeting was also attended by representatives of some bilateral donors.

9. Numerous representatives of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and Arab and international funds also attended the Meeting.

10. A number of representatives of national, regional and international non-governmental organizations also attended the meeting as observers.

C. BUREAU OF THE MEETING

11. The secretariat of the Expert Group Meeting consisted of ESCWA, the League of Arab States and CAWTAR. The working sessions of the Expert Group Meeting were presided over by representatives of the ESCWA secretariat. The League of Arab States and CAWTAR also took part in conducting the Meeting.

D. AGENDA OF THE MEETING

12. The following provisional agenda was adopted at the same session:

1. Opening of the Meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Review and assessment of the situation of Arab women.
4. Draft Regional Plan of Action for the Advancement of Arab Women to the Year 2005: priority areas for consideration:
 - (a) Safeguarding the right of Arab women to participate in power and decision-making structures and mechanisms;
 - (b) Alleviation of poverty among Arab women;
 - (c) Ensuring equal opportunity for Arab women to obtain an education;
 - (d) Ensuring women's equal access to health services;

- (e) Strengthening the capabilities of Arab women to enter the labour market and achieve self-reliance;
 - (f) Coping with the effects of wars and armed conflict on Arab women;
 - (g) Other priority areas.
5. Consideration of the report on the First Segment and the Draft Regional Plan of Action for the Advancement of Arab Women to the Year 2005 for adoption before submission to the High-level Segment, 9 and 10 November 1994.

II. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

13. The Meeting discussed the report on the review and assessment of the progress achieved in the advancement of Arab women in the light of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies (draft) which had been prepared by the secretariat of ESCWA, and requested that amendments and additions put forward by participants be introduced, especially those relating to the assessment of achievements. In cooperation with the League of Arab States and CAWTAR, the secretariat of ESCWA will redraft the report, taking into consideration the amendments, additions and proposals put forward by participants as follows:

(a) The review and assessment of women's condition and achievements should cover all Arab countries;

(b) The situation of Arab women since 1985 should be assessed, and the obstacles faced by Arab women in implementing the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women should be determined;

(c) The detailed amendments put forward by the participants in the Meeting should be included in a manner consistent with the purpose of the document.

14. Mrs. Supatra Masdit, General Coordinator, Chief of the Planning Committee and the Preparatory Committee for the NGO Forum on Women, Beijing 1995, reviewed the most important steps and activities to be undertaken by NGOs until the time of the Beijing Conference.

15. Afterwards, the two coordinators of NGOs in the ESCWA region, Ms. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, President of the General Federation of Jordanian Women and Ms. Huda Badran, President of the Alliance of Arab Women in Cairo, reviewed the most important recommendations and fundamental components of the plan of action that was drawn up by the NGO Forum held in Amman from 3 to 5 November 1994.

16. Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Bint Talal, Chairperson of the NGO Forum, submitted to the ESCWA secretariat the plan of action of Arab non-governmental organizations so that the recommendations included in it could be taken into account in formulating the Regional Plan of Action.

17. Representatives of the youth of the ESCWA region also submitted a summary of the recommendations of the ESCWA Region Youth Consultative Meeting which was convened by the Secretariat of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing 1995, in Amman from 3 to 7 November 1994 under the patronage of Her Royal Highness, Princess Basma Bint Talal and in cooperation with the ESCWA secretariat and the

Jordanian Coordinating Office for the Beijing Conference in order to integrate those recommendations pertinent to youth in the regional Plan of Action for the Advancement of Arab Women to the Year 2005.

18. The participants discussed the draft Regional Plan of Action for the Advancement of Arab Women to the Year 2005. Members of the national committees, experts, and representatives of international organizations put forward numerous proposals, one of which was to change the title of the plan to "Arab Plan of Action for the Advancement of Arab Women to the year 2005" so as to cover all Arab States, including ESCWA member States and Arab/African States which are not members of ESCWA.

19. The Expert Group Meeting also took into account most of the comments, amendments and additions which were put forward by the participants and included them in the final version of the draft Arab Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2005.

20. The participants in the Expert Group Meeting on the Arab Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women to the year 2005 adopted the attached draft plan of action and it was agreed that it should be submitted to the High-level Segment of the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing 1995, which was held in Amman on 9 and 10 November 1994.

21. None of the other background papers were discussed, but they were distributed to the participants in the Meeting (see appendix 3).

Annex

**DRAFT ARAB PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN
TO THE YEAR 2005**



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STATEMENT OF MISSION

1. In implementation of resolution 37/7, adopted by the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, on the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing in 1995, and in implementation of resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the League of Arab States, a preparatory meeting was held in Amman from 6 to 10 November 1994 under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Bint Talal, Chairperson of the Jordanian National Committee for Women's Affairs. The meeting was divided into two segments. The first was an expert group meeting on the Arab Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women. The second segment was a high-level meeting to adopt the Plan. The organization and convening of the meeting were a joint and cooperative effort by the secretariat of ESCWA, the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, and the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR).
2. The objective of the Meeting is to formulate the Arab Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women and to have a framework of common Arab visions and positions for presentation to the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in 1995 as a contribution by the Arab region to the global Platform for Action for the Advancement of Women.
3. The Arab Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2005 (the Arab Plan of Action) is based on the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, on the international covenants relating to human rights and the rights of women and children, and on the international conferences relating to women and children, especially the World Summit for Children (1990), the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992), the World Conference on Human Rights (1993) and the International Conference on Population and Development (1994).
4. The Arab Plan of Action emanates from Arab cultural principles and the religious and humanitarian values that respect the rights of women as human beings and consider that their participation in the development process and in the fruits thereof is a precondition for the comprehensiveness and sustainability of that process. Based on the potential of those principles for cultural renewal, the plan for the next stage focuses on changing the image and stereotyped roles of women as well as on the advancement of women to equality, participation and total use of their capabilities.
5. The Arab Plan of Action includes the objectives, policies and measures aimed at enabling women to exercise fully their rights and assume their responsibilities in the development of society within the context of the Global Platform for Action, which calls for the elimination of the remaining obstacles to the integration of women in the sustainable development process.
6. The Arab Plan of Action is based on national reports which included the statistical indicators which the Secretariat of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995) distributed to the States Members of the United Nations. This Plan aims at addressing the issues of crucial importance included in the draft Global Platform for Action (resolution 37/7 of the Commission on the Status of Women). Those issues are the following:
 - (a) The inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels;
 - (b) Insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women;
 - (c) The lack of awareness of, and commitment to, internationally and nationally recognized women's rights;

- (d) The permanent and increasing burden of poverty on women;
- (e) Inequality in women's access to and participation in the definition of economic structures and policies and the productive process itself;
- (f) Inequality in access to education, health, related services and other means of maximizing the use of women's capacities;
- (g) Violence against women;
- (h) The effects on women of armed conflicts as well as other types of conflicts;
- (i) Insufficient use of the mass media for the promotion of the positive contribution of women to society;
- (j) Lack of adequate recognition and support for participation by women in the management of natural resources and in the protection of the environment.

7. The Arab Plan of Action takes into consideration the plan of action of the Arab NGOs which was adopted by the NGO Forum held in Amman from 3 to 5 November 1994 as well as the recommendations of the ESCWA Region Youth Consultative Meeting held in Amman from 3 to 6 November 1994.

8. The Arab Plan of Action describes the Arab and world framework as well as the foundations, principles, general goals and priorities relating to women and derived from their common ground in areas crucially important to the advancement of women in the Arab countries. The changes that occurred in relation to the status of women and their role since the Nairobi Conference in 1985 necessitated the preparation of a document reviewing and evaluating the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies as well as the drafting of an Arab Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2005 for the medium-term stage.

9. In the preparation of a draft global Platform for Action to be submitted as an official and basic document for adoption by the Beijing Conference in 1995, the Secretariat of the Fourth World Conference on Women (at United Nations Headquarters in New York) will rely on the plans of action adopted by the other regional commissions of the United Nations as well as on the Arab Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2005.

I. GENERAL FRAMEWORK

10. As they approach the twenty-first century, the Arab States face many challenges and economic, social, cultural and technical opportunities in a regional and international climate and in an atmosphere of accelerating changes and a tendency towards more economic and political domination which have particularly affected women. Therefore, the Arab Plan of Action, for whose implementation the governmental and non-governmental efforts will be joined to those of Arab, regional and international organizations, emanates from an accurate diagnosis of the conditions of the Arab region in general and of women in particular.

11. Recent years have been characterized by the formation of regional economic blocs and a global orientation towards the liberalization of international trade. The region is also witnessing the application of economic structural adjustment policies in many of the Arab countries, including a lesser role for the public sector and a reduction of government expenditure on services. The 1980s also witnessed an increase in

indebtedness and a slow-down of economic growth in some Arab countries. All that, in the absence of Arab economic cooperation, has resulted in adverse effects on the Arab economic situation in general and on women's employment and enjoyment of social services in particular.

