



WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

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NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES OF ACTION

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom: statement

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, dated 15 October, which is circulated in accordance with paragraphs 23 and 24 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

MEASURES FOR INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITHIN THE WIDER FRAMEWORK OF DEVELOPMENT

The "Assessment of the World Food Situation, Present and Future" (document E/Conf.65/3) shows clearly that as a first measure food aid should be got as quickly as possible to the over 460 million of the world's people who are permanently hungry and therefore cannot live a normal life. At least 40 per cent of them are children.

A major factor in the long-term solution to the problems of chronic under-nourishment and the constant threat of famine is a substantial increase in the agricultural production of the developing countries themselves. This cannot come about without the active cooperation of the women in these countries. In most of them it is the women who have to cultivate the land; everywhere the women should receive training not only in nutrition and in how to use fertilisers, but also in producing even more valuable organic fertilisers which encompass plant, human and animal wastes.

Women throughout the world should be given the chance and the means to make the maximum use of their talents, their energy and good will to help solve this grave problem of the whole world.

Therefore, we urge all governments to direct the main part of their Overseas Development Assistance for 1975 - International Women's Year - towards education and help for the women in the rural sectors. We beg the World Food Conference to give Member States a lead and to coordinate their efforts. We strongly support the suggestion that the World Food Conference call on FAO, UNIDO and UNEP to organise training courses to help developing countries promote their own pesticide industries and work on integrated pest control with special reference to preserving the quality of the environment, and urge that this and all other training include women.