



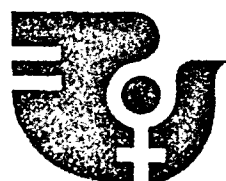
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WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE
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Message from H.E. Mr. Nicolae Ceausescu, President of the
Socialist Republic of Romania

I take great pleasure in addressing to the participants in the World Conference of the International Women's Year a cordial greeting from the Council of State of the Socialist Republic of Romania, the Romanian Government and people and myself. This Conference, which is one of the major events of International Women's Year and is the first conference of its kind to be held under the auspices of the United Nations, has the task of discussing one of the fundamental problems of modern life: the full integration of women in the life of society and their active participation in the general struggle of humanity for progress and civilization, for co-operation and peace.

Experience shows us that in our time women, who constitute more than half the population of the globe, are playing an essential role, together with men, in economic, political and social life and in accelerating the material and spiritual progress of peoples and the entire process of progressively remaking society.

While it is true that in a number of countries the revolutionary transformation of the structures of society has brought about the social and political liberation of women, enabling them to exercise fully their economic, legal and civil rights, it must be noted that in a large part of the world women are still existing under a régime of inequality and are being deprived of important social and political rights and prevented from participating in the economic and social development of their countries and in the struggle for the solution of the complex problems confronting humanity today.

The experience of Romania's historical development shows that the fundamental premise of the freedom and full equality of women, of their full integration into all aspects of social life and of their conscious participation in the process of forging the new destiny of the people is the liquidation of relationships based on social and national exploitation and oppression and of economic and political inequalities and discrimination, the establishment of equitable relationships among all members of society and the development of a broad democracy which will make it possible to prepare the people as a whole to take part in directing the affairs of society. On the basis of these profound revolutionary changes, women in Romania today are playing a decisive role in every aspect of social and economic life and in directing the State and they represent an important force for progress and for the prosperity of the country.

The Conference of the International Women's Year is meeting at a time of profound social and political changes throughout the world, of the ever more forceful affirmation of the will of peoples to develop freely and independently and to be the masters of their national wealth and their own destinies. At the same time, there are still hot-beds of tension in the world and manifestations of the policy of force and coercion, the arms race is being intensified and the gap between the developing and the industrialized countries is widening.

The division of the world between rich and poor countries, the continuing existence in many parts of the world of under-development, malnutrition, illiteracy, lack of medical care and, together with these, other inequitable social relationships and deprivation of rights, particularly in the case of the broad masses of women, are all the result of the policy of imperialism, colonialism, and neo-colonialism.

The provision of better material and spiritual conditions of life and of equality of rights for the masses of the people, including the great masses of women, and the creation of the possibility of integrating women in the struggle for social progress and prosperity, détente, security and peace, depend, first of all, on the elimination of the anachronistic conditions which I have mentioned and the establishment of new and democratic international relationships based on the full equality of States, respect for independence and national sovereignty, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and security of the right of every people to develop freely, in accordance with its will and its own aspirations. Only in these conditions can women fulfil their great mission in society and make an increasingly active contribution to the economic, social and political life of each country, in the context of the general struggle of peoples for progress and peace.

That is why women are profoundly interested in forging a new international economic and political order which will be conducive to the acceleration of the economic and social development of every country, first of all that of the under-developed countries, the liquidation of under-development and the unlimited access of all peoples to the benefits of modern civilization; that is why they are profoundly interested in putting the great discoveries of the modern scientific and technical revolution at the service of nations, for the good of humanity and its well-being and happiness. Women are also called upon to take firm action to promote the liquidation of the arms race which perpetuates the spectre of the nuclear threat and weighs heavily on peoples and to ensure that the immense material and human resources now being absorbed by the production of means of destruction are used to improve the lives of peoples and raise their level of civilization and well-being. In fighting for disarmament and, first of all, for nuclear disarmament, women's organizations, the masses of women all over the world, will be defending the tranquillity of their homes and the lives of their own children and will be making a major contribution to the safeguarding of human civilization as a whole.

The women of Romania, along with all our people, are devoting their efforts and creative abilities to the realization of these noble ideals.

In making their contribution to the broad social task of building a socialist society developed in all its aspects, and in forging a higher material and spiritual civilization in our country, the women of Romania are likewise participating, with

energy and firmness, in the promotion of the new policy of equality and equity among nations, in the progressive transformation of humanity today and in the establishment of a better and more just world.

I wish to express the hope that the great international meeting in the Capital of Mexico will make an important contribution to the process of uniting the efforts of the women of all parts of the world in the struggle against the imperialist, colonialist and neo-colonialist policy of force and diktat and interference in the affairs of other States and to the establishment of a new world economic and political order which will ensure the elimination of under-development and the rapid progress of the under-developed countries, the promotion of the new principles governing relations between States, the equal participation of all nations in the solution of international problems, respect for the right of every people to develop freely, in accordance with its own will, and the achievement of disarmament, détente and peace in the world.

In this way, new prospects for the realization of the aspirations of all peoples for well-being and social progress will be opened up.

At the same time, I hope that this meeting will bring about a marked intensification of activity aimed at the enactment by each State of further legislation to ensure the elimination of inequalities where women are concerned and discrimination against them and to secure their full equality in all aspects of social life: equal pay for equal work, unrestricted participation in economic and social activity, the right to vote and to be elected to the organs of State power, and their advancement in society, having regard to the training, energy and capacity of each individual.

I wish this Conference full success in its endeavours and in the attainment of the lofty objectives on which depend the realization of the aspirations and vital interests of the masses of women everywhere and the triumph of the cause of progress and peace in our world.
