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Distr.
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E/CONF.66/CC/L.3/Add.1
13 March 1975

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE WORLD
CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S YEAR
3-14 March 1975

DRAFT REPORT (PART II)

Rapporteur: Ada F. M. Bailor (Sierra Leone)

CHAPTER III - RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

B. International Action

1. Representatives agreed that this part of the Plan was of the utmost importance.
2. The problem, however, as stated by one of the representatives was that international action was supportive and not binding on Governments and there were no procedures at the international level to guarantee implementation of these recommendations. The follow-up action on an international level was considered as important as on the national level.
3. A more vigorous approach to the implementation of Conventions and Recommendations by Governments was suggested as often there was a lack of awareness in the countries concerned of what their Governments had approved.
4. The effectiveness of national action in the view of some representatives depended in large measure on the appropriate machinery to co-ordinate national and international efforts.
5. Some representatives stressed the vital importance of obtaining adequate information and data which was collected according to uniform international standards and was available to all interested Governments and non-governmental organizations. One representative emphasized the necessity of multidisciplinary and action-oriented research so that research projects were not used as a justification for non-action.
6. The representative of Iran informed the Committee that in view of the great importance of the subject, the Iranian Government had proposed the creation of a regional training and research information centre at the ESCAP meeting in Delhi the previous week. The centre, she informed the Committee, would initially be undertaking the collection and dissemination of data and information on existing programmes and policies relating to women in Member Countries with a view to evolving action-oriented research and new strategies to promote a more active role for women in development. The centre would be established in co-ordination with the United Nations and supported through voluntary contributions by Member Nations. The representative of Iran expressed the hope that reference to the establishment of this centre, which would be known as the International Institute for Women's Studies would be included in the revised section on Research.
7. The Iranian proposal received the enthusiastic support of the Committee. A suggestion was made that the Institute could form a part of the International University.
8. A few representatives, while favouring the idea of regional centres, expressed

the view that regional commissions for women would be more desirable as they would have a broader scope. The view was also expressed by a few representatives that such Regional Commissions covered such wide areas, subregional centres might also be set up.

9. In the discussion on technical co-operation, it was agreed that it could be an effective element in obtaining the implementation of plans and programmes. It was considered essential that it should be consistent with the plans and programmes of the country.

10. Representatives expressed the hope that there would be increased interest on the part of Governments and more request for assistance. It was also hoped that the Secretariat would be strengthened and there would be programme officers to co-ordinate programmes of technical assistance for women. It was also considered essential to give high priority to training of experts from the formulation of programmes to their implementation.

11. With respect to the section on Exchange of Information and Experience, it was pointed out by one representative that it was necessary to have the appropriate machinery for carrying this out. It was suggested that the United Nations could undertake a study on this.

12. The problem of cultural and economic exchange and integration was considered by one representative to be of great importance for the developing countries and should be included.

13. A number of representatives placed great emphasis on regional co-operation. In this connexion it was suggested that the Plan of Action should also include the role of intergovernmental organizations and that the relationship between the intergovernmental organizations and the Regional Economic Commissions should be institutionalized.

14. It was proposed by one representative that the Decade 1975-1985 should be proclaimed as the Decade of Women. The view was also expressed by a few representatives that since Regional Commissions covered such wide areas, Subregional Centres might also be set up.
