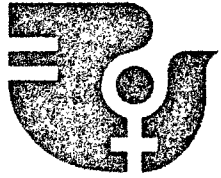




UNITED NATIONS



WORLD CONFERENCE
OF THE
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR
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Item 10 of the provisional agenda

THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN THE DEVELOPMENT
PROCESS AS EQUAL PARTNERS WITH MEN

Statement submitted by the International Federation
of Women Lawyers (Category II)

The Secretary-General has received the following statement to be distributed to the World Conference of the International Women's Year in conformity with rule 54 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference.

Provisional agenda item 10

Statement on the Integration of Women in the
Development Process as Equal Partners with Men

by the

International Federation of Women Lawyers

General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) - paragraph 7 states that:

"The ultimate objective of development must be to bring about sustained improvement in the well being of the individual and bestow benefits upon all."

It is generally held that development cannot be achieved without the full emancipation of women and their integration into the process.

However, even where some progress has already been made in the struggle for equality, even partial emancipation has only added to women's burdens.

Statistics show that where women have already entered the labour market, due to traditional attitudes, working mothers are overworked and overburdened.

A simplistic solution has been offered to the problem, that men should accept a full share of family responsibilities. This may be an answer in the case of nuclear families, but with the progress toward equality, we find a greater incidence of the single parent family where the parent is usually a woman, carrying the double burden of caring for and supporting the family. Such a situation cannot bring about very much sustained improvement in women's well being.

The growing phenomenon of single parent families is not only detrimental to women, but also to the character of the men who are thus enabled and encouraged to shirk responsibility for their progeny.

The early and very strong attachment of women to their young is an established fact. When a mother is separated from her new born child to work outside the home, the question arises as to what happens to her psychologically - is she being torn apart?

The upper income woman, able to pursue a career, may find integration into development gratifying and satisfying. But what fulfilment, aside from the additional income, is there for the low income woman who must leave her young child to the care of others merely to engage in drudgery? It may be argued that some women prefer work outside the home, but the choice should be the woman's.

/...

The problem requires more study. The answer may be in putting monetary value on women's work in the home, or in additional social security so that a woman can stay home while the children are young, with provision for re-education to re-enter the labour market when the children are older; or it may be that the years spent in child raising should be held similar to men's service in the army for which years so spent seniority credit should be granted.

Any programme for women's integration into development must take into consideration the basic differences between men and women and the wishes of the woman herself. Forcing women into the labour market and using them merely as a resource to bring up the level of the material wealth of a country is to continue to dehumanize them and debase them and deprive them of true equality.