12. The Arab States are facing political, economic, social, cultural and technical challenges in an international climate and accelerating changes characterized by a tendency towards more economic domination and extremist tendencies that distort the image of women.

13. The Arab region is facing numerous challenges which call for effective and innovative methods. With regard to natural resources, the major problem lies in the scarcity of water resources and the imbalances in the allocation of water and power sources, lack of national and regional strategies to create a balance between preserving the environment, on the one hand, and developing and exploiting natural resources on the other, and the inadequacy of planning and planning mechanisms.

14. The challenges that the Arab States face include a lack in the conceptualization of human development which does not take into account the sense of security; expanding the choices; achieving justice and equality between the sexes, including the development of the potential of women and youth; and the creation of conditions conducive to democracy based on [pluralism] and participation by citizens and women at the grass-roots level in decision-making, thus enabling society to achieve its desired goals in accordance with a comprehensive and integrated approach to development and in a democratic atmosphere.

15. In this connection, reference should be made to the absence of dialogue as a means of participation in many cases and to the occasional resort to violence in any of its forms, which produce tension and conflict, leading to family and social disintegration. It should be recognized that most of the causes of tension in society are essentially economic and social, though they sometimes assume a political and military character; oftentimes they are dealt with as a political and security phenomenon only. Some hostile parties exploit social tension to destabilize society.

16. In spite of all the progress achieved by the agricultural sector in some Arab countries, food security has not yet been achieved. This may be attributed to scarce water resources, as mentioned above, shortcomings in water use planning, uneven water distribution, the low level of the technology used in agriculture and inadequacy of the existing social and economic structures in rural areas for the technical modernization of agricultural activity and its development to be consistent with the goals of environmental protection.

17. The development of the industrial and agricultural sectors is closely linked to international trade, for both sectors increasingly depend on the outside world to meet their requirements, namely machinery, equipment and intermediate goods. The increasing dependence of the region on foreign trade is reflected in the increasing food imports and the predominance of primary agricultural materials over the non-oil exports of the Arab States. Therefore, the economies of the region are quite sensitive to the changes in the world economy, especially because some of the countries rely on crude oil exports, the prices of which are falling on the international markets while the prices of manufactured goods are tending to increase.

18. In addition, the rapid technological achievements in the world have led to the widening of the technological gap between Arab and industrial nations. Moreover, the absence of policies in the field of science and the weakness of Arab cooperation in that field as well as unfavourable external developments will limit the capability of national scientific and technological institutions to cope with rapid scientific and technological changes and to adapt them for use in the development of the Arab region.

19. Environmental dimensions are expected to have growing importance in the efforts of the Arab region to achieve sustainable development. It is necessary, in this context, to address the issues of desertification, industrial and non-industrial waste management, surface- and groundwater pollution, environmental degradation owing to urban expansion, and the environmental implications of wars, armed conflict and occupation. Environment should be viewed in its broad sense according to Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), with emphasis on sustainable development.

20. The shortcomings in the field of statistics, data and surveys, and especially the lack of data broken down by gender, hinder the efforts of Arab Governments to establish appropriate development policies regarding women. All this happens at a time when the possession, collection, analysis and transfer of information are important factors in determining the capability of countries to keep abreast of the times.

21. The success of the peace process depends on the immediate implementation of the international resolutions that secure Israel's complete withdrawal from all occupied Arab land in Palestine, southern Lebanon and the Syrian Golan. These resolutions also guarantee the right of the Palestinian people to return, self-determination and the establishment of an independent State on their land with Jerusalem as its capital, as well as the respect of the right of the Lebanese people to full sovereignty over their national territory. A comprehensive and just peace and stability in the region are prerequisites to development and equality. A comprehensive and just peace would free the human and financial resources that are being spent on military equipment and wars, when they could be geared toward development which provides women with equal opportunities for participation.

22. The economic sanctions imposed on the Iraqi people and which affect women and children in particular and constitute a violation of human rights should be lifted and the double standards policy and selectivity in the implementation of international resolutions should be ended.*

23. Swift action to eliminate the effects of war, especially the Gulf war, occupation and armed conflict and the suffering they have caused is a fundamental condition for the rebuilding of Arab cooperation and solidarity and putting an end to the suffering of women, children and the aged.

24. The policies of Arab countries should be conducive to more participation by women in the management of resources and provide better opportunities for them in education and work to enable them to contribute effectively to the development process and to cope with regional and world changes which affect their lives throughout.

25. Based on the above, the Arab Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2005 urges the Arab Governments to establish policies quickly and to take action with a view to providing the appropriate environment and setting up the necessary elements in order to meet the urgent needs of Arab women in an effective manner. These include legal rights and participation in decision-making, promoting awareness, education, literacy and rehabilitation, job promotion and alleviation of poverty, the provision of health, medical and psychological counselling services, and sound environment and development information. The Plan of Action also exhorts these Governments to pay particular attention to the establishment of a central mechanism to deal with women's issues at the highest level in countries where such a mechanism does not exist, and to strengthen the existing mechanisms and programmes concerned with women and support the NGOs to help them complete institution-building on the human as well as the material level.

* The representative of the Egyptian experts expressed reservations regarding the inclusion of this paragraph.

II. ARAB WOMEN'S PRIORITY CONCERNS BASED ON AREAS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE AND MEASURES TO BE TAKEN

A. SAFEGUARDING THE RIGHT OF ARAB WOMEN TO PARTICIPATE IN POWER AND DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURES AND MECHANISMS

26. Despite the desire on the part of most Arab Governments to improve the status of Arab women in the power structure and the decision-making process, and the translation of this desire into laws and social legislation promoting the status of women, women's participation is still far removed from the target set by the Economic and Social Council in the annex of its resolution 1990/15 (Recommendation VI) to increase women's participation in power structures to 30 per cent by the year 2005. This calls for action on the part of Governments and NGOs and for support from regional and international organizations.

27. The rights of women are an integral part of the economic, social, political and cultural rights defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and may not be encroached upon under any circumstances or for any reason.

1. General objective

28. Efforts should be made to reach the target set by the Economic and Social Council, in the annex of its resolution 1990/15 of 24 May 1990, for the participation of women in power and decision-making structures and mechanisms to mobilize society—men and women—and increase its awareness in order to change the negative and biased attitudes of society towards women and their role in decision-making, and adopt mechanisms and measures which enable them to achieve that goal.

2. Practical steps and measures

At the governmental level

- Mechanisms concerned with women's issues should be established or strengthened and made permanent, in line with the legal system of every country, including national committees for women, provided they include representatives from ministries concerned with women's issues and from non-governmental organizations concerned with women's rights and issues. Moreover, they should be linked to the highest national political authority, which should follow up the implementation of the Plan of Action for the advancement of women in Arab countries;

- The international Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the International Convention on the Rights of Children should be ratified;

- All legislation related to women should be reviewed in order to develop and amend it to bring it into line with the rapidly changing economic, social and cultural conditions in Arab societies. Efforts should be made to reduce the gap between legal texts and their implementation by establishing a special mechanism to monitor and follow up their implementation;

- The right of women to exercise their political rights should be safeguarded, including the right to vote and run for political office, including legislatures and local government bodies. Efforts should be made to ensure that women occupy at least 30 per cent of the seats in those bodies and provisions to this effect which guarantee women's exercise of all their political rights should be incorporated into the constitutions and legislation of countries where such provisions do not exist;

- Women should be accorded equal opportunity to occupy senior executive and representative posts in the various political, economic and social organs of the State at both the local and central levels. Qualifications, ability and efficiency should be the only criteria for assessing the suitability of women to fill such positions. Women should also be trained to fill certain offices, particularly diplomatic and judicial positions;

- Measures should be taken to encourage women to participate in public life. Support services should be provided to them so as to enable them to reconcile their family duties with their activities in public life.

At the NGO level

- The assessment of women's activities, institutions and non-governmental organizations, with a view to formulating a plan of action for the next stage, which includes specific recommendations, so as to arrive at a suitable formula that would ensure higher rates of women's participation in political parties, trade unions, professional associations and similar organizations. Such organizations would serve as pressure groups for persuading legislatures to enact laws which defend women's rights and increase their participation in political life;

- Women should be encouraged to participate in local and national elections through institutional support, training courses to prepare women for assumption of leadership positions at the various political and administrative levels, provision of the resources and technical support needed to accomplish all those tasks, and action should be taken to ensure that women exercise their electoral rights in countries with legislative councils;

- Educational symposia and intensive training courses covering large geographical areas should be organized for the eradication of legal illiteracy and for raising community awareness of the legal rights of women from a contemporary perspective including the roles of both sides. There is also a need to organize programmes to provide advice and legal aid upon request, to use the mass media (radio and television) to raise awareness and to hold workshops and prepare publications on women;

- Independent democratic mechanisms should be created and existing ones should be developed with a view to developing and supporting the role of non-governmental organizations in representing women at the national level in order to enable them to enhance their participation in decision-making as well as to enhance the role of those organizations in programme planning and implementation.

