



## WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

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### NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES OF ACTION

#### International Alliance of Women: statement

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

The International Alliance of Women draws attention to the failure to make use of potential food in certain developing countries owing to lack of knowledge of the use and value of such food.

Therefore the IAW urges the Conference to request FAO to hold latitudinal seminars (i.e., for countries with the same climatic conditions) on the use and value of hitherto unused food resources in order to increase and improve their food supplies.

e.g., Gotukolla - Hydrocotyle Asiatica - used in Sri Lanka, not in Nigeria  
Murunga - Moringo Terygosperma - " " South India " " Ghana  
Ackee - Blighia Sapida - " " Jamaica " " Sri Lanka

The IAW is conscious of the worsening of the food crisis to-day and that the progressive food shortage could mean massive starvation in large areas of the world. This emphasises the urgency of making a determined effort to combat the menace of hunger. In addition, we recognise that a sound policy on the production and use of food and its resources is a basic requirement for the implementation of development programmes; agricultural production has been made an important target in the International Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade. However, fast population growth and malnutrition continue, necessitating an increase in existing food supplies and efforts to increase nutritional values in broad areas of the world.

The World Population Conference in Bucharest clearly stressed the inter-relationship between world population and advancement of women, but world population is increasing alarmingly. Women and children constitute 70 percent of most rural and urban populations in developing countries, are the most vulnerable group and need to be specially cared for in the struggle against hunger and better human nutrition.

The IAW realised that in working for the main target of raising the status of women it was necessary to take into account the fact that women are the main dispensers of food to the family and have the responsibility for the provision of whatever food is available. As a result of visits to and seminars in various regions of the world, the IAW has been able to keep in close touch with women in both rural and urban areas of developing countries. We have observed that in these countries certain nutritious plants and fruit which are used in one country are unknown in others for their use and value. We are greatly perturbed at the consequent wastage of such food. Therefore we are convinced that as stated in the studies prepared for the Secretariat of the WFC "developing countries would make the greatest proportionate gain from agricultural research". In addition to this research, special plans should be made for the education of women, especially in rural communities. These should be formulated in such a way that women may through their education and work add to the general raising of the standard of living and thus contribute to their advancement.

All Governments and peoples should be urged to give special attention to programmes in nutrition education, with special emphasis on the use of foreign cereals and foods. When such are sent as relief measures in times of disasters much wastage occurs because of ignorance of their use; for example, wheat sent to rice-consuming countries, or milk powders with instructions in foreign languages about their use.

Governments of developed countries should also be influenced to abandon policies of massive destruction and wastage of excess food which could be used to meet food shortages in other parts of the world.