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WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR MEXICO CITY, 19 JUNE TO 2 JULY 1975

Second Committee Agenda item 9

CURRENT TRENDS AND CHANGES IN THE STATUS AND ROLES OF WOMEN AND MEN, AND MAJOR OBSTACLES TO BE OVERCOME IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF EQUAL RIGHTS OPPORTUNITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Protection of maternal and child health

Argentina, Cuba, India, Iran, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Thailand and Turkey: revised draft resolution

The World Conference of the International Women's Year,

<u>Considering</u> that urbanization is a rapid process, particularly in the developing countries, and that it has major effects on the family health in general and maternal health in particular,

Being aware of the fact that large migrant populations in the urban areas of these countries live under substandard housing conditions, having adverse effects on their health,

<u>Considering</u> that four fifths of the world's population still live in rural areas and that efforts must be made to lower the migration rate from rural to urban areas inasmuch as the rural population is an extremely important source of labour for agricultural and food production and at the same time constitutes a specific socio-cultural life style,

<u>Recognizing</u> that the high rate of illegal abortions by non-qualified persons is a serious maternal health problem in several developing countries, particularly in the case of migrant women living under substandard housing conditions,

Bearing in mind that the general maternal and child death rate in rural areas of developing countries is even higher than that of urban areas,

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Noting that one of the world's most alarming problems consists of malnutrition and nutritional deficiencies, which are much more acute among the destitute inhabitants of both urban areas and semi-urban and rural areas,

<u>Reaffirming</u> that all these problems affecting maternal and child health are intimately related to the socio-economic factors which determine conditions in the countries where they prevail and that the measures to be taken must be congruent with national values and goals and with accepted international principles,

1. Urges Member States to:

(a) Attach particular importance to special urban, semi-urban and rural health programmes for providing adequate health services to the population;

(b) Give special attention to the development of primary health services in which the community identifies and recognizes its own needs and takes part in the establishment of priorities and in the development of health-related activities at the primary level. This system should be supported by a national network of more complex specialized services to care for the entire population, with particular emphasis on the health of women throughout their life cycle: services for the care of women and children, including nutrition programmes and programmes for protection against environmental hazards and for health education;

(c) Provide family education and training plans in those countries where these problems are serious and which offer family planning programmes within the broader context of complete maternal and child health care;

(d) Seek and promote the allocation of additional resources for such policies and programmes;

(e) Promote maternal and child-care and day-care services for working women;

(f) Promote an over-all approach to health care as determined by the problems of each country in all the curricula of teaching and training institutions in the field of health, and, within this context, develop specific training programmes related to maternal and child health;

2. <u>Invites</u> the Secretary-General, in co-ordination with relevant specialized agencies, to carry out, within the framework of existing programmes, further research for the improvement of maternal and child health, including nutrition.