At the regional and international levels

- The Plan calls on regional and international organizations and bodies to provide the necessary assistance to national organizations and bodies concerned with women's affairs and with increasing women's qualifications to enable them to assist women in exercising their political rights and participating in decision-making;

- The Plan calls on the United Nations system to increase the percentage of Arab women in Professional and higher-level posts and especially in decision-making positions through preferential recruitment and promotion as well as through special measures.

B. ALLEVIATION OF POVERTY FOR ARAB WOMEN

29. Despite the lack of accurate statistical data on poverty in the Arab States, broken down by sex and consistent with the indicators adopted by the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, it is obvious that the impact of the world economic recession along with the effects of the implementation of structural adjustment programmes in some Arab States as well as the exacerbation of the problem of foreign debt and its servicing constitute the major obstacle facing those States in the provision of basic needs to their citizens for the purpose of confronting the challenges of poverty, especially regarding women and children. This situation, coupled with war, armed conflict, Israeli occupation, arbitrary measures imposed on States and environmental degradation has intensified the negative impact of the above-mentioned factors, exacerbated the suffering of women and increased the number of families living in poverty, especially families dependent on women.

30. Slow economic growth at the international and regional levels, the transition to market economies—which involves a reduction of the role of the public sector in the provision of jobs and social services—and the exacerbation of the debt crisis in some Arab States may lead to the exacerbation of the problem of poverty in the short run, especially with regard to women with dependent families. Moreover, the fall in financial resources represents a major obstacle that limits the ability of Governments to satisfy the basic needs of their citizens, particularly women and children. The combination of this situation, war, armed conflict, Israeli occupation and arbitrary measures imposed on States has multiplied those negative effects and exacerbated the suffering of women.

1. General objective

31. The general objective is to eradicate poverty, remove its causes, and alleviate its effect on women, especially those with dependent families, in the context of overall development including self-reliance.

2. Practical steps and measures

At the governmental level

- There is a need for the provision of accurate statistical data broken down by sex on poverty in the Arab States to be used as a basis for the formulation of macro- and micro-economic policies that ensure the eradication of structural factors that cause poverty in general and among women in particular;
- Governments should take the needs of women into account in the process of development planning with a view to raising the awareness of planners and developing their relevant skills;
- Strategies and programmes should be formulated to give priority in granting concessional credit facilities guaranteed by government, if necessary, to poor and rural women as well as to women who are forced migrants, women returnees, women refugees and displaced women. This is to enable women to take part in the production process and to ensure at least that poor women are not exploited;
- Efforts should be made to provide basic foodstuffs to poor and deprived women at appropriate prices as well as to assist them in obtaining adequate housing and in receiving social security;
- Vocational and technical training centres should be developed and supported and their capacity increased to receive low-income, poor and handicapped women. Priority should be given to these women in order to help them acquire the necessary skills to develop their capabilities and to enhance their self-reliance as a means of curbing unemployment and poverty;

- A study should be undertaken with a view to identifying the dimensions of the poverty problem among women heads of families in rural areas. Development programmes should be designed with the aim of raising the income of these women as well as helping them to acquire skills and providing appropriate technology for the rural areas. Women heads of families should be recognized legally and socially;
- Projects for productive households should be expanded and specialized mechanisms for marketing their products established, especially in the agricultural and informal sectors. In this regard, the expertise of national and international trade institutions should be sought;
- Viable income-generating projects for women should be established, and projects that help manage environmental pollution, such as solid and agricultural waste recycling projects, should be expanded;
- All basic services should be provided, including increasing the number of nurseries and kindergartens, particularly in rural and poor urban areas and in workplaces, in order to enable poor women to take productive jobs. Free services should be provided, whenever possible, such as exemptions from nursery and commuting expenses and subsidies for food products;
- Measures should be taken to provide job opportunities for poor and rural women and to limit reliance on foreign labour whenever feasible;
- The private sector should be urged to set up small-scale factories as well as workshops for small household and local products in order to provide employment for women, especially poor women, widows and divorced women. Adequate opportunities should be made available for the participation of women in advanced scientific and technical fields according to their capabilities in all areas with a view to increasing their contribution to economic life and raising their income level without exposing them to health hazards;
- Development institutions should be urged to assist Bedouin women in setting up productive projects in accordance with the available resources in desert areas.

At the NGO level

- Productive projects for women should be identified according to market needs and to women's requirements, and training should be provided to women for their participation in these projects. Women's participation in designing and implementing these projects should be supported;
- Training workshops should be organized to prepare poor women for traditional and non-traditional jobs as well as jobs in modern technological fields in order to enable them to enter the labour market. Specialized employment offices should be established to inform poor women of the available job opportunities and to facilitate their access to those opportunities. Assistance should be provided to poor women in marketing their products and securing a permanent income;
- The required funding should be sought to secure the enrolment of as many children as possible in NGO nurseries and kindergartens and to expand those services in order to reach the rural and remote areas which are not covered by government institutions. Enrolment fees should be affordable for poor working women;

At the regional and international levels

- The funding programmes of Arab funds should include projects which combat poverty among women. Projects of women and productive households should be supported and assisted to become self-reliant;
- Non-governmental organizations and national research centres should be assisted in conducting surveys to measure poverty in the Arab States and in defining the concepts and terms used in order to have a practical and comparable framework for these studies.

C. ENSURING EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ARAB WOMEN AT ALL LEVELS OF EDUCATION

32. During the past three decades, Arab women have been exposed to various factors and changes in the field of education, especially following the oil boom of the 1970s, which led to an increase in school enrolment rates and the commitment of a considerable number of Arab countries to the welfare of their citizens. However, despite the reduction of illiteracy rates in the Arab countries and the rise in the enrolment rates at the various levels of education, the absolute number of illiterate people increased as a result of the rise in drop-out rates as well as other economic, political and social factors. Gender differences still exist in some Arab countries since the drop-out rates are high among young girls in rural and remote as well as occupied areas. In those Arab countries that have achieved equal rates of educational enrolment between males and females, females still tend to enrol in stereotyped “women’s” courses, which limits their abilities and directs them away from scientific and technological fields.

1. General objective

33. The general objective is to guarantee equal opportunity in education for females and to ensure that females benefit from education and literacy and vocational training programmes and achieve self-reliance through such programmes.

2. Practical steps and measures

At the governmental level

- Action is needed to implement the Arab strategy for the development of education which aims at the complete eradication of cultural illiteracy among males and females and the other strategies that call for providing education for all by ensuring equal, compulsory and free education at least at the elementary level and implementing compulsory education until the age of 15. Steps should be taken to combat illiteracy in order to reduce it by 30 per cent in most Arab countries by the year 2005, and by half by the year 2000 in some Arab countries. Gender differences in school enrolment rates should be eliminated;

- Women’s literacy programmes must also include daily skills, especially those related to proper health practices in order to improve the situation of women and their families and give women the opportunity of economic participation. Women’s awareness of their human rights and their participation in public and political life should be increased;

- Communications and information media, especially radio and television, should be used in awareness campaigns and in combating illiteracy among females in particular;

- Universal adult education and family literacy programmes should be organized by providing informal education for women in rural and remote areas as well as on the periphery of cities. The objective of these programmes should be to develop the skills of these women to play their various social roles. The necessary incentives such as textbooks and other educational supplies should be provided. Some channels of communication need to be established between adult education and formal education to enable women to pursue education as far as their aptitudes take them. These programmes should include an environmental dimension.

- Plans should be formulated for parallel education to: provide opportunities in informal continuing education for women who have missed the opportunity to enrol in formal education programmes; encourage illiterate young women to enrol in schools designed for them, using modern methods of continuing education and paying particular attention to rural and remote areas; allocate funds to programmes of basic and functional literacy and civic education for all women and young girls; and start special classes for eradicating illiteracy in factories and other workplaces in view of the effects this has on women and to give women the opportunity to get better jobs and more income and improve their living conditions;

- Training should be provided to the teachers and instructors who supervise literacy centres. Extra funding should be allocated for the establishment of new centres and the expansion of existing ones in order to eradicate illiteracy among women as soon as possible.

Specialized programmes should be set up to provide educational and vocational guidance.

- The necessary financial and human resources should be allocated and important steps should be taken to ensure equal opportunities for enrolment in schools and to prevent young girls from dropping out by increasing the number of schools and teaching services in rural and remote areas. Laws should be enacted to compel the guardians of females in poor and rural families to send girls to schools, to delay their marriage, to reduce their household chores and not to send them off to work before they have completed their compulsory education. Some services could be provided to those girls, such as free meals, textbooks and school supplies;

- Priority should be given to allocating funds for the implementation of the policy of compulsory elementary education for boys and girls until the end of the first 10 years;

- A mechanism should be established to monitor and follow up the implementation of these measures in the concerned ministries. Such a mechanism should be concerned, on the one hand, with developing women's education in those rural and remote areas where discrimination against female education continues to constitute an obstacle to raising the level of education of women and, on the other hand, with following up the implementation of laws banning child labour which prevents children from continuing their education;

- School curricula should be reviewed and evaluated with emphasis on participation by women in the formulation of educational policies and curricula for all stages of education. Curricula should further the cohesion of the Arab family and lay stress on the rights, dignity and role of women in the development process. They should also present a positive image of women and their multiple roles in society;

- Stereotypes and gender discrimination should be eliminated from school curricula, textbooks and male and female teachers' training materials. Instead, women's positive role and contribution should be stressed. Curricula should be prepared in such a way as to guarantee equal knowledge, specialization and skills in what is presented to students in all fields;

- Funds should be allocated for the establishment of institutes of higher education and diversification of specializations. Females should be encouraged to take up professional, scientific and technological specializations in which they can play an innovative and creative role. Scholarships should be provided to women for specialization at graduate schools at home or abroad;

- Teachers should be recruited and evaluated on the basis of competence. Emphasis should be placed on the quality of the education provided to students rather than on the number of graduates. Incentives should be provided to encourage young people to take up the teaching profession. A continuing training system should be set up to develop the know-how and professional skills of women and to meet the present and future needs of the labour market, especially with regard to women;

- Restrictions on the exchange of Arab cultural printed materials which reflect developments in scientific progress should be lifted, in order to promote women scientifically and culturally;

- Equal opportunities should be provided to women with respect to study-abroad programmes, study courses and higher education, and a specific percentage should be allocated to females.

At the NGO level

- Families should be made aware of the importance of education for girls, and informal training courses should be organized in local, rural and remote communities; legislation should be enacted to prevent discrimination between the sexes in this field;

- Civic organizations should be encouraged to contribute to literacy and functional literacy campaigns. These organizations should mobilize all their voluntary capacity to support official efforts in this field;

- Parents' associations should be mobilized to participate effectively in tackling educational issues faced by schools;

- NGO efforts should be coordinated with government efforts so as to complement them, especially in rural and remote areas, in order to achieve the educational goals.

At the regional and international levels

- The Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) should be urged to provide material and technical support to update the integrated Arab project to eradicate illiteracy and control the drop-out rate of females from schools. Policies of compulsory education should be adopted;

- An Arab project should be established to conduct informal education studies and programmes for women through correspondence and the mass media;

- Workshops and conferences should be organized and convened to discuss, evaluate, and exchange information about projects and policies which were implemented successfully in the Arab region. Seminars and conferences should be held to formulate detailed programmes of action. Programmes should be established to make guardians aware of the importance of female education as an investment in human development, and the funds needed for the implementation of those programmes should be provided.

D. ENSURING ARAB WOMEN'S EQUAL ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES

34. Although Arab women's health has improved in recent years according to United Nations human development indicators, it is still below the level required and varies from one Arab country to another. Most Arab countries continue to have relatively low female life expectancy at birth, in comparison with developed countries. Maternal mortality and morbidity rates related to delivery are considered high. Infant mortality and morbidity rates are also high, especially for females. Environmental pollution leads to various diseases, while high fertility rates lead to a deterioration in women's health as a result of early, late or recurrent pregnancies, especially for women living in difficult economic circumstances. The deterioration of the nutritional levels leads to an increase in the number of mothers and children suffering from anaemia. Lack of awareness in respect of reproductive health, including family planning, inadequacy and poor quality of health services, is one of the problems still unresolved in some Arab countries. Some Arab countries are still suffering from a low level of health care as a result of economic, social and political factors such as wars, occupation, disputes or siege.

1. General objective

35. The general objective is to safeguard the right of women to participate actively in the formulation and implementation of plans and policies which meet their needs and ensure good physical and mental health for women throughout life.

2. Practical steps and measures

At the governmental level

- Laws should be enacted to eliminate practices that are detrimental to the physical and mental health of women;
- Physical and mental health services should be developed in such a manner as to ensure women's ready access to them in all areas;
- Expenditure on the health sector should be increased, including expenditure on rehabilitating and training women in this sector in order to ensure that health services cover prevention, family planning and child care. Policies and measures should be adopted to make spouses aware of reproductive health, including the spacing of pregnancies in order to safeguard the health of the mother and of the child. Preventive health services should be developed, including annual check-ups for early detection of breast and uterine cancer as well as HIV blood tests and liver infections. Prospective spouses should undergo tests to make sure they are not suffering from hereditary diseases. Laws should be enacted to require prospective spouses to undergo the necessary laboratory tests before marriage;
- Mental health services should be developed. Treatment and extension services centres should be established in the various regions and in economic and educational institutions. Special attention should be given to the rehabilitation of disabled women, and laws should be enacted to provide job opportunities for women in public and private institutions;
- Medical staff should be trained to monitor diseases resulting from the deterioration of the environment;

- An information campaign should be drawn up to make spouses aware of health, nutrition and hygiene matters. Information should be provided to increase health and prevention awareness. Public health, nutrition and family education programmes should be incorporated into school curricula;
- Measures should be taken to increase women's contribution in the drawing up of health, agricultural, nutritional and environmental plans and policies and to increase production and productivity in the agricultural sector, provide essential foodstuffs and distribute them equitably;
- Primary health care centres should be established and improved, especially in remote rural and coastal areas, and health services should be provided to schools;
- The health situation and medical treatment of women, infants and children deteriorated as a result of the economic blockade.

At the NGO level

- The contribution of grass-roots associations and bodies should be increased so as to provide health services to women, especially poor women, women refugees, displaced women, and women detainees. Popular medicine and traditional health concepts should be developed in order to eliminate the practices that are detrimental to the health of women and children;
- The contribution of the civic organizations, in particular women's organizations, in implementing preventive health care programmes should be strengthened, and reproductive health and environmental education campaigns should be organized;
- The role of urban society as well as its institutions and NGOs should be supported, as should the role of national female leadership in rural and urban areas as active participants in health service programmes in general and in family planning programmes and child immunization campaigns in particular.

At the regional and international levels

- Support should be provided to official and unofficial national efforts aimed at improving the health situation of women and children, including the provision of the financial support needed for the drawing up and implementation of productive and preventive health programmes to be implemented by Governments with the support of the United Nations;
- Support should be provided to official and unofficial national efforts in the field of information and indicators, and to preparing studies and participating in panel discussions in order to draw up health programmes which are suitable for the situation and the needs of Arab societies, especially women and children, including the programmes aimed at rehabilitating and training women through extending health services to them.

E. STRENGTHENING THE CAPABILITIES OF ARAB WOMEN TO ENTER THE LABOUR MARKET AND ACHIEVE SELF-RELIANCE

36. The economic and social changes that the Arab region has experienced have led to an increase in the female workforce as the increase in female education led to increased demand for their skills in the various economic sectors, such as industry and services. The percentage of women working in the different levels, including leadership posts requiring advanced scientific and technical skills, has also increased. Although

progress has been achieved in this area, women's work in the agricultural sector, which is the biggest employer of women in most Arab countries, is still seasonal and unpaid in most cases. The migration of men from rural areas has placed a heavier burden on women and their contribution to that sector, whether paid or unpaid. At the same time, educated women are facing unemployment because of the lack of opportunities commensurate with their specialized studies and also because numerous fields are forbidden to women by traditional values.

37. One of the most important factors limiting the productivity of women is the imbalance in time allocation between their job and their family duties as mothers and wives within a social context which does not encourage men to share the load with women; in addition, there is the inadequacy of the services such as day-care centres, which enable them to perform their various roles.

1. General objective

38. The general objective is to enable women to strengthen their capabilities and self-reliance and increase their contribution to economic life, including participation in development planning.

2. Practical steps and measures

At the governmental level

- Laws should be enacted and applied, necessary measures taken and basic rules established in order to guarantee equality for women in job opportunities, employment, pay, promotion opportunities and skills development. Emphasis should be placed on the necessity of insurance and social security coverage for women and measures should be taken to follow up the required tools for monitoring and applying legislation in the private sector. Laws should be enacted to guarantee the right of women to legal recourse in cases of sexual or social discrimination against them;

- Women's legal awareness should be increased and their exercise of their legal rights guaranteed in the field of labour;

- All necessary measures should be taken to increase job opportunities for women, including limiting foreign labour, to prepare and train women for high-level administrative functions in the productive structure according to their qualifications and experience. A quantitative target can be set to double the number of women in the labour market through moral and financial incentives and the planning of education and vocational training;

- Laws should be enacted that grant women paid leave to carry out their responsibilities provided the related costs are not borne solely by the employer;

- Participation of working women should be secured in establishing laws related to civil service in the public sector and their right to promotion guaranteed on the basis of competence and experience rather than gender;

- Laws and regulations should be enacted in order to guarantee formal career development based on flexible work conditions so as to allow men as well as women, each according to his/her personal and family circumstances, to put into practice flexible patterns of work. These include, for example, part-time work that guarantees them, especially women, the right to return to their jobs after interruption for family tasks. Laws, rules and mechanisms should be considered in order to apply the Third Choice presented by

ESCWA, as a solution to increase the productivity of Arab women and reduce conflicts between the roles of women in society;

- Required measures should be adopted and incentives provided to foster activity in the private, agricultural and fisheries sectors and to finance appropriate and new productive small-scale projects in order to empower women and to increase their proportion in agricultural extension services;

- The number of vocational and technical training centres should be increased and incentives provided to industrial enterprises to provide qualified training for women in jobs that were not available to them in the past, such as in manufacturing. Action should be taken to overcome social obstacles to new areas of work for women with the aim of reducing unemployment. Women should be trained within the context of labour planning according to labour market needs in terms of scientific and technical specializations at the highest levels;

- The right of women to work should be strengthened as a basic right and a major factor in the contribution to human development. Action should be taken to enhance the value that youth attach to work, through the mass media and the incorporation of relevant topics into educational curricula;

- The need for establishing an integrated database with data arranged according to gender and based on international classifications should be emphasized in order to facilitate the establishment and implementation of programmes aimed at increasing women's contribution to labour.

At the NGO level

- The introduction of women into different kinds of non-traditional jobs and sectors should be encouraged. Training courses should be organized to retrain women in new fields of work in the light of technological progress. Seminars should be held to improve the expertise of leading professionals, and services should be provided to young unemployed women;

- Women working in the informal sector should be trained in order to improve their productivity and to strengthen their relation with production and marketing fields in the service of development. Training courses should be organized in the field of institution-building, small-scale productive entrepreneurship and the organization of cooperatives as self-reliant financial institutions;

- Projects for productive households should be set up and mechanisms established to market their products, especially in the agricultural and informal sectors. This could be carried out through the establishment of a network of national and regional trade institutions in order to broaden the market base. Productive and income-generating pilot projects should be replicated throughout the Arab world;

- Women's committees in labour unions and associations should be activated and established in order to provide opportunities for women to participate in the labour market, especially in the industrial and private sectors as well as in leading and decision-making positions. Support should be provided to women to improve their working conditions and enhance their awareness of their labour rights. Placement agencies should be set up to provide jobs for women seeking work;

- Establishment of nurseries should be expanded within factories and institutions. Contributions should be sought to provide such services for all segments of society as well as in the rural and remote areas in cooperation with local communities, social security institutions and employers;

- Contributions should be made to provide support services such as securing transport, dispensing quick meals and encouraging working women with children to benefit from extended family values in order to enable women to reach a balance between their family and economic roles;

- Joint fairs should be organized with the participation of various NGOs for identification of the different skills of Arab women, exchange of expertise creation of commercial interests between Arab women and product marketing.

At the regional and international levels

- Support should be provided to carry out studies, research, evaluation of qualified labour supply and demand according to gender and in connection with education and specialization fields in the light of the rapid technological changes which are accompanied by the emergence of new functions. Symposia, panel discussions and training courses should be held to strengthen women's self-reliance. Information on policies and programmes should be exchanged in order to check discrimination in the field of work, with support from the International Labour Organization, the Arab Labour Organization, UNESCO, ALECSO, UNIDO and other organizations;

- Scientific terminology should be standardized, with the participation of the Arab Labour Organization, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Statistical Division and ESCWA. Women's work should be included in the GNP. In this regard, the ILO and the Governments are urged to establish new definitions and statistical indicators to measure women's unpaid work in agriculture and in the family, so as to show the real economic value of women's contribution in raising industrial, agricultural and food production rates;

- Specialized international agencies such as the ILO and UNIDO should be invited to increase their support in training and technical assistance to set up small-scale projects, especially development projects, to encourage work in the private sector and to support trade unions so that they can play an effective role in increasing job opportunities for women.

F. OVERCOMING THE IMPACT OF WAR, OCCUPATION AND ARMED CONFLICT ON WOMEN

39. Usually, Arab women do not participate in making decisions that lead to wars and armed conflict. However, they bear their consequences. The responsibility for resolving these conflicts is still largely the prerogative of men. Paragraph 261 of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women until the year 2000 states that "armed conflicts and emergency situations impose a serious threat to the lives of women and children, causing constant fear, danger of displacement, destruction, devastation, physical abuse, social and family disruption, and abandonment. Sometimes these result in complete denial of access to adequate health and educational services, loss of job opportunities and overall worsening of material conditions".

40. The Arab region has witnessed several wars as a result of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Iran-Iraq war and the Gulf war as well as civil wars and armed internal conflicts. The people of some Arab countries have suffered from different kinds of exile, captivity, imprisonment, handicaps, embargo, and displacement, with thousands of families left homeless. It is a well-known fact that continuous wars and conflicts in the world have negative effects such as the expenditure of vast amounts of money on armament at the expense of development projects, an increased number of POWs, refugees, displaced people and exiles, most of them

women and children. Women living under conditions of war also suffer from torture, kidnapping and rape as well as psychological disorders.

1. General objective

41. The general objective is to increase the participation of women in efforts aimed at maintaining peace, resolving national, international and other conflicts and to protect women from the effects thereof.

2. Practical steps and measures

At the governmental level

- Efforts should be made to resolve existing disputes through dialogue and diplomatic means before they turn into armed conflicts and wars;
- Participation of women should be sought in peace negotiations and resolution of conflicts as well as in humanitarian relief operations;
- Expenditure on development projects should be increased at the expense of armaments, and defence budgets should be reduced;
- Any violence against women in situations of war, armed conflict, occupation and embargo should be considered as a war crime punishable by law and should be treated as such by all national and international organizations;
- Efforts should be made to free all detainees from Israeli jails;
- Efforts should be made to ensure the return of all prisoners and detainees in Iraqi prisons in order to alleviate the effects of war and armed conflict on women and children in Kuwait;
- Educational topics related to peace and the resolution of conflicts should be included in curricula, and the principles of human rights should be taught.

At the NGO level

- Field surveys, studies and research should be undertaken on the effects of war, occupation, siege and captivity on women, and appropriate mechanisms proposed to alleviate these effects on women through the organization of training courses and the provision of rehabilitation services to enable women to work and exercise their rights fully;
- Positive attitudes should be taken with regard to arms limitation negotiations and national awareness of the dangers posed by the arms race should be created. Educational courses on peace, the settlement of conflicts, justice and democracy should be organized and the attention of decision makers and the public should be drawn to such measures;
- Financial and technical assistance and soft loans should be provided to social and humanitarian projects carried out by non-governmental organizations in order to cope with the effects of war, occupation, armed conflict, siege and captivity on women and children.

At the regional and international levels

- There should be a call for non-discrimination among States and peoples in dealing with issues; this should be in accordance with the rules of international law. [Double standards and selectivity in the way the United Nations deals with all political, economic and social issues should be eliminated, and all armed forces should be withdrawn from the region];

- The United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency should inspect all weapons of mass destruction in the region, and in Israel in particular, and destroy all stocks of weapons of mass destruction that endanger the security and stability of the peoples of the region;

- International organizations should provide financial and technical assistance to States in order to do the following:

(1) Review the activities of international organizations and acquaint them with regional and international social issues and their effects on equality, equal opportunity, development, peace and especially issues of disarmament, as well as on the global character of the economy on cultural values, and on the fight against racism and discrimination;

(2) Collect and disseminate data on the effects of war, occupation, embargo, captivity and armed conflict on women, including information on the number of women refugees, captives, detainees and deportees; the number of women raped and those receiving psychological attention; and those who lost their husbands and became supporters of their families, as well as the number of women who received no qualification, and other data that show the number of women affected by armed conflict;

- [The principle of imposing an embargo, which contradicts all international laws and conventions and human rights should be rejected as a means for solving international conflict because of its direct effect on the family and women since it deprives them of their human rights];

- Existing disputes that lead to war and armed conflict should be resolved, and the role of the League of Arab States should be activated in containing those disputes and resolving them peacefully in the Arab context. The sovereignty of States should be respected, and there should be no interference in their domestic affairs;

- Arab women should be represented at the decision-making level in regional and international bodies of the United Nations and in the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations;

- Measures should be taken to ensure that schools and universities are not closed during occupation, internal conflict or civil war.

G. PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

42. External factors play an important role in environmental pollution in the Arab region; for example, developed industrial countries apply a policy of industrial adjustment which entails the transfer of factories and plants that produce highly pollutant by-products in addition to nuclear waste, to the Arab countries.

43. Environmental conditions and limited natural resources in the Arab region hamper an adequate and comprehensive response to increasing population needs, especially the needs of women and children. It is

therefore important to give special consideration to environmental issues and the factors that lead to environmental degradation in Arab societies and their effects on the health and economic and social conditions of women and their families.

1. General objective

44. The general objective is to strengthen the capabilities of women and guarantee their effective participation in the protection of the environment and the rational and proper management of natural resources.

2. Practical steps and measures

At the governmental level

- Governments should implement Agenda 21 (Rio de Janeiro, 1992) concerning the environment and sustainable development;
- The right of women to participate in the formulation, implementation and control of decisions and plans related to the management of natural resources and the environment, should be guaranteed through their participation, for example, in standards committees and health and environment control bodies;
- The right of women to participate in enacting environmental laws that have a direct influence on the health and welfare of women and their families should be guaranteed. Existing legislation should be implemented;
- Women's capabilities in the management of environmental resources should be developed through the provision of information and training. The subject of the proper management of the environment should be included in educational curricula;
- Rural women should be provided with energy sources so that they no longer need to resort to the use of firewood, which causes deforestation;
- Sources of drinking water as well as sewage systems should be available in rural areas. There should also be ways to use environmental waste in land reformation and agriculture.

At the NGO level

- Women's non-governmental organizations should make every effort to act as an effective means of shaping public opinion and an influential force in adopting positive attitudes to the implementation of laws related to the proper management of natural resources and the environment, and in enacting legislation and in monitoring its implementation in order to limit environmental degradation and the depletion of natural resources;
- The experience of women and their traditional knowledge accumulated over the years in the management of the environment should be used in income-generating environmental projects such as planting endangered medicinal plants or recycling waste and agricultural by-products. Such projects should receive financial and technological support;
- Research, surveys and studies should be undertaken and data collected and disseminated on the subject of women's management of environmental resources such as water, energy and fuel, and on the

subject of the effect of environmental degradation on women's health and welfare and on their families, and the extent of women's participation in environmental decisions;

- Governments should be urged to pay particular attention to the protection of the environment and to support environmental programmes, especially those that combat logging, soil erosion, water diversion and other processes that harm the environment;

- Governments should be urged not to use or import chemical products that are banned internationally.

At the regional and international levels

- A regional data bank should be established, and indicators of women's participation in the management of the environment and the effect of environmental pollution on the health of women and their families should be determined;

- Support should be given to training seminars and courses and workshops on the role of women in the protection of the environment, and to the collection of data on women's health and the environment at the grass-roots level. Studies and research on the integration of women in policies related to the development of environmental resources should be undertaken;

- Dumping nuclear and toxic waste in Arab countries under the pretext of environmental experiments should not be allowed;

- Support should be given to women's non-governmental organizations that are active in the field of raising awareness and implementing environmental projects;

- Programmes to limit environmental and industrial pollution should be financed and supported;

- There should be participation in the prevention of environmental pollution and the prevention of wars and their effects on the environment.

H. ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

45. Some women suffer from various forms of violence, such as violence in the family, at work and in public places, which is considered a violation of human rights. Among the forms of violence against women are: forcing young girls to leave school, sometimes forcing them into marriage, beating of girls by members of their family and sometimes forcing women to waive their legal, personal or civil rights through the pressure of customs and traditions. Women are subject to violence and rape, particularly during wars and under occupation and in situations of armed conflict, especially women refugees, deportees, prisoners of war, prisoners and detainees. Women are also subject to violence in the absence of democracy and respect for human rights.

1. General objective

46. The general objective is to implement international conventions that guarantee women's civil rights in general, and during occupation, wars and armed conflict, and to provide women with adequate protection from all forms of violence, and to strengthen preventive means and measures by ensuring the participation

of countries at the Arab, regional and international levels in combating and checking this phenomenon through education, awareness and the enforcement of laws.

2. Practical steps and measures

At the governmental level

- [The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women should be ratified] along with the Convention Against Torture, and all necessary measures should be taken to protect women from violence;
- Legislative texts and administrative practices should be reassessed in the light of international norms and documents so as to provide women with legal protection against violence;
- Educational programmes should be formulated to promote police awareness of problems related to violence against women or minor girls;
- Publications and handbooks about awareness-raising to protect women from violence should be prepared for social workers and other specialized staff working at the local community level;
- Data and information on violence against women should be collected; field studies should be undertaken and their results published in order to raise public awareness;
- Material related to human rights in general, and women's rights in particular, should be incorporated into the curricula of institutes specialized in training judges and security officers;
- Institutions should be established to care for the victims of violence, including rape, to deal with the consequences of violence and to provide supervision, guidance and awareness;
- Violence against women during times of war should be considered a war crime with no statute of limitations.

At the NGO level

- Different programmes and activities should be carried out to foster solidarity among NGOs, especially in regard to protecting women from violence;
- Services and assistance should be provided to women who fall victim to violence;
- Educational programmes and campaigns for greater awareness in society should be organized to deal with the problems relating to violence against women and to identify measures that may be taken to eliminate such violence;
- Educational programmes and courses should be organized for women to acquaint them with their legal rights and with available services in case they are subjected to any form of violence.

At the regional and international levels

- Arab and international cooperation should be strengthened so as to identify regional strategies to combat violence against women;

- Meetings and seminars should be held to create or increase awareness among all with regard to violence against women;
- Arab and international funds should be urged to provide assistance to private institutions that take care of victims of violence;
- Assistance should be extended to Governments and NGOs to enable them to confront the various forms of violence;
- Women subjected to violence should be provided with legal services and counsel and aid;
- The United Nations and its specialized agencies and competent Arab organizations should devote particular attention to women who are subjected to physical and psychological violence and rape during aggression, occupation, armed conflict or economic sanctions.

I. EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF COMMUNICATIONS TO EFFECT CHANGES IN ROLES
IN SOCIETY AND ACHIEVE EQUALITY BETWEEN THE SEXES

Women and the media

47. The various media of the region, in some of their programmes, portray Arab women in a way that lays stress on their traditional stereotyped role and plays down the positive and changing role they are playing at the side of Arab men in improving the quality of life and contributing to the process of social, political and economic development. Moreover, world media tend to distort the image of Arabs in general and Arab women in particular.

48. In order to make use of the modern media that are widely available in most countries of the region, the planners and the people concerned with development, peace and equality should take the topic of the media more seriously and consider it an important factor and tool in accelerating the process of sustainable development, in view of the strong, positive or negative impact that the media have on the behaviour and conceptions of people and the role they play in changing customs, traditions, thinking and knowledge. Moreover, the media are highly influential in creating new perceptions and behaviour and in spurring action for "development, equality and peace."

1. General objectives

49. The general objective is to make appropriate use of the various media so as to give a positive image of the effective role of women in the family and in society, and to develop women's capabilities and skills by undertaking well-studied media programmes whose messages include concepts, values and images emphasized by Arab and international strategies.

2. Proposed measures and practical steps

At the governmental level

- A clear, unified strategy and plan should be formulated for the media concerning women's issues and the role of women in economic, social and political development;

- The role of working women in the media should be strengthened, and they should participate in planning and decision-making related to the various media programmes;
- Women in the mass media should be given training in the functions of directing, producing and writing to enable them to produce purposeful programmes and address information issues relating to women;
- Women and men should participate in a media dialogue as well as in work and production in order to reach common positive perspectives regarding economic, social and political issues related to women;
- Efforts should be made to produce films, serials and information materials that highlight women's national role and struggle against occupation and document their positive role for future generations;
- Committees should be established at the local level to monitor media productions and delete anything that is contrary to the positive image of women in Arab society, such as the use of women to promote consumer goods;
- The mass media should be urged not to promote sex discrimination, from which girls in cities and in rural areas, especially in the poorer strata, suffer and which has negative effects on their lives, in terms of education and physical and mental health. The media could thus help in socialization on the basis of equality between the two sexes.

At the NGO level

- Support information materials should be prepared and distributed to the media for use in programmes on women and in other programmes to strengthen the role of women in sustainable development;
- Symposia and lectures should be organized to address women's issues and the integration of women in the development process, and the media should be used to broadcast them to the widest possible audience so as to raise the awareness of women (especially uneducated women) of their rights, role and positive image, in order to educate them and provide them with information;
- Information material on video should be produced for educational and instructional purposes to be used by women and men in rural and remote areas where no other medium of mass communication is available.

At the regional and international levels

- Good and purposeful production aimed at promoting a positive image of women and joint Arab programmes should be encouraged;
- ARABSAT should be used to transmit radio programmes that promote the role of women and their integration into the development process;
- The Arab media should be encouraged to use foreign media material that has a humanitarian, cultural, social or educational content;
- A communications network linking regional and international organizations and institutions should be created to exchange information material that would help international communities understand Arab women's issues and change the negative image of Arab women in those communities;

- International organizations should be urged to give financial assistance to Governments and to NGOs to train men and women working in the media on the production of information materials related to strengthening the status of women in development and women's role in international peace, security and stability.

III. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING THE PLAN OF ACTION

50. The programmes and activities organized on the regional and international levels by the Commission on the Status of Women, ESCWA, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the regional offices and bodies of the specialized agencies of the United Nations, CAWTAR and the African Centre for Research should be coordinated.

51. Action must be taken to continue providing support for the Arab Women's Committee and the technical department concerned with women's affairs in the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States; this regional body needs to coordinate its activities with other specialized bodies, and to strengthen cooperation between them and the secretariats of ESCWA and ECA.

52. More financial and technical support should be provided to the secretariats of ESCWA and ECA to enable them to follow up their efforts in studying and monitoring the conditions of women in the Arab region, provide technical assistance to their member States and cope with their increasing responsibilities in achieving the objectives of the proposed Arab plan of action.

53. Support should be given to the regional technical bodies and the scientific research institutions concerned with social research and studies to allow them to gather statistics and data related to women and broken down by gender and to establish norms and classifications that would determine rural, urban, desert and remote areas through field studies in the Arab countries and to carry out research and social field surveys on the conditions of women in a framework of social changes to the year 2005; institutional support must also be extended to CAWTAR, which should be provided with the technical capabilities to enable it to carry out the task entrusted to it.

54. Support should be provided to the mechanisms of research and training in Arab and international organizations, such as the Department of Women's Affairs in the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, the Women and Development Section in ESCWA, CAWTAR in Tunis and all research institutions dealing with women's issues, by strengthening their research capabilities and enabling them, through coordination and cooperation among themselves, to set up a regional data bank on Arab women and by identifying indicators related to women and their conditions in the Arab world in the various fields. Those institutions are considered as mechanisms for following up and monitoring progress in the implementation of the Arab Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2005.

55. Technical and financial support should be provided to NGOs to develop their capabilities and potentialities to express the actual needs of Arab women and foster solidarity among them regarding the pressing issues of Arab women.

Appendices



Appendix 1

AIDE-MEMOIRE

What

First Segment

Expert Group Meeting on the Regional Plan of Action for Arab Women

High-level Segment

High-level Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Peace for the Advancement of Arab Women

Where

Philadelphia Hotel, Amman, Jordan

Conference facilities are provided by the good offices of HRH Princess Basma Bint Talal

When

First Segment 6-8 November 1994

High-level Segment 9-10 November 1994

Why

First Segment

To review and appraise the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and the ESCWA strategy for Arab women to the year 2000.

To finalize the Draft Regional Plan of Action for Advancement of Arab Women.

High-level Segment

To adopt the Draft Regional Plan of Action for Advancement of Arab Women.

Who

Sponsors

- HRH Princess Basma Bint Talal, Chairperson of the Jordanian National Committee for Women, Head of the Official Jordanian Delegation to Beijing, and member of the Advisory Group of Eminent Persons for the Fourth World Conference on Women established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations
- H.E. Mrs. Gertrude Mongella, Secretary General of the Fourth World Conference on Women

Organizers

- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
- League of Arab States (LAS)
- Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR)

Participants and Observers

- Ministers of Women Affairs, Social Affairs, and Planning
- Senior government officials
- Joint national preparatory committees for the Fourth World Conference on Women
- Intergovernmental organizations
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- United Nations organizations
- Experts

Documentation

Background Papers

- Assessment of the Situation of Arab Women in Light of the Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies (NFLS)
- Arab Women in Western Asia: Trends and Statistics

Sectoral Papers

- Women in Manufacturing Industries (UNIDO/ESCWA)
- Women and Education (UNESCO/UNEDBAS)
- Women in Agriculture (FAO Regional Office for the Near East)

Issue Papers

- Arab Women and Peace
- Arab Women and Poverty: Feminization of Poverty
- Arab Women and Legislation
- Women and Employment: The Third Choice, an ESCWA Approach

Working Paper

- Draft Regional Plan of Action for the Advancement of Arab Women

BUILD-UP TO THE ARAB REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING

In accordance with resolution 37/7 of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women on preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, and resolution 188 (XVI) of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to convene a regional preparatory meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women during 1994, the ESCWA secretariat is mandated to provide technical assistance to its member States by:

1. Assisting in the formation of joint national committees in countries where such national machinery does not exist;
2. Providing information on the outline and content of the national reports assessing the situation of women in light of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies;
3. Assisting in the finalization of the national plans of action in light of the findings of the national reports.

With funding from the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), ESCWA commenced its phased preparatory activities in November 1993 leading to the Regional Preparatory Meeting in November 1994:

Phase One

A team from the ESCWA Women and Development Section visited member States during November and December 1993 to provide information and documentation on national preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women. In particular, the purpose of these visits was to assist member States in the formation of joint national committees (composed of government officials and NGOs) to be entrusted with the preparation of national reports and national plans of action in accordance with guidelines approved by the Commission on the Status of Women.

Phase Two

During May-October 1994, and in collaboration with the joint national committees, ESCWA organized national workshops in most member States visited during phase one, in order to assist in finalizing the national plans of action in light of the findings of the national reports. The team from the ESCWA Women and Development Section facilitated and moderated these national workshops.

Phase Three

Pursuing a bottom-up approach, ESCWA will use the national reports and the national plans of action as inputs in formulating the Draft Regional Plan of Action. This draft will be finalized during the First Segment of the Regional Preparatory Meeting (Amman, 6 to 8 November 1994), and adopted during the High-level Segment (Amman, 9 and 10 November 1994).

FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN: BACKGROUND

The Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women will be held in Beijing, China from 4 to 15 September 1995. It will review and appraise the advancement of women since 1985 in light of the 1985 Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and will adopt a Platform of Action focusing on removing obstacles to the advancement of women. Among the critical issues to be addressed at the Conference are: awareness-building, decision-making, literacy, poverty, health, work opportunities, violence, refugees and the effect of wars, environment, and use of mass media.

Over the past two decades, three United Nations world conferences on women have been held. The first, in Mexico City in 1975, during the International Women's Year, led to the declaration of the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985). At the second conference, held in Copenhagen in 1980, participants adopted a Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women. The third conference, which took place in Nairobi in 1985, at the end of the Decade, adopted the Nairobi

Forward-looking Strategies (NFLS) for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000. These provide a framework of action at the national, regional and international levels to promote greater equality of opportunities for women. The NFLS are based on the three objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, and focus on three sub-themes: Health, Education and Employment.

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Appendix 2

OPENING STATEMENTS

STATEMENT BY DR. SABAH BAKJAJI UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ESCWA

Your Excellency Dr. Hisham al-Khatib, Minister of Planning in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, representative of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Bint Talal, patron of the Meeting,

Excellencies,

Distinguished representative of the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States,

Distinguished Director of the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research,

Chairpersons and members of the joint national preparatory committees for the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Distinguished experts, academicians and consultants,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am happy that this Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting is being convened in the capital city of Jordan under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Bint Talal, in cooperation with the League of Arab States and the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research, in implementation of resolution 37/7 of the Commission on the Status of Women regarding the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, as well as ESCWA resolution 188 (XVI).

In this connection, the secretariat of ESCWA extended technical advice to member States to help them in their preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women; visits were also made to those States in support of their efforts to form national committees comprised of representatives of both governmental and non-governmental organizations, to ensure a broader base of participation. The task of those committees is to prepare country reports and national plans of action to be submitted as official national documents to the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing in 1995. These documents were discussed in national workshops that ESCWA helped organize in cooperation with those committees. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) contributed to financing these efforts, for which we express our gratitude.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This important Meeting constitutes the first segment of the Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting. It has the important task of finalizing the Draft Regional Plan of Action for the Advancement of Arab Women to the Year 2000 so as to reflect the issues and concerns of Arab women as well as to identify priorities in the light of the new stage through which the Arab region is passing, taking into account the special conditions of each Arab State within a framework of the value system of Arab culture.

Another objective of this Meeting is to identify obstacles to the progress of women, as well as critical areas for Arab women, in order to emerge with a plan of action for the coming stage on three levels—the governmental, the non-governmental, and the regional and international.

Excellencies, distinguished experts, chairpersons and members of joint national committees,

Thousands of men and women from all corners of the globe are going to meet in September 1995 in Beijing to participate in the Fourth World Conference on Women, which will review and assess the progress achieved since 1985 in the light of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the year 2000; the Conference will also adopt the World Plan of Action, which concentrates on removing the obstacles that impede the advancement of women. This Conference is the fourth of its kind; during the last two decades the United Nations has held three world conferences on women. The first was held in Mexico City in 1975, during International Women's Year; it proclaimed the period 1976 to 1985 the United Nations Decade for Women with the themes Equality, Development and Peace. At the second conference, which was held in Copenhagen in 1980, participants adopted the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women (1981 to 1985). The third conference, held in Nairobi, issued the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the year 2000. The Strategies provide a framework for action at the national, regional and international levels, and aim at increasing the opportunities in education, health and labour and at mobilizing the capacities of women and integrating them into the development process to bring about equality. The Strategies are based on the three objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women, which are equality, development and peace. To achieve these objectives, the Strategies concentrate on the subthemes of employment, health and education.

Arab women have made appreciable achievements over the past decade. The percentage of those who can read and write rose. The health situation of women improved as greater expenditure was made on health services and education and on enhancing awareness. The rate of female participation in economic activity, especially in the service sector, grew, with the contribution of women to GNP rising as well. Yet the number of poor women increased, and the gap widened between the legislation enacted regarding the rights of Arab women and the enforcement of that legislation. Women's participation in the decision-making process continues to be extremely limited. Wars and armed conflict in the Arab region over recent decades have led to an increase in the number of women and children suffering from inadequate health conditions, especially among forced migrants, refugees, and women and children under siege.

Moreover, a significant part of the domestic and agricultural work of women is not included in GDP. Discrimination between the sexes continues to exist in connection with nutrition, health care and work, especially in rural and poor areas. The differences between men and women, between rural and urban areas, and between the rich and poor are troubling for Arab society, especially for women.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The need to modernize Arab societies culturally entails that special attention be paid to the development of youth, who are the builders of the future, as well as rural women in remote areas. We must also strive to change the stereotyped and traditional picture of women in the Arab world so as to enable them to increase their contribution in the development of society as the partners of men, in addition to defining the various roles so as to make these complementary and consistent with the value system of our societies in order to achieve overall and comprehensive development which makes all human beings—male and female—the aim as well as the means of development.

The Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting has adopted *peace* as its theme as a basis for the achievement of development and equality. The peace process which started in Madrid will have far-reaching consequences

for the region and the prospects for development. Comprehensive development requires peace and stability to increase the contribution of the Arab individual in establishing sustainable development, as peace allows the human and material resources formerly utilized for war to be channelled to development and to achieve the three goals of the Conference, i.e., providing women with health services and opportunities for education and work, on an equal footing with men.

Ladies and gentlemen,

During the next three days, we shall work together to correct, amend and reformulate the Draft Regional Plan of Action for the Advancement of Arab Women to the Year 2005, which was prepared by the ESCWA secretariat on the basis of the country reports and national plans of action which were submitted by the national committees of the member States. We shall work together to ensure that the amended Plan of Action reflects faithfully the situation and aspirations of women for the coming stage. The Plan will be submitted for adoption to the High-level Segment which follows this Meeting and will be subsequently submitted to the Secretariat of the Fourth World Conference on Women in New York to be used in the drafting of the World Plan of Action which will be discussed at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.

I am convinced that this Arab Preparatory Meeting will help in reconciling views on women's issues and in reaching a common Arab stand that will ensure that the needs of Arab women are taken into account in the drafting of the World Plan of Action.

I would like you to concentrate on the priorities which have been defined in order to tackle the problems faced by Arab women. In this respect, I would like to mention that attention should be given to what can be achieved in the next stage.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to end this statement by once again wishing you success in your efforts to achieve the goals of this Meeting, namely defining priorities at the regional level and preparing the Regional Plan of Action for the Advancement of Arab Women which, once adopted by the High-level Segment, will have to be implemented at the national and regional levels as the best plan that Arab coordination and cooperation can produce for the advancement of women.

Thank you for your attention.

**STATEMENT BY DR. HISHAM AL-KHATIB
ON BEHALF OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS BASMA BINT TALAL**

The present situation of Arab women requires attention, as more than 50 per cent of women in the Arab world are still illiterate, and most human development indicators for Arab women (including life expectancy and participation in public life and the labour market) are lower than those for women in developing countries. I would not be very far off the mark if I said that the present situation of Arab women is one of the main obstacles hindering our aspirations to achieve satisfactory levels of social and economic development in the various parts of the Arab world.

If the situation of Arab women does not improve, human development in the Arab world will remain at modest levels; there is thus an urgent need to improve the situation of women in the Arab world, which requires, first and foremost, the eradication of illiteracy among Arab women and the implementation of both legislation that respects women's rights and role in society and programmes which promote family planning practices (including child-spacing) to protect their health.

I am very pleased to be able to open the Expert Group Meeting on the Regional Plan of Action for the Advancement of Arab Women. The proposed draft regional plan of action for the advancement of Arab women to the year 2000 includes programmes and activities in many important areas such as safeguarding the right of Arab women to participate in power structures and decision-making mechanisms, alleviating poverty among Arab women, ensuring Arab women equal access to education and health services, and promoting Arab women's economic self-reliance and entry into the labour market.

The wars and conflicts which have plagued the region in the past have given way to stability in societies which are now more concerned with human and economic development and the advancement of society than with armaments and the squandering of resources in wars. This new situation represents a good opportunity to improve the situation of Arab women and to increase their role in society and in the economy. The intensive programmes which will be addressed by this regional preparatory meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women, held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, provide a strong basis on which to build our future policies in human development, which is the goal of all social and economic activities. If we fail to improve the situation of Arab women, eradicate illiteracy in our societies, ensure equal opportunities for women, and protect their health through family planning, Arab society will continue to lack the stability it so desperately needs.

Appendix 3

PROVISIONAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ESCWA/SD/1994/WG.3-WOM/L.1	2	Provisional agenda
E/ESCWA/SD/1994/WG.3-WOM/L.1/Add.1	2	Provisional thematic agenda
E/ESCWA/SD/1994/WG.3-WOM/L.2	2	Provisional organization of work
E/ESCWA/SD/1994/WG.3-WOM/3	3(a)	Review and Assessment of the Progress Achieved for the Advancement of Arab Women in the Light of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies (Draft)
E/ESCWA/STAT/1994/17	3(b)	Arab Women in ESCWA Member States: Statistics, Indicators and Trends
E/ESCWA/SD/1994/WG.3-WOM/4	4	Draft Regional Plan of Action for the Advancement of Arab Women to the Year 2005
E/ESCWA/SD/1994/WG.3-WOM/5	4(f)	Arab Women and Peace
E/ESCWA/SD/1994/WG.3-WOM/6	4(b)	Women and Poverty in the ESCWA Region: Issues and Concerns
E/ESCWA/SD/1994/WG.3-WOM/7	4(e)	Third Choice: Adapting Working Conditions to Family Needs
E/ESCWA/SD/1994/WG.3-WOM/8	4(a)	A Critique of Personal Status Codes in Selected Arab Countries (Draft)
E/ESCWA/SD/1994/WG.3-WOM/9	4(a)	Equality and Participation within the Family: A Legal Perspective
	4(c)	Women in Education
	4(e)	Women in Manufacturing Industries
	4(e)	Women in Agriculture
E/ESCWA/SD/1993/5/Rev.1	4(f)	Reintegration of Women Returnees and their Families into their Societies of Origin
E/ESCWA/SD/1994/WG.3-WOM/10	5	Report of the Expert Group Meeting on the Regional Plan of Action for the Advancement of Arab Women

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PRESS

<u>News Agencies</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Fax</u>
Jordan News Agency (PETRA)	644455	648116
Saudi Arabia News Agency	601880	601880
Syria News Agency	644197	644203
Iraqi News Agency	623175	638524
Palestine News Agency	677510	603862
Qatari News Agency	775710	775710
Kuwaiti News Agency (KONA)	668100	679100
Middle East News Agency	676442	676442
Chinese News Agency	677747	677747
 <u>Broadcasting Service and TV</u>		
Jordan Broadcasting Service	774122	637713
Jordan Television	774111	658665
Voice of America	604447	688976
 <u>Newspapers</u>		
Al-Rai' (Jordan)	667171	661242
Al-Dustoor (Jordan)	664153	667170
Al-Aswak (Jordan)	687690/1	687692
Sawt Al-Sha'b (Jordan)	667101	667993
Al-Arabi News Paper - Egypt	3540682	
Akhbar Al-Yaoum (Egypt)		5782510
Dar Al-Gumhuriya Lil Sahafa - Akhbar Al-Masa' (Egypt)	5781616	
Kuds Press (Palestine)	679613	679584
Al-Hayat (Regional)	695867	695867
Middle East (Regional)	97101/2	697103
 <u>Magazines</u>		
Zahrat Al-Khaleej (UAE)		826968

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